

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL EQUAL RIGHTS ACT

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Environmental Equal Rights Act to promote equity, justice, and community involvement in the selection of the location of waste facilities. My bill gets at the heart of the need to locate waste facilities in locations which minimize the total impact on the health and well-being of nearby residents from sources of contamination. It would establish a process for exercising our inherent rights respecting the development and evolution of our communities.

In the past, sites for many waste facilities have invariably been chosen for the wrong reasons. Since it is politically difficult to select any location, the choice has often come down to a question of political influence: Those with the least have lost.

The result is that too many facilities have been placed in communities populated largely by minorities and the poor. These sitings regularly occur irrespective of the suitability of the site, and of critical importance, irrespective of the degree to which the community is already exposed to the polluting facilities. It is a simple fact of life that these communities usually do not have the financial or political resources to compete on these issues with other neighborhoods. Consequently, as multiple facilities are placed in minority and poor communities, the residents of these communities face unjustifiably severe health hazards and have no vehicle with which to protect themselves from such exposures.

According to a 1992 University of Michigan study, the proportion of minorities in communities which have a commercial hazardous waste facility is about double that in communities without such facilities. The University of Michigan study found that, where two or more such facilities are located, the proportion of minorities is more than triple that of communities without a facility.

In a 1992 report, the Environmental Protection Agency corroborated the evidence of the disproportionate impact of contaminants or racial minority and low-income populations when it concluded that these groups experience higher than average exposures to selected air pollutants and hazardous waste facilities.

Currently, projected human health impacts of a new waste facility usually do not figure into the decision of whether or not to award a permit. Once again, recent studies have found that urban, minority communities are the most exposed to particulates, sulfates, and other contaminants.

The Environmental Equal Rights Act [EERA] would allow citizens of an environmentally disadvantaged community in which a waste facility has been proposed to be sited to challenge the siting. A successful challenge would pre-

vent the issuance of a permit for construction and operation of the proposed facility.

A challenge would be based on whether the proposed facility is located within 2 miles of another waste facility, Superfund site, or facility that releases toxic contaminants; and whether it is in a community that has a higher than average percentage of low-income or minority residents. The petitioner would also have to show that the proposed facility may adversely affect the human health or the environmental quality of the community.

Mr. Speaker, the Environmental Equal Rights Act will equip environmentally disadvantaged communities with basic tools to protect their environment and the health of their residents. These tools are necessary to compensate communities that are underrepresented and have fewer resources with which to protect themselves. We should all be able to agree that underrepresentation is an unacceptable basis for exposing people to substances which can impair mental development and cause harmful health conditions. To stop short of providing these rights would perpetuate the gross injustices and exposures to risks that have become all too common.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION ACT

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an important piece of legislation. This bill, the Economic Revitalization Act, would expand the Federal Government's role in encouraging local economic development efforts across the country.

Many communities across the country have experienced unprecedented job loss and economic dislocation in recent years. These communities are in desperate need of economic development activities that will provide new jobs and tax revenues.

Prior to my election to Congress, I served for a number of years as a member of the Pittsburgh City Council. My service on the city council provided me with substantial first-hand knowledge about the many difficult challenges facing State and local governments.

Since I left the city council to become a Member of Congress, the demands on State and local governments have increased substantially while the resources at their disposal have declined. In the last 15 years, the Federal Government has eliminated General Revenue Sharing and Urban Development Action Grants. It has also limited funding for programs like the Economic Development Administration and Community Development Block Grants.

At the same time, the Federal Government has imposed a number of unfunded mandates on State and local governments that require expensive new investments in infrastructure

like water and sewage treatment facilities. Such investments have clearly improved many Americans' quality of life, but they have also consumed large portions of State and local governments' scarce capital budgets, which might otherwise have been used to foster economic development.

Something needs to be done to target Federal economic development assistance at our most troubled communities. The empowerment zone/enterprise community legislation enacted in 1993 was landmark legislation, but the law only authorized empowerment zones and enterprise communities in 104 areas around the country. There are many more communities in this country that need this kind of help. Moreover, while the EZ/EC program will provide much-needed Federal assistance to the designated EZ/EC communities, the program does not provide adequate resources even for these communities to successfully address the difficult social problems that they face.

Consequently, I introduced a bill in 1993—shortly after the enactment of the EZ/EC legislation—that would provide economic development assistance to all of the local governments across the country that qualified as distressed communities.

This legislation would establish a new type of tax-exempt private activity bond, the distressed community economic development bond. The distressed community economic development bond would be targeted at communities that have been hard hit by population loss, job loss, slow growth, or military base closings. Communities which meet the bill's criteria for designation as distressed communities could issue tax-exempt bonds to promote a wide range of economic development projects within their jurisdictions.

This legislation was not adopted in the 103d Congress, so I am introducing it again today. I believe that this legislation would provide economically hard-hit communities with the necessary means to foster economic growth and create new jobs.

I do not pretend that this initiative would solve all of the problems of our most troubled communities. It could, however, constitute part of the solution. In light of the sharp decline in Federal support for State and local governments in recent years—and the concurrent growth in federally imposed mandates on those same governments—congressional action to encourage economic development is long overdue.

I invite my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this much-needed legislation.

MARATHON GIRLS ARE FIELD HOCKEY CHAMPIONS AGAIN

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I am asking today that my colleagues join me in saluting

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the Marathon High School girls field hockey team for successfully defending their New York State class D championship.

The team won its second straight championship by defeating Morrisville-Eaton in a close and hard fought contest at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY.

As last year, the community welcomed the victorious Lady Olympians as they returned. The volunteer fire department once again stirred excitement with wailing sirens and flashing lights, leading a parade through the center of the village.

I want to congratulate the team and let them know I am very proud of their performance. In marking their accomplishment, we applaud all athletic endeavors of young women everywhere and give a deserved pat on the back to the adults who have provided the guidance and example that have made these players champions.

Those are the parents, the coaches, the administrators, and the fans who have encouraged and enjoyed the play all year long.

And while they have brought fame to themselves, they have made their friends and their school, not to mention their community, proud as well.

These young people have learned what it feels like to win, but more importantly the value of camaraderie, teamwork, and discipline. They will likely remember these times the rest of their lives. They deserve to, and to have our sincere best wishes for the kind of success which only promises greater things to come.

The team consists of: Rebecca Gillette, Joanna Ryan, Amber Potter, Laurel Weiss, Kendra Shufelt, Amber Glave, Tina Owen, Samantha Strough, Bobbie Elwood, Kathy Hoyt, Jessica James, Jennie Lavens, Hilary Matson, Carla Tagliente, Katrina Roe, Darci Contri, Becky Smith, Allisa Altmann, Arlene Hallock, and Coach Karen Funk.

HONORING DR. GIL BELTRAN,
EDUCATOR

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure and a true honor for me to recognize the many achievements of Dr. Gil Beltran who, for over 65 years, has dedicated his life to educating children at his school in Miami. Indeed, Dr. Beltran's unyielding commitment to the education of children is nothing short of remarkable.

He founded his school, La Luz, The Light, with the mission to provide students with the foundations of academic excellence while stressing the importance of serving one's community. The school was first inaugurated at the turn of the century in Havana, Cuba and then initiated again in Miami for the exiled Cuban-American community. Dr. Beltran's determination to educate those who yearned to be free in the United States, and to teach students the true meanings of the words "liberty" and "justice," has made him a true philanthropist of the south Florida community. One can measure the resounding success of Dr. Beltran's vision by witnessing the smiles and gratitude of the students and parents on graduation day.

Many Miami residents first learned how to read and write because Dr. Beltran's undying vision and commitment to the youth of south Florida. It should give all a great sense of pride to honor a man whose prescience continues to set a standard of excellence for all to admire.

RINZLER AND LUNTZ ARE RIGHT
ON TARGET

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as the inexcusable Government shutdown drags on, Americans all over the country are justifiably furious that critical services have been halted and that hardworking Federal employees are being forced to work without pay.

In addition, many of our constituents are angry that Members of Congress continue to receive their full pay during this time of crisis. In fact, many of us have cosponsored legislation, as I have, to deny Members their pay during the budget shutdown.

Yesterday, the New York Times published an incisive op-ed piece written by two of my constituents, Carol Ann Rinzler and Perry Luntz. I commend this timely article to all of my colleagues.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 3, 1996]

CONGRESS SHOULDN'T GET PAID EITHER

(By Carol Ann Rinzler and Perry Luntz)

Almost exactly a year ago, Congress passed the Congressional Accountability Act, a much ballyhooed measure that requires the House and Senate to abide by the workplace and civil rights laws they enact for the rest of us. Alas, like so many things in life, this long-overdue legislation turns out to be less than meets the eye.

In an effort to minimize the effects of the Government shutdown on their constituents, Republicans in the House proposed last week that furloughed Federal employees go back to work without being paid, surely a new idea in free-market, conservative economics.

Afterward, someone asked Representative Tom DeLay of Texas, the House majority whip, whether he would consider giving up his own salary during the crisis. No way, said Mr. DeLay, explaining that, like every other member of Congress, he isn't a Federal employee—he is a "constitutional officer."

Well, we've reread our copy of the Constitution, and frankly the distinction seems a bit arcane to us.

True, members of Congress are specifically mentioned in the Constitution Article I, Section 5 says that "Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law and paid out of the Treasury of the United States." Cabinet members and Federal judges also get a mention, later on, but other workers—curators at the Smithsonian, say—do not.

But every Federal paycheck originates in an appropriation requiring money from the Treasury, whose funds come, in large part, from income taxes. That should give everyone of us the inalienable right to put in our 2 cents. Or to take it out.

Members of the House and Senate earn a base salary of \$133,600 a year (those in leadership positions get more). And don't forget the generous benefit package: life insurance, health insurance, per diem travel and a nifty pension. Mr. DeLay's base salary alone costs

each of America's more than 115 million individual taxpayers 1.2 cents a year.

As conscientious citizens, we have always paid our taxes, regardless of our political gripes. Even though one of us was tear-gassed in 1971 by an overzealous guard at the Nixon White House, protecting it from throngs of balding, middle-aged Vietnam War protesters and their children, the Internal Revenue Service got paid the following year anyway.

This time, however, we plan to draw a line in the sand. Having voted to obey its own laws, members of Congress should be man (or woman) enough to live up to that requirement. Before Tom DeLay votes for trimming Medicare, he should whistle down his own Government-financed health insurance. If he expects Federal workers to show up for free, so should he.

Until then, he can forget our helping to pay his salary. Come April 15, our joint tax return will be 2 cents short. That ought to send a message: keeping Congress in line is a hard job, but somebody has to do it.

100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF TIGERTON

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to wish a happy 100th birthday to the village of Tigerton, WI.

We are not only celebrating a great town—we are also celebrating the people who built a great town.

The people of Tigerton are the kind of Americans about whom Abraham Lincoln said: "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven."

Tigerton lies in the heart of Shawano County, a scenic region in northeast Wisconsin known far and wide for its fishing, snowmobiling, golf, swimming, boating, camping, hiking, and biking.

Tigerton's abundant forests are home to abundant deer and small game, which attract legions of hunters.

In fact, Tigerton was settled more than 100 years ago by hard-working people in the timber industry.

The Tigerton Lumber Co., was formed in 1887, and the town of Tigerton was incorporated shortly afterward in 1896.

From that time, the village of Tigerton has grown to its current population of more than 800 citizens.

The village's lumber heritage is preserved by the Tigerton Lumber Co., which is still going strong. Each year, in the last weekend of August, Tigerton Lumberjack Days are held to celebrate the town's main industry.

On Lumberjack Days, the people of Tigerton can get together and enjoy log cutting, sawing, and piling shows, as well as enjoy a corn roast, bingo, rides, music, and bow shooting.

The centennial celebration will culminate during this year's Lumberjack Days, with a parade on August 26.

The opening ceremony will be held at the Tigerton High School gymnasium on January 14. On that day, the Tigerton High School band, and civic figures from the village and the State, with the people of Tigerton to look back on the past 100 years and look forward to the next century.

Indeed, everyone in Tigerton should be very proud of their village's first 100 years.

All of us can look backward on a century of achievements large and small, of four generations of hard-working and God-fearing families.

But this centennial also marks a time to look forward to the future.

The pioneering spirit that inspired the people of Tigerton in its first century lives on today, stronger than ever.

I am confident that the people of Tigerton will make their second century a time of unbounded opportunity and success.

Tigerton and each city and town of our great country and our great State of Wisconsin is unique, but all are bound together in the love of these United States.

As the people of Tigerton commemorate this anniversary, we have a splendid opportunity to renew our commitment to preserve the spirit which has forged America into a land of wonder. I am proud to join you, the people of Tigerton, in making such a commitment on this historic occasion.

Mr. Speaker, with hearty congratulations and best wishes for continued milestones, I salute the village of Tigerton.

HONORING HENRY A. DAWSON

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding individual from my district, Mr. Henry A. Dawson. Mr. Dawson will retire this month after 22 years of dedicated service as the executive director of the Springfield Girls Club Family Center.

A native of Rocky Mount, NC, Mr. Dawson enjoyed distinguished military and athletic careers before arriving in Springfield in 1970 to pursue a masters degree at Springfield College and to begin his tenure at the Girls Club Family Center. For the last 22 years Henry Dawson has served as the executive director of the Family Center and has touched the lives of thousands of young people in the Springfield area.

Under Mr. Dawson's direction, the Family Center established many outstanding programs. Among these projects are the Project Extra Plus and Project Extra Plus Preschool, which provided day care with a large variety of recreational activities for school-age and preschool children during nonschool hours. In addition, Mr. Dawson also established the Family Center City Camp which provided day care for 150 children during the summer months, and Camp Mishnoah, a summer resident camp that provided a quality multicultural camping experience for thousands of girls who might otherwise have been denied such an experience.

Mr. Dawson's ability to create outstanding programs for young people is possibly surpassed only by his ability to raise the funds to keep these programs in operation. Over the years, the Family Center has experienced major funding reductions, and despite this loss, the center's budget has grown and shown an average annual excess of \$37,000. This is the result of proven investment practices by Mr. Dawson that have enabled the

Family Center to accumulate a respectable endowment and operate deficit free for the past 22 years. This sound fiscal management will ensure that the Family Center will continue its outstanding work for many years to come.

On behalf of the citizens of the Second Congressional district of Massachusetts, I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to Henry Dawson for his tireless work with young people and wish him the best as he begins his retirement. His contributions to the youth of Springfield are immeasurable and I am honored to represent such an outstanding individual. People like Henry Dawson are the reason the Boys and Girls Clubs of America have been able to make such a difference in the lives of America's youth for the past century. Thank you Henry and good luck.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THORNDALE HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the second time in as many years for the same reason, to recognize the Thorndale High School Bulldogs for their State football championship.

I extend my sincere congratulations to head coach Don Cowan and the Bulldogs of Thorndale, TX, who captured the 1995 Class 1A State Championship on December 23, 1995 before a crowd of 8,000 at Gordon Wood Stadium in Brownwood, TX. Defeating the Roscoe Plowboys 14 to 7, the Bulldogs extended their winning streak to 32 games. This feat places Thorndale in a select class with 4 other schools as the only teams in Texas high school football history to post back-to-back 16-win seasons.

The Bulldogs won their second consecutive State championship and third in 6 years with intense defense. Thorndale's defense, stingy all year, held its opponents to single-digit scoring in all but four of its games, six of which were shutouts. The Bulldogs' defense was so tenacious against Roscoe that it forced four interceptions and limited the Plowboys to only nine first downs, two in the second half.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing and honoring true champions—the players, coaches, students, parents, and citizens of Thorndale, TX.

IN SUPPORT OF ADVANCEMENT OF DEMOCRACY ELSEWHERE

HON. ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton once wrote:

... the best strategy to ensure and build a lasting peace is to support the advance of democracy elsewhere.

I concur with this statement, and I add that in order to establish security within our own borders, we must also ensure democracy and security within the borders of the countries

close to the United States. Guatemala is one of those countries.

Mr. Speaker, the second round of elections in Guatemala are to be held on January 7, 1996. The people of Guatemala are praying for a legitimate, democratic election. One that will guarantee substantial changes from the past governments and give them hope for true democracy in their own country. If this does not come to pass, then more Guatemalans will come illegally into the United States. At this time, just in Florida alone, there are more than 50,000 Guatemalan immigrants who have come in hopes of finding the American dream of true democracy and justice, something they have been denied for years in their own country. The corruption in Guatemala must stop, and the United States is the only country that has the power to terminate such activity.

Both the President and Congress should make it a priority to see that honest, fraudulent-free elections are held there. As with the elections in Haiti and Nicaragua, the United States should send a cadre of officials to Guatemala to ensure that the voters will not be coerced in any way. The resources that we are currently utilizing to maintain illegals within our country would be better spent tending to the elimination of such corruption, which drives emigres to our soil. Additionally, we should always consider the quality of life for U.S. citizens who reside in these strained countries.

Mr. Speaker, we seek the security of our Nation and we hold dear our own ideals, but too often we disregard the ideals of others living in nations less fortunate, where corruption runs rampant. By taking precautions now, we can lighten the burdens we will have to carry later. I therefore urge President Clinton to order the State Department to monitor the upcoming election in Guatemala, so as to ensure that they are fair and democratic.

IN CELEBRATION OF ELMER AND MARY SIMONIS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Elmer and Mary Simonis in celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. For 50 years, Elmer and Mary have demonstrated true devotion and commitment to each other, their family, and their community.

Throughout his career, Elmer's work with the space program led to his involvement in producing the guidance systems for our moon shots. He also spent time assembling the moon buggy. Mary kept busy with the children's Parent-Teacher Association, Brownies, and Girl Scouts. And, she still found time to work as a nurse's aid in a local hospital.

Together they have resided for 21 years on Grove Street in Muskego, WI. Here they raised three lovely daughters, Mary, Donna, and Annette. Growing up, the girls had wonderful role models in parents who were active in various school and church functions. Now, the Simonis' love extends further to their nine beautiful grandchildren.

As we begin 1996, it is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest wishes for a wonderful 50th anniversary and many more happy returns to Elmer and Mary Simonis.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ZICARELLI

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Pat Zicarelli, who is the outgoing president of the San Fernando Valley Association of Realtors. Under Pat's aggressive leadership, the association expanded membership services, became deeply involved in community affairs, and raised significant funds for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. With his energy and enthusiasm, Pat was an excellent leader for the association. His successor will find him a tough act to follow.

Pat has a 20-year history of participation in civic, community, and business affairs, in the San Fernando Valley. Indeed, his resume is crowded with credits. To cite a few of many examples: Pat is serving a second term as president of the Tarzana Chamber of Commerce, has been an executive business fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, has worked with local crime watch programs, and for 2 years was on the board of directors of the Miss California USA Pageant.

Not surprisingly, Pat has been the recipient of numerous awards through the years. In 1982, he was named Realtor-Associate of the Year by the San Fernando Valley Association of Realtors; in 1992 Assemblyman Richard Katz selected Pat to receive the San Fernando Valley Small Business Owner of the Year Award. Pat was also given the Outstanding Person of the Year Award by the Tarzana Chamber of Commerce.

As president of the Valley Association of Realtors, Pat championed the adaptation of new technologies. Always on top of the latest innovations, Pat improved and expanded CRIS-NET, which is widely recognized as one of the industry's most advanced real estate information systems. He has positioned the association to be a key player in the information age.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Pat Zicarelli, who has just concluded a successful tenure as president of the San Fernando Valley Association of Realtors. His commitment to business and dedication to his community are an example for us all.

BUDGET IMPASSE DERAILS BENEFITS FOR RAILROAD RETIREES

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, Emperor Nero died while his capital, Rome, burned to the ground.

Now the Imperial Republican-controlled Congress here in Washington would rather keep the Federal Government shut down than do the people's business. Their actions are driving Federal workers and Federal contractors to the brink of financial disaster.

Besides the Federal workers and Federal suppliers, there are other victims of the Federal shutdown: the retired railroad workers and their families.

While Speaker GINGRICH and other House Republicans rang in the New Year by cele-

brating with friends and family more than 170,000 railroad retirees had their monthly pension checks severely cut.

Had the Republican leadership done its job on time, these railroad retirees would be receiving their vested dual benefits checks that average \$130 per month. That means that more than 13,000 beneficiaries in Pennsylvania and others across the Nation will receive only partial annuity checks.

For some railroad retirees their Medicare part B premiums will consume their entire benefit checks. The bill that contains the funding for these railroad retirees has not even been brought to the Senate floor.

To add insult to injury, Speaker GINGRICH has announced his intentions to recess the House until January 23. This makes no sense.

Railroad retirees spent their entire careers keeping our trains operating on time. This is no time to forget railroad retirees and their families. Keep the Congress at work and restore full benefits to these railroad retirees.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BROWN-FIELDS REDEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, environmental cleanup and economic redevelopment of old, abandoned industrial sites is a critical issue for cities across America. These unproductive, often polluted sites are called brownfields.

There are over 400,000 brownfield sites scattered across the United States. Over the last decades, these brownfield sites have become not only public health and pollution problems, but also serious impediments to the economic health of the surrounding communities. Because the risk of assuming financial liability for a brownfield site is so great, potential purchasers and lenders have shied away from redevelopment of such properties. The result has been the loss of job opportunities and tax revenue in many communities, blighted neighborhoods, and the expensive, unnecessary, and wasteful construction of infrastructure like roads and sewers at new "greenfield" sites in nearby communities.

Affordable financing is one of the major stumbling blocks in the cleanup and reuse of brownfield sites. The Brownfields Redevelopment Act, which I am introducing today, seeks to address and ease the financial impediments to brownfield redevelopment through two separate provisions. First, the Brownfields Redevelopment Act would create a substantial tax incentive for private sector brownfield cleanups. In many cases, companies which are in the process of building new facilities might prefer to build these facilities on brownfield sites, where the necessary public infrastructure—roads and sewers, for example—is already in place and where a ready supply of prospective employees live nearby. However, the cost of environmental remediation and the risk of future financial liability has too often caused companies to shy away from such otherwise desirable locations. Cleaning up hazardous waste sites is an expensive, risky, and often time-consuming process. To provide an incentive for brownfield cleanup and redevelopment, the Brownfields Redevelopment Act

would create a tax credit for private sector environmental remediation.

Specifically, this bill would provide a 50-percent tax credit for environmental remediation expenses incurred in completing a cleanup plan approved by the EPA or a designated State agency. In order to target this tax credit at the most potentially productive sites, the tax credit would be restricted to those sites that meet the following four criteria: the site has had no productive use for at least 1 year; the site would be unlikely to undergo redevelopment without tax credit assistance; the site has a strong likelihood of creating jobs and expanding the tax base after redevelopment; and the planned environmental remediation and redevelopment would be completed in a reasonably short period of time. The tax credit would also be available only to "innocent owners" of polluted property. It is my hope that such a tax credit will stimulate increased brownfield cleanup and redevelopment all across the country.

If this credit is successful in encouraging brownfield cleanup and redevelopment, it will bring jobs and revitalization to thousands of communities across the country. I believe that the benefits such redevelopment would provide by revitalizing our central cities would far outweigh the cost of the credit. Moreover, the costs of allowing these sites to remain vacant and contaminated are—while less obvious—quite substantial.

The second provision of the Brownfield Redevelopment Act would modify the Internal Revenue Code's existing qualified redevelopment bond [QRB] provisions to specify that environmental remediation was an allowable use of such bonds. The interest paid on qualified redevelopment bonds—bonds which are used for financing redevelopment in designated blighted areas—is tax-exempt. As a result, municipalities that issue such bonds can pay lower interest rates when they borrow money for redevelopment projects. In effect, the Federal Government subsidizes local governments' redevelopment activities through this Tax Code provision. Although brownfield sites are clearly blighted areas, environmental remediation is not specifically identified in the Tax Code as an allowable use of qualified redevelopment Bond proceeds. To address this oversight, the Brownfields Redevelopment Act would add environmental remediation to the list of activities that qualify for the use of the proceeds from the sale of qualified redevelopment bonds. This change would allow local governments to borrow money for brownfield cleanup at slightly less than market rates.

The bill would also waive a number of existing QRB restrictions when the bonds were issued for environmental remediation activities. Most importantly, the Brownfields Redevelopment Act would waive a section of the current law that requires that designated blighted areas be at least 100 acres in size. The great majority of brownfield sites desperately in need of redevelopment are much smaller than 100 acres. Many, in fact, are only a few acres. Consequently, this and similar requirements would be modified under the Brownfields Redevelopment Act to address the special conditions that are often associated with brownfield sites.

The QRB provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Act would be nearly revenue-neutral. While thousands of brownfield sites would be eligible for redevelopment using tax-exempt

QRB's, the volume of qualified redevelopment bonds issued would be constrained by the existing State bond volume caps established under section 146 of the Internal Revenue Code. Local governments wishing to issue qualified redevelopment bonds for brownfield sites would have to compete with other issuers for authority to issue private activity bonds under the State volume cap.

Mr. Speaker, vacant, polluted brownfield sites have become a serious problem for our country. They have blighted many of our communities in both financial and environmental terms, and they have contributed to urban sprawl. Restoring and redeveloping our country's brownfield sites will be a difficult task—it will take the cooperation of both the public and private sectors. The financial assistance provided in this bill would be a valuable tool in the environmental and economic redevelopment of America. I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall voted Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "present" on rollcall No. 1; "no" on rollcall No. 2; "yes" on rollcall No. 3; and "no" on rollcall No. 4.

BOSNIA AND THE FUTURE OF NATO

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, the new Secretary General of NATO, Javier Solana, wrote a piece in the Washington Post on December 24, 1995, entitled "In Bosnia, a Defining Moment." I was impressed with his analysis, particularly concerning the cooperation of 16 non-NATO nations with the 16 Members of NATO in support of the Bosnia Implementation Force. As the Secretary General states "[W]e have the opportunity not only to end the war in Bosnia but to lay the foundations for an enduring structure of peace across a now-undivided and democratic Europe."

I comment the article to the attention of my colleagues. The text follows:

[From the Washington Post; Dec. 24, 1995]

(By Javier Solana)

IN BOSNIA, A DEFINING MOMENT

Much of the debate that preceded last week's deployment of a NATO-led peace implementation force into Bosnia centered on whether the stakes involved justified sending the young men and women of this alliance into harm's way. On this point, the response of our 16 member nations has been clear: We simply had to act in order to bring the worst conflict in Europe since World War II to a definitive halt.

The alternative would not only have been to condemn the people of Bosnia to further suffering but to risk seeing the conflict spread and perhaps confront us with the need

to intervene in a shooting war on a much larger scale. Because NATO nations on both sides of the Atlantic remember all too well the price paid in 1914 and 1939 because of Western blunders and blindness, they were determined not to miss this opportunity to stop a war in the heart of Europe when it was in their power to do so.

What has received less attention in the international Force (IFOR) debate are the profound implications for NATO of this operation, which is the first ground force "out-of-area" deployment in our 46-year history. For those who until recently considered the organization a Cold War relic, the coalition that our supreme allied commander Europe, Gen. George A. Joulwan, is assembling must seem astonishing indeed.

Thus far, 16 non-NATO nations have joined the 16 allies in "Operation Joint Endeavor." These include many of our former adversaries from Central and Eastern Europe who now wish to join NATO, neutral countries such as Sweden and Finland, non-European nations such as Egypt and Pakistan and, most notably, Russia. Still other nations, such as Austria and Switzerland, have broken with tradition and taboo to cooperate with NATO to facilitate the largest and most complex movement of forces by land, sea and air in Europe in 50 years.

Clearly, something is happening in Europe today that transcends the Bosnian situation. Underlying the desire of so many nations to contribute to this NATO-led operation is a consciousness that a defining moment in the post-Cold War security order has arrived. This is not a moment or an opportunity that has come about by accident. NATO has worked quietly but intensively over the past two years to prepare the new democracies in our Partnership for Peace program for such joint operations, just as we have endeavored to build a truly cooperative relationship with the Russian Federation.

Thus in Bosnia we have an opportunity not only to end a war in the Balkans but to lay the foundations for an enduring structure of peace across a now-undivided and democratic Europe.

I am keenly aware that it is one thing to proclaim such a lofty ideal and quite another for our troops to face the grim reality of a Balkan winter under trying and dangerous circumstances. Throughout history, it has been ever thus—it has been to the lonely foot soldier to realize the visions of leaders and politicians.

But thanks to their capacity to learn from the mistakes of the first half of this century, two generations of Europeans and North Americans have not had to ask their sons and daughters to sacrifice themselves in another world war. They have not had to do so—and current and future generations will not have to do so—largely because NATO exists to keep the peace.

Now that a new NATO is moving boldly to meet the post-Cold War security challenges of a new Europe, our thoughts should go to our young soldiers of peace who will spend their Christmas truly spreading the season's message of hope to their fellow man.

H.R. 2843, VETERANS' INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 1995

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which will update and make changes to two of the VA insurance pro-

grams—the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance [SGLI] and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance [VGLI]. My distinguished colleagues, SONNY MONTGOMERY, TERRY EVERETT, LANE EVANS, and CHRIS SMITH, join me in introducing this bill.

The SGLI Program provides group life insurance coverage to persons on active duty in the military service, Ready Reservists, members of the uniformed services, cadets and midshipmen of the four service academies and members of the Reserve Office Training Corps. Although it is a program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, this program is actually administered by the Prudential Insurance Co.

The VGLI Program is a program of post-separation insurance which provides for the conversion of servicemen's group life insurance to a 5-year term policy. Like Servicemen's Group, Veterans' Group is supervised by the Department of Veterans Affairs but administered by the Office of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance.

This bill would make quite a few changes, including setting the automatic coverage under SGLI at \$200,000 from the current \$100,000; allowing the Secretary the authority to terminate an individual's insurance if premiums are not paid within 60 days; and renaming the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance Program to Servicemember's Group Life Insurance.

Additional provisions include merging the Retired Reserve Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance Programs; extending VGLI lifetime coverage to members of the Ready Reserve of a uniformed service; providing for an individual, upon separation from the military, to change to the SGLI Program or choose as commercial policy; and eliminating the 5-year VGLI renewal period.

Mr. Speaker, we already know that these are great insurance programs and are very popular with veterans and active duty personnel. The changes offered in this legislation will improve the programs for current policy holders and future participants.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

A CHAMPION OF ECONOMIC JUSTICE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former Seattle Councilman Sam Smith who passed away November 16, 1995. Sam Smith was born July 21, 1922, on a farm just outside of Gibsland, LA. He entered the U.S. Army in 1942, was assigned to a post in Seattle, and achieved the rank of warrant officer. After World War II, he married his high school sweetheart, Marion, and together they raised six children. Sam earned a degree in social science from Seattle University in 1951, and a degree in economics from the University of Washington in 1952. He entered politics in 1956, and was elected to the Washington State Legislature in 1958, representing the 37th Legislative District of Washington for five terms until 1967. Sam then was elected to the Seattle City Council. He was the

council's first black member, and he served on the council for 24 years.

What made Sam Smith one of the finest elected officials to hold office in Seattle? Was it his insistence that he answer his own telephone with the familiar and friendly, "This is Sam"? Or his warm smile and greeting of "Hi, neighbor" to all he encountered on his regular strolls through the neighborhoods of Seattle? Was it his keen political skills that found answers to problems when others could not? Or was it his unique ability to bring opposing sides together to find common ground?

Yes, Sam Smith will be remembered for the way he answered his phone, greeted people on the streets, found answers and not excuses. However, he also is remembered as a champion of economic justice. Sam Smith addressed issues in a direct, thoughtful, and dedicated manner, at a time in our country's history when talk of fair housing and fair employment opportunities for minorities and the working poor too often was met with ignorance and indifference. He is remembered as someone who lifted as he climbed. Sam Smith was among the fathers of the robust diversity that distinguishes Seattle politics nationally. Many city, county, and State public officials attribute their opportunities to Sam and the avenues he opened for them.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Seattle mourns the loss of Sam Smith, someone who dedicated his life to public service, who greeted one and all with warmth and respect, and who, above all, cared about his neighbors.

IN HONOR OF COL. BILLY CLYDE
STEED

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize a fellow Mississippian, Col. Billy Clyde Steed, who is retiring this month after 40 years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps. I wanted to share with my colleagues the highlights of Colonel Steed's outstanding career of service to his country.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in January 1956. After completion of recruit training, he reported to the 2d Marine Division and was assigned to the 8th Marine Regiment. He was later assigned to the amphibious reconnaissance company.

In 1958, he was ordered to Marine Barracks, 8th & I, and remained there until 1962. From 1962 to 1964, he was stationed at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, as a drill instructor. Colonel Steed was then transferred to the 1st Marine Division and served with 3d Battalion, 7th Marines. The 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, deployed to Okinawa and was redesignated as 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, and deployed to Vietnam in January 1965. During this period, he served as a squad leader, platoon sergeant, and platoon commander.

Returning to the United States in 1965, he was again assigned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, as an instructor at the Drill Instructor School.

Commissioned a second lieutenant on September 30, 1966, he was ordered to the 2d Marine Division and attended the Aerial Ob-

server School. During his tour with the 2d Marine Division he served as an instructor at the Aerial Observer School, executive officer for L Company, 3d Battalion, 6th Marines, and commanding officer, Headquarters Company, Headquarters Battalion, 2d Marine Division. On December 30, 1967, he was promoted to 1st lieutenant. In 1968, he joined the 3d Battalion, 27th Marines, and deployed to the Republic of Vietnam, serving as a platoon commander, executive officer, and later as commander, I Company.

When the 27th Marines returned to the United States, he remained in Vietnam and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division Aerial Observer Section. Upon returning to the United States in 1969, he was assigned to the G-4, Camp Pendleton, CA.

In March 1970, he was promoted to Captain. From 1970 to 1971, he served with the Shore Party Battalion, 5th Marine Division, as a company commander and operations officer.

Graduating from the Amphibious Warfare School in 1971, he was assigned as a company commander at Officer Candidate School.

Again ordered to the Republic of Vietnam in December 1972, he served as an aerial observer with Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company. Following the cease fire, he transferred to the Landing Support Group, 3d Force Service Regiment, Nam Phong, Thailand, and served as the operations officer.

In 1974, he returned to the United States and was assigned as the I-1, E Company, 2d Battalion, 23d Marines, Concord, CA.

He was promoted to major in June 1977. He was next ordered to the 1st Marine Brigade in Hawaii and served as Weapons Company Commander, the executive officer for 2d Battalion, 3d Marines, the regimental S-4, and the operations officer for the 31st Marine Amphibious Unit.

Graduating from the Armed Forces Staff College in 1981, he was assigned as the Chief Aerial Observer, VMO-2, Camp Pendleton, CA. In July 1982, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and assigned to the air-ground exchange program where he served as G-3 Plans and Deputy G-4, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing.

In 1984 he was assigned to the 1st Marines as the regimental executive officer. During April 1985, Colonel Steed assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines. In 1987 he was assigned as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-7, for preparedness and Special Operations Training Group of I Marine Expeditionary Force until August 1988. On August 29, 1988, Colonel Steed assumed command of the 25th Marines. On October 1, 1988, he was promoted to Colonel.

On December 15, 1990, Colonel Steed was assigned as the MARCENT/I MEF G-3 (Operations Officer) during Desert Shield/Desert Storm. During that operation, Colonel Steed served as the operations officer for the largest U.S. Marine Corps combat operation since the Vietnam conflict.

Returning to the United States in April 1991, Colonel Steed served as the G-3 Operations Officer for I MEF during the largest employment of U.S. Marine Corps Forces in counterdrug interdiction efforts in history. He was responsible for the deployment of over 10,000 marines and sailors in support of Joint Task Force-6 over a 2-year period. He later assumed the duties as Chief of Staff for I MEF, where he deployed to Somalia in November

1992. He later served as the Special Military Assistant to Adm. Jonathan Howe, USN (Retired), the Special U.S. Representative to Humanitarian and United Nations Operations in that besieged country. Following his return to the United States, he was summoned back to Somalia to work with the United Nations.

Colonel Steed is currently the director of expeditionary warfare and special operations training at the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, CA.

Colonel Steed's personal decorations include: the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Combat "V," the Air Medal (Individual Award), 17 Strike Flight Awards with Combat "V," the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" with two gold stars and the Purple Heart with on gold star.

THE OBSERVER ANNUAL AWARD
DINNER

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a number of Pittsburgh groups and residents who will be honored next week at the annual dinner hosted by the Observer newspaper.

Each year the Observer presents a number of awards for outstanding community service. It also selects an individual for its Humanitarian Service Award, and it confers Man and Woman of the Year Awards. I would like to recognize this year's award recipients here today.

The recipients of the Awards for Outstanding Service are listed below:

Mr. Arnold Horovitz, Esq. and Kenneth Stiles, Esq., who are being honored for their efforts to enforce zoning code provisions in a number of city neighborhoods.

The Elliott-West Athletic Association, which is being honored for 30 years of service to young people in Pittsburgh's West End, and for a number of other public service efforts, including its efforts to maintain Herschel Field.

The Pittsburgh Habitat for Humanity, which is being honored for its volunteers' efforts to provide affordable housing for low-income residents of the city of Pittsburgh.

The Hill District Community Development Corporation, which is being honored for its work in creating the Crawford Square housing development—a successful mixed income, mixed use market rate urban residential community.

The Lambda Foundation and the Pittsburgh Tavern Guild, which are being jointly honored for their philanthropic activities benefiting organizations and agencies that provide social, educational, and health-related services to members of Pittsburgh's gay and lesbian community.

The Lawrenceville Development Corp., which is being honored for its work to revitalize the historic Doughboy Square are of Lawrenceville, and for the construction and successful marketing of the Doughboy Square Townhomes—the largest new-construction housing development undertaken in Lawrenceville in the past 30 years.

The Manchester Citizens Corp., which is being honored for its continuing work to revitalize Manchester, its youth employment programs, and for the creation of a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan that resulted in a successful application for a HUD HOPE VI grant.

Mr. Nate Geller, of Highland Park, who is being honored for his long-term commitment to Pittsburgh's young people through his efforts as a volunteer baseball coach, basketball coach, and soccer coach, and for his volunteer work for the Sister Cities organizations as an organizer of the 1995 visit here by the Russian Junior Olympic Baseball Team.

The Northside Leadership Conference and the Spring Garden Neighborhood Council, which are being honored jointly for successfully developing and marketing the Vosskamp Villas townhomes on Vosskamp Street in Spring Garden.

The Overbrook Community Council and the West End-Elliott Joint Project, which are being honored jointly for their efforts to secure government action on a comprehensive flood control project along Saw Mill Run, a stream in Pittsburgh's southern and western neighborhoods.

The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, which is being honored for its volunteer effort to enhance the image of the downtown Pittsburgh business district through beautification and clean-up projects, public safety advocacy, retail management seminars, and marketing and promotional activities—including Sparkle Season, a successful Christmas shopping marketing program designed to attract shoppers back to the downtown business district.

Pittsburgh Cares, which is being honored for its efforts to recruit and coordinate volunteers, including corporately sponsored groups, for numerous and wide-ranging community service projects benefiting individuals, nonprofit organizations, and neighborhoods throughout the city of Pittsburgh.

The Overbrook Teen Council, which is being honored for its many community service efforts, including service to senior citizens, young people, and the community at large, and for its efforts in support of a comprehensive flood control project along Saw Mill Run.

Preservation Pittsburgh, which is being honored for the second year in a row for its efforts to preserve—and encourage the restoration of—important buildings and landmarks in the city. Its most notable projects this year consisted of the Mary Schenley and Westinghouse fountains in Oakland's Schenley Park.

Mr. Randy Gilson, a resident of the Mexican War Streets, for his leadership in beautification efforts on Pittsburgh's Northside, including the creation of more than 40 community gardens and parklets, largely at his own expense.

The South Side Local Development Co., which is being honored for its successful 10-year effort to revitalize the Carson Street shopping district, its community planning and housing development efforts, and for its advocacy efforts on behalf of Monongahela riverfront development and enforcement of local zoning ordinances.

The Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition, which is being honored for its role in creating the Squirrel Hill Citizens Patrol, an all-volunteer public safety organization that patrols neighborhood streets and reports illegal and suspicious activity to local police authorities.

This year, the Observer's Humanitarian Award goes to Mr. Stanley Frankowski, who is

being honored for his fundraising activities on behalf of people in need of organ transplants, and for undertaking a public relations and legal campaign that convinced a major health maintenance organization to agree to pay for a liver transplant that they had previously denied, thus extending and probably saving the life of one of his employees.

The Observer has chosen Mr. Randy Gilson as this year's Man of the Year. Mr. Gilson was chosen because of his strong leadership and his commitment to public service, and because he provides an excellent role model for other city residents—and, in particular, for young people living in Northside neighborhoods.

The Observer has chosen Ms. Rebecca White as its Woman of the Year. Ms. White is being honored for providing retail consulting services to neighborhoods and organizations in the city of Pittsburgh, as well as for working diligently as a volunteer with numerous community and business groups. She is also being honored for her contributions to the renovation and rehabilitation of Lawrenceville business district in the years since 1988.

Finally, I also want to commend Michael Romanello and the Observer newspaper for organizing this dinner to recognize those individuals and organizations who embody the spirit of Pittsburgh in their service to their community. I also want to thank the paper for the high-quality service that it has provided to many of Pittsburgh's communities. The Observer provides many neighborhoods with timely information on important local affairs and issues. This paper has helped to bring many of our communities together and to give voice to their concerns.

All of these individuals and organizations have made significant contributions to the people and communities of Pittsburgh. Without generous volunteers like these, the quality of life in our city would be much lower. They deserve our thanks and commendation. I salute their selfless service.

MONSIGNOR HARRY J. BYRNE,
J.C.D. ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS PRIESTLY ORDINATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the achievements of Msgr. Harry J. Byrne, pastor of Epiphany Parish, on this happy occasion—the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination. Monsignor Byrne has played an extraordinary role in my community, both in civic and in spiritual matters.

The Monsignor entered St. Joseph's Seminary in 1940, was ordained on December 1, 1945, and later went on to complete a doctoral degree in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America, in our Nation's capital.

After holding varied positions with the Archdiocesan Chancery, Monsignor Byrne was appointed Chancellor in 1968. Through his work with the Archdiocese, he was part of an enormously successful project under which \$300 million low and moderate income housing units were constructed.

Later, as a public appointee of Mayor Edward I. Koch to the Rent Guidelines Board, he was actively involved in a host of issues concerning affordable housing and housing rights.

Many New Yorkers are indebted to Monsignor Byrne for his tireless efforts on behalf of tenants who undoubtedly gained because of his fair and just voice on the Rent Guidelines Board.

In 1982, Monsignor Byrne was appointed pastor of Epiphany Parish, where his dedication and devotion have earned him the praise of all who have had the good fortune to work with him. During his tenure at Epiphany Parish, Monsignor Byrne has been a creative and innovative leader. Among the important changes he has initiated are the early introduction of altar girls, the establishment of a restricted endowment fund, and the expansion of the Epiphany School. The Monsignor's efforts do not stop at the church doors. He volunteers in the community as well, serving as vice president of the local Ronald McDonald House.

Monsignor Byrne is a very special friend of mine who has given a great deal to his community through his work in religious realm as well as his involvement in housing issues and other volunteer activities.

So I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Monsignor Byrne on his extraordinary achievements and in wishing him well in his next 50 years of service to God and to his community.

A STAMP TO HONOR GOV. GEORGE CLINTON

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, a renewed effort is underway in New York State urging the U.S. Postal Service to issue a postage stamp in memory of U.S. Vice President and Governor of New York, George Clinton.

George Clinton was the "George Washington" of New York. The State's first Governor, he had a pivotal role in the transition of New York to a State from a colony. As a patriot, citizen-soldier, and military strategist, he helped write an important chapter in the American way for independence.

Few realize today that George Clinton was a monumental public figure and statesman who went on to serve terms as Vice President under Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. He is the only Vice President in U.S. history to serve in that position under two separate administrations.

The Militia Association of New York, a defense advocacy group representing over 2,000 New York Army and Air National Guard and State militia component officers, and many other New Yorkers, are asking the U.S. Postal Service to issue the stamp on July 26, 1999, on the occasion of the 260th birthday of Governor Clinton. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and fellow citizens to join us in this worthwhile effort.

NOTING THE PASSING OF MRS.
RUBIE J. McCULLOUGH

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Mrs. Rubie Jones McCullough on December 27, 1995. I joined members of the McCullough family, Rubie's many friends, and members of the Greater Cleveland community, in celebrating the life of Rubie McCullough at homegoing services on January 2, 1996. The passing of this dedicated individual brings to a close a life committed to serving others. I rise in order to share with my colleagues some information regarding this distinguished individual.

Rubie was born in Enfield, NC, on July 16, 1918, to the late Arthur and Corrina Jones. She received her education in North Carolina, including a degree in teaching business administration from North Carolina Central University. Early in her career, she taught school in North Carolina. Rubie McCullough came to Cleveland in 1945, where she began a 23-year association with the Phillis Wheatley Association. The organization benefited from her strong leadership and commitment to serving others. It was also during this period that Rubie met and married her loving partner and companion, William (Ted) McCullough.

Mr. Speaker, in 1968, Rubie McCullough undertook one of her greatest challenges. In response to the community's need for youth services, including tutoring and counseling programs, she founded the Harvard Community Services Center. Over the years, with the support of the business and civic community, the center expanded to include senior services and programs to assist families. Mrs. McCullough served as executive director of the Harvard Community Services Center from its inception until her retirement in 1989. Rubie McCullough also maintained her strong commitment to education. Cuyahoga Community College prospered under her leadership of the board of trustees for 21 years. She approached the assignment with the highest level of commitment and dedication.

During her lifetime, Rubie J. McCullough earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues and others throughout the community. She was a social activist whose stature rests upon a lifetime of commitment to service, social justice, equality and opportunity for all people. Rubie was the recipient of numerous awards and honors which recognized her commitment and dedication to service.

Mr. Speaker, her obituary stated that Rubie McCullough was, "a wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend, whose life mirrored service, commitment and dedication to God and mankind." These words describe an individual who was a close friend and supporter. Those of us who were the beneficiaries of her unselfish devotion will miss our colleague and confidant. She was a woman of intellect and dignity, and she was very special to all who knew her.

I take this opportunity to express my sympathy to Rubie's loving husband of 47 years, William (Ted) McCullough, her son William C. McCullough, Jr., and her daughter-in-law, Carolyne. I also extend deepest sympathy to Rubie's sister, Lucinda Jones Smith, her

brother, Charles Jones, and her grandchildren; William C. III, David, Stacey, and Morgan McCullough. She also leaves to mourn a number of nieces and nephews, many other relatives and a host of loving friends. God has called Rubie McCullough home to rest, but she will always be in our hearts.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4,
PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND
WORK OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER G. TORKILDSEN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support this compromise legislation. I voted against the original House-passed welfare package, and received a fair amount of criticism for it. But that original package needed to be changed, especially in two key areas.

The original bill attempted to turn child nutrition programs, such as school lunch and WIC, into block grants. Additionally, it completely eliminated the social safety net for legal immigrants.

The Senate-House compromise bill addresses these concerns in this final bill. Specifically, the nutrition block-grant proposal has been eliminated: WIC will continue to be a separately funded program, one that works well in providing early childhood nutrition and education for both children and their parents.

The compromise bill will also continue to allow legal immigrants to receive benefits that their tax dollars pay for. While States will have to agree, the language in the compromise bill is a substantial improvement over the original language.

This welfare reform bill also includes the strongest child support enforcement provisions ever enacted by the Federal Government.

Child support checks often mean the difference between self-sufficiency and dependency on welfare. With this bill, we are sending a clear message that it is never acceptable to abandon your children, and if you do, the penalties will be severe.

I am proud to have sponsored a provision in this bill that will prevent parents from hiding assets in other States, while neglecting to pay the child support payments they are legally, and morally, required to make. My provision will allow a custodial parent to place a lien on a delinquent parent's asset, without having to travel from State to State. In this provision, property liens will be given "full faith and credit" in every State, forcing parents to meet their moral and financial responsibilities.

The Personal Responsibility Act gives States and localities the necessary flexibility to implement innovative approaches to serving those in need. States will have the option to choose from a number of policy suggestions set forth in this bill, including requiring mothers under 18 to attend school and live with an adult, and denying additional cash benefits to those mothers who have children while receiving benefits. The Governor of my home State, Bill Weld, has a bold welfare reform plan which cannot be fully implemented, until this bill becomes law.

This bill represents the end of welfare as we know it. People trapped in the current system

will be given encouragement and assistance in obtaining jobs and education. It will prevent abuse of the welfare system, by placing a lifetime limit on benefits. Welfare was never meant to be a way of life. This bill returns welfare to the short-term assistance plan it was always meant to be.

I urge the President to fulfill his campaign pledge to "end welfare as we know it" by signing this bill. Without these reforms, the cycle of poverty that has afflicted so many for the past three decades will only continue. This compromise is a win for children, a win for those trapped in a failed system, and a win for taxpayers.

CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
ACT OF 1995

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2727, the Congressional Responsibility Act of 1995.

The Congressional Responsibility Act corrects a serious violation of the Constitution: Article I, section 1 states that "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress." The section, moreover, makes clear that this legislative power includes the power to regulate. Congress, however, routinely delegates this authority to unelected bureaucrats. The Congressional Responsibility Act will stop delegation by requiring Congress to approve Federal regulations.

Americans are disillusioned with Government. They believe, in particular, that Congress, designed to be the most accountable branch of Government, has grown increasingly unresponsive and unaccountable.

As usual, the American people are correct. Government is less accountable than it was the first 150 years of the Republic. Beginning in the late 1930's, the Federal Government retreated from the fundamental constitutional principle that vests lawmaking power solely with the people's elected representatives.

An elemental principle of representative government is political accountability: The public's right to hold elected officials responsible for the laws imposed upon them. This is especially important today, as government has assumed an increasingly larger role in the lives of Americans. But good government suffers, liberty diminishes, and bad laws proliferate when the link between voter and elected official is severed.

The Framers of our Constitution understood this danger and wisely followed John Locke's admonition that "the legislative cannot transfer the power of making law to any other hands."

In practice, however, Congress routinely delegates its lawmaking duties to politically unaccountable bureaucrats who craft regulations with the full force of law. From clean air to savings and loans, past Congresses have ceded responsibility for lawmaking to bureaucratic fiat. Delegation gives life to bad laws. Such laws would not stand a chance in bright, open sunshine, but they can slip by in the dark, without widespread support or deliberation.

For example, in 1972, the Clean Water Act granted the Corps of Engineers authority to

regulate areas adjacent to, or connected to, navigable waters. Over time, however, Federal regulations have been extended to include even isolated wetlands with no connection to navigable waterways. This is clearly a case of regulations going far beyond the scope of statutory language; in fact, the word "wetlands" does not appear in the 1972 Clean Water Act.

This law, which was originally created to prohibit the discharge of pollutants into water. It was used, however, used to prosecute John Pozsgai of Morrisville, PA. Pozsgai cleaned up a 14-acre dump site he purchased to expand his truck repair business. Although Federal regulators may have been happy to see the junk hauled away, when Pozsgai leveled about 5 acres with clean fill dirt, the EPA took him to court because it said the dump he cleaned up was really a valuable wetland. He

was fined \$5,000 and sentenced to 3 years in jail. Pozsgai's only crime: dumping dirt without permission.

Delegation also permits Congress to grant favors without imposing costs and to exercise selective power without taking responsibility for its consequences. Like budget deficits, Congress is able to reap the benefits of its largess, but avoid blame for its costs. Moreover, delegation allows powerful special interests to expand substantial resources in private to benefit the few at the expense of the many. With delegation, Congress can be everything to all people, but, ultimately, it is the people who lose.

The Congressional Responsibility Act corrects these abuses by requiring agency regulations to be presented to Congress for a vote, either under expedited procedures or through

the normal legislative process. The bill provides that Federal regulations will not take effect unless passed by a majority of Representatives and Senators and signed by the President—or a veto is overridden. This concept was offered by Justice Stephen Breyer—before his appointment to the Supreme Court—as a method to satisfy " * * * the literal wording of the Constitution's bicameral and presentation clauses * * *"

This reform is ideologically neutral and non-partisan. Concerns about delegation have been voiced by people from across the political spectrum, including Judge Robert Bork and ACLU president, Nadine Strossen. I hope that my colleagues who are committed to restoring the public's right to hold its elected officials responsible for their actions will support this important legislation.