

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCING H.R. 1271, THE FAA RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

### HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chair of the House Committee on Science's Subcommittee on Technology to introduce the FAA Research, Engineering, and Development Act of 1997. The legislation authorizes the FAA to conduct research, engineering, and development [RE&D] projects and activities that improve the national aviation system by increasing safety, security, capacity, and productivity for fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000.

Although the budget for RE&D reflects a relatively small portion of the FAA's total budget, the program plays a critical role in the research and development of new aviation technologies to help meet the increasing aviation demands of the next century. A major challenge facing the FAA today is the modernization of an aging system infrastructure. An infusion of new technology and procedures is essential if air traffic services are to continue to support safe and efficient flight operations of the future.

For fiscal year 1998, the legislation authorizes a slight increase over last year's enacted funding level, from \$208,412,000 to \$217,406,000. The increase is necessary to safeguard sensitive computer and information system data from unauthorized disclosure, to enhance weather research activities recognizing weather as a major contributor to aircraft incidents, to strengthen research activities helping the FAA to meet its goal of reducing aircraft noise 80 percent by the year 2000, and to establish a new undergraduate research grants program. The legislation authorizes \$224,000,000 for fiscal year 1999 and \$231,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 to carry out the FAA RE&D program.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this legislation which will assist the FAA in its efforts to increase airspace capacity, reduce inefficiencies, and to improve aviation safety and security. I encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting the FAA Research, Engineering, and Development Authorization Act of 1997.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ACT OF 1997, H.R. 1273

### HON. STEVEN SCHIFF

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Science Foundation Act

of 1997. This 2-year authorization bill lays out a realistic and supportable plan to fund science.

The National Science Foundation [NSF] provides funding to over 19,000 research and education projects in science and engineering. It does this through grants and cooperative agreements to more than 2,000 colleges, universities, K-12 schools, businesses, and other research institutions in all parts of the United States. The Foundation accounts for about 25 percent of Federal support to academic institutions for basic research.

The President's fiscal year 1998 request for the National Science Foundation [NSF] is \$3.367 billion. While the President's request offers a 3-percent increase over fiscal year 1997, I believe this number serves as a baseline for science funding.

The Research and Related Activities [RR&A] Account serves as the bellweather indicator for basic research at the Foundation. My bill authorizes \$2.563 billion, or a 5.4-percent increase over fiscal year 1997. While I understand we are operating under tough budget times, I firmly believe that the discoveries of next century will be born from our Nation's current investment in basic research. This investment is a must for the United States to remain a world leader well into the next century. I am proud of the work of my subcommittee and the full committee in providing an achievable goal for the RR&A account in fiscal year 1998.

In fiscal year 1999, the bill increases the RR&A account to \$2.740 billion, a 7-percent increase over fiscal year 1998. I believe this is an achievable goal. Over this next year, I intend to make the case to Congress and to the science community that this goal is the right track for basic research funding.

This bill provides for full authorization of the Antarctic Rehabilitation Program. Both within my subcommittee and at the full committee, after numerous committee hearings and oversight activities, we believe this Antarctic Rehabilitation Program is extremely worthwhile. Mr. Norm Augustine stated at our full committee hearing on, "The Future of Antarctic Research," "It's our belief we would not send a ship to sea or a spacecraft to orbit in the condition of the facilities that we have at the pole." Furthermore, the Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, reaffirmed in a letter to the Committee, " \* \* \* it is essential for the United States to maintain an active and influential presence in Antarctica, including the South Pole Station." I believe now is the time to make the commitment to our Nation and scientists.

In the Education and Human Resources Directorate, this bill incorporates the President's request of \$625.5 million, a 1.1-percent increase over fiscal year 1998. As a strong supporter of education, I am planning an aggressive oversight agenda for math and science education this year. Because I believe these programs are important, this bill provides for growth in this program to over \$644 million, in fiscal year 1999.

This bill stresses the need to maintain low overhead and expenses in the salaries and expenses account. Also, in both years, we provide slight increases to the Office of the Inspector General.

In other provisions of the bill, NSF is required to submit a plan to the Congress on the status of present and future construction, repair, and upgrades to our national research facilities.

Understanding that the science community should not be immune to justifying its expenses in these tough budget times, the bill directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy to undertake a study to review indirect cost rates.

I want to particularly thank my ranking minority member, Mr. BARCIA, for his efforts on this bill and the bipartisan support he has shown in supporting the National Science Foundation.

IN HONOR OF THE BAYONNE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF INVALUABLE SERVICE TO THE CITY OF BAYONNE

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional organization, the Bayonne Community Mental Health Center which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. This achievement will be recognized at a celebration to be held the evening of April 12 at the Hi-Hat Caterers in Bayonne.

A quarter century ago, an exceptional group of concerned women recognized a need in the Bayonne community for mental health services. A place was envisioned where not a single person would be denied health services, regardless of his ability to provide payment for these valuable services. Through dedication and a commitment to excellence, the dream became a reality in the form of the Bayonne Community Mental Health Center.

Twenty-five years ago, people with a mental or psychological disability were often shunned by others within their communities. Through the efforts of the Bayonne Community Mental Health Center, this perception has been greatly reversed. In its first year, the center provided almost 300 mental health visits for the residents of the Bayonne community. By 1996, this number had grown to more than 16,000 people availing themselves of the services on a yearly basis. The extraordinarily qualified staff of therapists and psychiatrists at the center offer comprehensive and personalized care covering a full spectrum of psychological illnesses.

Missions as important as that of the Bayonne Community Mental Health Center are never accomplished by one person. Each staff member has played a vital role in serving the

• 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.

community. Chief among these individuals are the past presidents of the Bayonne Community Mental Health Center including: Rose Donski, Gloria Koenig, Ethel Rosenthal, Harold Strohefer, Leonard Kiczek, William Downey, Mary Brennan, and Peter Anastas. Their work is continued by current president Agnes Mangelli.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions made by the Bayonne Community Mental Health Center to the people of Bayonne. The well being of all residents of the area has been enhanced by the invaluable work of the center's dedicated individuals. It is an honor to have such an outstanding organization working on behalf of the residents of my district.

TRIBUTE TO CLOVIS UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Clovis Unified School District [CUSD]. In a Joint Powers Agreement, CUSD and Fresno Unified School District [FUSD], will open the Center for Advanced Research and Technology in Clovis, CA [CART]. An extended branch of the educational system in Clovis, CART will allow students in the community to adequately prepare for the technological challenges of the future.

Scheduled to open in the fall of 1999, CART pilot programs have been slated to begin in fall 1997. CART was made possible by a combination of grants and a partnership between local businesses and the educational departments of the community.

As a center striving to meet the employment needs of the community and adequately prepare students to take advantage of postsecondary options, the course work presented at the center will be responsive to the changes in the industry. CART will offer courses that require sophisticated laboratory environments and interdisciplinary curriculum that integrates higher order mathematics, sciences, and technology education. This course work will focus on the intellectual processes of problem solving, analyzing, team building resource allocation, and self-assessment through a cognitive apprenticeship instructional model. The skills taught at CART will be invaluable in both interpersonal and technological growth throughout the students lives.

Striving to educate all segments of the community, high school students and adults will reap the benefits of CART. High school students will spend half of their day at the center receiving laboratory instruction. The State Center Community College District will offer postsecondary classes for students. Additionally, the Central California Business Incubator Program will also be located at the center.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to welcome a program of this nature to the 19th District. I look forward to monitoring the progress that CART makes as it works closely with members of the local community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Center for Advanced Research and Technology my best wishes for future success.

A TRIBUTE TO DOUG DOBMEIER

**HON. GLENN POSHARD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good friend of mine, Doug Dobmeier, the senior vice president of operations for Tharaldson Enterprises [TE] in Shelbyville, IL. Tharaldson Enterprises builds hotels and other businesses across the country, including over 30 hotels in the 19th Congressional District of Illinois. On behalf of southern Illinois I want to extend our appreciation for the many jobs and businesses that TE has generated over the past three decades, and for many pleasant stays during my own travels throughout the district.

Tharaldson Enterprises, Inc., was founded in 1982 by Gary Tharaldson. In 1984, as the company started to grow and the expansion of three new hotels was added, Gary decided to hire Doug Dobmeier to oversee TE's thriving business. With Doug's leadership TE became the largest hotel developer in the United States. Doug was soon promoted to senior vice president of operations and during his tenure has seen this company grow from 3 to 230 hotels located in some 20 States. Today this company witnesses 40 to 50 hotels added every year, which equates to an average of 1 grand-opening per week, and the company's number of employees has jumped from 33 to over 4,000. Doug's vision and leadership have steered this company to phenomenal success. Currently, Doug is the driving force behind the Extended Services Division overseeing their main goal of reaching 400 hotels by the year 2000. Doug has a dedicated and loyal staff working with him, including executive assistant Jill Gates and regional vice presidents Larry Davis, Don Klain and Tim Gefroh.

Mr. Speaker, Doug also has the overwhelming support of his wife, Sarah Dobmeier, and his three children, Andrea, Adam, and Amanda. Doug is a dedicated father and takes an active role in his children's schooling as a parent teacher association member. He is an anchor in his community, taking a leading role in the Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND, where he serves as associate deacon. Doug and Sarah contribute to the youth advocate counselor for their parish and recently took a group of 20 teenagers to the Black Hills in South Dakota for a retreat. Doug also played an integral role in starting a youth traveling basketball team for the Boy's and Girl's club of Fargo, ND, serving as head coach. The support of Doug's community and family has allowed him to run such a successful business in southern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, it's people like Doug who help stimulate the economy in the 19th Congressional District and inspire young people to give back to their communities. Doug Dobmeier is not only a team leader, but an example for all of us as we enter the 21st century.

HONORING ILLINOIS MOTHER OF  
THE YEAR PAULA "POLLY"  
MYERS

**HON. RAY LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a woman in my congressional district who was recently named Illinois' Mother of the Year. Paula "Polly" Myers, from Petersburg, IL, has been chosen for her involvement in her church, school, and community, but mostly for the love and dedication she has shown in raising seven wonderful children.

Polly Myers has lived her life displaying the qualities that inspire this type of award. Even as she was working and going to school to provide better opportunities for her children, she found time to teach Sunday School, serve on the PTA board, and play an active role in all aspects of her children's lives. She dedicated herself to her four natural children, and her three step-children, whom she raised as her own.

To be selected for this award, a nominee must meet a very rigid list of criteria. The search committee looks at the character and accomplishments of her children, her involvement in religious and civic institutions, her adherence to the Golden Rule, and how she embodies traits such as courage, patience, kindness, and understanding. By all of these standards, Polly Myers is a deserving recipient.

Polly Myers said herself that "You never go into motherhood thinking you're going to get an award." She is certainly right about that. Still, I am glad that awards such as this are given, and I am proud to honor Polly Myers, a truly deserving recipient.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PELL  
GRANT STUDENT/TAXPAYER  
PROTECTION ACT

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce the Pell Grant Student/Taxpayer Protection Act. This legislation would prevent a postsecondary school from participating in the Pell Grant Program if that school is already ineligible to participate in the federally guaranteed student loan program. Plain and simple, this legislation will make sure that if you have high default rates, then you should not receive any title IV higher education funding period.

This is a critical time for our country. Congress is trying to save taxpayer dollars while improving the quality of postsecondary education that is available to all Americans. We have taken strong steps forward in achieving this when we reauthorized the Higher Education Act with nearly 100 sorely needed reforms that were good for students and good for taxpayers.

Reforms such as the 3-year 25 percent cohort default rate were intended to put an end to risk-free Federal subsidies for those unscrupulous, for profit trade schools who promise

students a good education that leads to a good job and then fail to deliver on that promise—at the expense of both students and the taxpayers. If these schools violated these rules, then they would be bounced from the program.

We have already determined that schools with unacceptably high student loan default rates should not be permitted to participate in the federally guaranteed student loan program. I submit that if a school is deemed ineligible to participate in the federally guaranteed student loan program, then it should also not be permitted to participate in the Pell Grant Program.

We were able to put this into effect by making it a part of the Omnibus Consolidated Revisions and Appropriations Act of 1996. After going into effect for 1 year, about \$8 million were redistributed to responsible schools.

If we could find a way to pay for an increase in title IV student aid programs, there would be very few Members, if any, who would be unopposed. But, faced with a \$4.7 trillion debt and annual deficits exceeding \$200 billion, we do not have that luxury. However, today we have an opportunity to stretch our Pell grant funds by disqualifying those schools that we have already disqualified from the federally guaranteed student loan program.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation. Make our Pell grant money go farther. Throw the scam schools out of the Pell program. Protect the taxpayer. Cosponsor the Pell Grant Student/Taxpayer Protection Act.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1274, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY [NIST] AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 1274, the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST] Authorization Act of 1997.

Mr. Speaker, NIST is one of our least known yet most important agencies. As part of the Department of Commerce, NIST performs for the Federal Government the vital role of standardization. This constitutionally mandated effort ensures that U.S. businesses have the ability to interact not only with each other, but in the global marketplace. Without an arbiter of standards, we would never know what even the simplest of measures represents. NIST laboratories are responsible for the maintenance and development of accurate weights and measures necessary for developing new technologies and carrying out commerce.

H.R. 1274 authorizes the NIST programs, the Under Secretary for Technology, and Office of Technology Policy for fiscal years 1998 and 1999. Unlike the administration's request, the bill prioritizes funding for NIST laboratory functions, increasing their funding by 5 percent in fiscal year 1998 and 3 percent in fiscal year 1999, while reducing funding for lower priority programs such as the Advanced Technology Program [ATP].

Specifically for fiscal year 1998, the bill authorizes \$278,563,000 for NIST laboratory activities. This total includes an increase of

\$2,500,000 above the administration's request for the physics laboratory program to support reengineering measurement services to simplify the delivery of measurement assurance at the point of use. This initiative should increase the accuracy and lower the cost of calibration for the end users of NIST standards.

A \$4,000,000 increase from the levels recommended by the administration is included for the Computer Science and Applied Mathematics Program to augment NIST work in the field of computer security; and \$500,000 has been added for the Technical Assistance Program to support improving measurement standards to facilitate international trade and provide additional funding to implement the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995. The bill authorizes a total of \$286,919,890 for the NIST labs in fiscal year 1999.

The bill also authorizes funding for both the Advanced Technology Program [ATP] and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership [MEP] Program in fiscal years 1998 and 1999. ATP is authorized at \$185,100,000 in fiscal year 1998 and \$150,000,000 in fiscal year 1999. The program's match requirements are also altered by the bill, with new requirements for a 60-percent match from the private sector awardee replacing the program's traditional 50-50 split. This change should enable ATP grant funding to be further leveraged. To ensure that ATP grants are not simply displacing private capital, the bill also contains language requiring review of ATP applications to ensure that the ATP grant is actually required in order to enable the project to go forward.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1274 includes \$117,800,000 for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership [MEP] Program in fiscal year 1998 and \$111,300,000 in fiscal year 1999. These totals will allow for full funding of all 75 existing MEP centers and will cover the administrative costs associated with running the program. The bill also includes language which will allow MEP centers slated to sunset during the life of the bill to continue to receive funds for an additional 2 years if they meet the program's performance criteria.

The bill also authorizes \$4,134,500 in fiscal year 1998 and \$5,289,000 in fiscal year 1999 for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Program. The increases are sufficient to allow for the program's expansion into education and health care over the next 2 years.

Finally, the bill authorizes funding for NIST critical maintenance and construction needs. The bill includes \$16,692,000 in fiscal year 1998 and \$67,000,000 in fiscal year 1999 for construction and maintenance of NIST facilities. The funding is sufficient to cover the administration's request for maintenance in fiscal year 1998 and fiscal year 1999 and \$50,000,000 in fiscal year 1999 for NIST's top new facility priority, the Advanced Metrology Laboratory [AML]. In order to ensure that the construction funding is used in the most appropriate fashion, H.R. 1274 includes a certification requirement precluding the Department from obligating any money to new construction unless it meets the requirements of NIST's new facilities plan.

Along with the authorization language, the bill includes provisions to reduce scientific research earmarks, to require the Science Committee to receive notice of any reprogramming of NIST funds, and to express the sense of Congress that NIST should address the year 2000 computer date field problem.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1274 is a sound bill. It is fiscally responsible and will help ensure that some of our Nation's most important technology research and development programs are adequately funded for the next 2 years. I encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting the National Institute of Standards and Technology Authorization Act of 1997.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997, H.R. 1272

**HON. STEVEN SCHIFF**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Msrs. SENSENBRENNER, BROWN, and BARCIA to introduce a bipartisan bill to authorize the programs of the United States Fire Administration [USFA]. This small agency, housed in the Federal Emergency Management Agency, provides vital assistance to the Nation's fire and emergency services communities which helps them to save lives and property. The USFA is able to perform this service through its four primary missions: fire service training; fire-related data collection and analysis; public education and awareness; and research and technology.

Through the efforts of the USFA as a partner with State and local fire and emergency service communities, fire deaths and injuries and property losses are down. For a relatively small amount of money, these programs provide the men and women of the fire service the necessary leg up that enables them to achieve the seemingly insurmountable obstacles they face every day as the first line of defense in the fight against fire and arson.

This 2-year authorization bill establishes funding levels sufficient to preserve all the missions and functions of the United States Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy [NFA], which is administered by the USFA. Specifically, the bill provides a 3-percent increase over the administration's fiscal year 1998 requested level and a 3-percent increase in fiscal year 1999. We believe this additional money is necessary in order to ensure that the agency can continue its current mission activities as well as perform a new counterterrorism training function.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of the USFA and the NFA, and I believe this bill, as a reflection of the bipartisan support for these agencies, will enable them to continue their missions and accomplish their goals.

IN HONOR OF FATHER FRANCIS DOLS, T.O.R.: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO HIS FELLOW MAN BOTH IN EUROPE AND AMERICA

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional man, Father Francis Dols, who is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a priest in the

Franciscan Order. Father Dols' achievement will be recognized at a concelebrated Mass of thanksgiving on April 13 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Elizabeth to be followed by a reception and dinner in the Main Parish Hall.

Father Francis Dols seemed destined to serve his fellow man from an early age. He was born in the small Spanish town of Santa Maria Del Cami—"St. Mary of the Road". This beautiful island community set Francis Dols on the path that has led to his being with us today. At the age of 12, Francis Dols entered the Franciscan seminary of the Third Regular Order [T.O.R.] of St. Francis. When he was 16, Father Dols was accepted at a novice, and one year later he was professed as a fully committed member of the religious Order of St. Francis. Another year hence, Francis Dols left Spain for Rome to enroll in the Angelicum Catholic University to pursue the academic credentials required for admittance to the priesthood. However, the war in Europe resulted in the temporary closing of the university, thereby forcing Father Dols to return home.

Upon returning to Spain, Father Dols spent the next 4 years at the Franciscan Seminary. On April 13, 1947, Father Francis Dols was ordained a priest and began a new chapter in his spiritual journey. Father Dols' first assignment was to a large parish in the southwestern part of Spain, approximately 150 miles from the capital city of Madrid, where he spent the next 5 years in pastoral ministry. This extraordinary experience provided Father Dols with many gratifying moments caring for the spiritual needs of his parishioners. A highly positive experience aroused Father Dols' interest in spreading the word of God to those in the Americas. His arrival in the northwestern region of Brazil saw Father Dols working with the native Americans in the vast Amazon Forest. Father Dols' 4 years in South America afforded him many good times participating in the lives of this eager flock.

After leaving his adopted home, Father Dols' road of spiritual enlightenment led him to the United States. The people of Elizabeth were extremely fortunate to have Father Dols accept the position of pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary. His spiritual leadership has enriched the congregation; bringing them closer to God. And, he has been a source of guidance and solace to all who have sought his counsel.

It is an honor to recognize Fr. Francis Dols on the anniversary of his ordination. He has committed his life to God's service; and, over the past half century, has dedicated himself to his fellow man. I am certain that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this remarkable priest.

#### VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

**HON. SUE W. KELLY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 1997*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for H.R. 240, the Veterans' Employment Opportunities Act of 1997. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important leg-

islation and ask all my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in voting overwhelmingly for quick passage.

In 1944, Congress enacted the Veterans Preference Act to address the readjustment needs of the men and women who served their country during a time of war. The law was designed to assist veterans in regaining the lost ground their civilian careers had suffered as a result of military service. In the beginning, the Federal Government gladly complied with the provisions of the new veterans preference law. Unfortunately, as time passed and the memory of war faded, so did America's concern for fulfilling its obligation to its citizen-soldiers. Today, the original legislation and its amendments are easily circumvented.

Currently, veterans' preference laws give certain veterans preference in appointment to civilian employment with the Federal Government based upon their military service. Congress has long recognized that this is an earned benefit, not a gift. H.R. 240 strengthens veterans' preference and increases employment opportunities for veterans. It provides veterans an effective, efficient, and user-friendly redress mechanism for veterans whose rights have been violated under veterans' preference laws. In short, H.R. 240 will end circumvention of veterans' preference laws.

Additionally, H.R. 240 provides veterans with increased protections during reductions in force and extends veterans' preference to certain positions at the White House and in the legislative and judicial branches. This legislation is long overdue. If Federal agencies and Federal managers were fulfilling their obligation to enforce current law, this legislation would not be necessary.

In closing, I again ask that all of my colleagues join me in support of our Nation's veterans by voting for H.R. 240.

#### HONORING EUGENE CLARK

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and the American public the distinguished record of service to Michigan's disabled veterans by Michigan State Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Eugene Clark, of St. Ignace, MI. Mr. Clark is a friend and a constituent of mine from the First Congressional District. As he concludes his term as State Commander this June, I wish to call the Nation's attention to this dedicated veteran.

Entering the U.S. Army in 1966, Mr. Clark served in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division and its 2/14th Infantry. He was involved in several major conflicts, including the Tet Offensive, Manhattan, and Junction City. Mr. Clark's love of country and dedication to the military earned him 2 separate Purple Hearts, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal with 3 bronze service stars, and 4 Presidential Unit Citations during the 24 months he served in Southeast Asia.

Upon his discharge, Mr. Clark joined Local 324 of the Operating Engineers where his outstanding work was always acknowledged and

appreciated. He was employed as a superintendent of the American Dredging and Construction before retiring.

In his role as DAV State Commander, Eugene Clark has led the 42,000 Michigan DAV members with dignity, compassion, and decisiveness. While motivating the DAV membership, Mr. Clark has confidently and respectfully promoted the goals and ideals of the DAV throughout his tenure.

Mr. Clark has dedicated his life to veterans and their families and his service as State Commander will serve as an example for his successors. I know I speak for all veterans in thanking Eugene Clark for his work on behalf of veterans, especially Michigan veterans, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

#### HELEN JACKSON CLAYTOR CELEBRATES 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask you and my colleagues to join me in extending birthday greetings to a very special woman from my hometown of Grand Rapids, MI. Mrs. Helen Jackson Claytor will celebrate her 90th birthday on April 12. I am honored to know Helen and I greatly respect the time and energy she has put forth in making our community a better place to live through her work with race relations. Her tireless leadership and ability to get results should serve as an inspiration for all of us.

Born and raised in Minneapolis, MN, Helen graduated from John Marshall High School at the top of her class in 1925. After high school she attended the University of Minnesota, where she graduated cum laude in just 3 years while studying to become a teacher. While at the University of Minnesota she was also elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Following her graduation Helen found that opportunities for African-American teachers were extremely limited. The lack of available teaching jobs led her to the YWCA in Trenton, NJ where she worked as a Girl Reserves secretary. She also served a similar stint at the YWCA in Kansas City, MO in late 1930. These jobs marked the beginning of her long association with the YWCA.

Helen serves as a true ambassador for the YWCA, having traveled all over the country to speak on the topic of race relations at YWCA's that were segregated before the civil rights movement. As an elected member of the YWCA's World Council she traveled to such places as China, Switzerland, and Africa. Her drive and determination led her to the position of an active board member of the YWCA in Grand Rapids and later in her career she made history by becoming the first black woman ever to be elected president of a community YWCA. In the late 1940's she was elected to the National Board of Directors of the YWCA and served as the president from 1967 until her retirement in 1976. As president, Helen played a key role in helping the organization draft the YWCA Purpose in 1967, an honor she regards as a major accomplishment of her career. She still holds the title of Honorary Member of the Board.

In addition to her numerous roles with the YWCA, Helen has been actively involved in

countless community organizations and has been recognized for her efforts with numerous awards and commendations. Among her more recent honors are an honorary degree from Aquinas College, the Giant's Award from the Coalition of Grand Rapids Organizations, the Grand Rapids Y.W.C.A.'s Tribute to Women Award, and the Grand Rapids NAACP Role Model Award; she has also been inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

Widowed twice, Helen was married to journalist Earl Wilkens, who died of tuberculosis at an early age. She later married Dr. Robert Claytor, the first black physician in Grand Rapids. Throughout her years, Helen has been blessed with the support of a very loving and caring family that includes her three children, Roger Wilkens, Judith Claytor, and Sharon Claytor Peters.

Mr. Speaker, there is not enough time in the day to thoroughly highlight the many contributions that Helen had made to our society. Celebrating 90 years of life is truly a blessing. I want to again personally extend my heartfelt wishes to Helen for a joyous day of celebration with her family and many friends that will gather to honor her on April 17 at the Grand Rapids YWCA. Thank you, Helen, for being the outstanding citizen that you are.

HONORING ANNA-MARIE STRANGE  
FOR GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce Anna-Marie Strange, daughter of Beth and Sam Strange of Kasilof, as the latest Kenai Peninsula recipient of the Girl Scout Gold Award. Anna-Marie, a fifth generation Alaskan, is the granddaughter of Barbara and Ed Meier and Tom and Ned Strange, Anchorage.

Anna-Marie a member of Senior Troop 994, has been active in Girl Scouting for 11 years and recently received a Lifetime Membership in Girl Scouting as a gift from her long time Girl Scout mentor. For several years she served as an A.C.E. (junior counselor), at the Rainbow Trails Girl Scout Day Camp, and was a unit leader at the Nikiski Day Camp in 1994. She also completed the leader in training and counselor in training programs. In 1994, she traveled to Hokkaido, Japan with Susitna Council's Japanese Exchange Program. During the 1995-96 school year Anna-Marie served as a leader for Daisy Girl Scout Troop 32, Tustumena School. She has also worked as junior core-staff for the 1993 and 1995 Susitna Council encampments.

For her Girl Scout Gold Award project, Anna-Marie cross-referenced the Project WILD, Project Learning Tree, programs as well as the films and activities available at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge with the various levels of the Girl Scout program. She then compiled a book for local leaders to use when incorporating outdoor activities in their troop programming. To culminate and test out her completed project, Anna-Marie hosted a Wide-Game for local Girl Scouts at the refuge in late August.

In addition to Girl Scouting, Anna-Marie has been active in many outside activities. She

participated in swim team and cross-country skiing at Skyview, played the bassoon in both the Kenai Peninsula Community Band and Orchestra, and is active in Soldotna Methodist Church. She was salutatorian of Skyview High School, Band Student of the Year, and a member of the All State Honor Band and Borough Honor Band. She received the John Philip Sousa Award and Marine Corps Semper Parit Award in 1996. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Japanese Club, and received a Student of the Year scholarship from the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce. Anna-Marie is a certified life guard and swimming instructor, and worked at the Skyview pool for the past year. She also volunteered as assistant waterfront director for the local Cub Scout day camp in 1995 and in 1996 at the exhibits department of the Palmer State Fair.

Anna-Marie is now a freshman at Gustavus Adolphus College, Minnesota, majoring in music education.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, because I was unavoidably detained in the 15th Congressional District of Michigan, I was not present at rollcall vote No. 72 and rollcall vote No. 73. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote No. 72 and "aye" for rollcall vote No. 73.

ON BRIAN BLANKENBURG'S  
ATTAINMENT OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Brian Blankenburg of North Olmsted, OH, who will be honored this month for his recent attainment of Eagle Scout.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work, and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, 12 of which are required, including badges in: lifesaving; first aid; citizenship in the community; citizenship in the Nation; citizenship in the world; personal management of time and money; family life; environmental science; and camping.

In addition to acquiring and proving proficiency in those and other skills, an Eagle Scout must hold leadership positions within the troop where he learns to earn the respect and hear the criticism of those he leads.

The Eagle Scout must live by the Scouting Law, which holds that he must be: trustworthy, loyal, brave, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and reverent.

And the Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle project, which he must plan, finance, and evaluate on his own. It is no wonder that only 2 percent of all boys entering scouting achieve this rank.

Brian's Eagle project was the repair, refurbishing, and repainting of ticket booths and

parking lot lampposts at North Olmsted High School.

My fellow colleagues, let us join Boy Scouts of America Troop 53 in recognizing and praising Brian for his achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS'  
NURSING CARE AVAILABILITY  
ACT OF 1997

**HON. SUE W. KELLY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans' Nursing Care Availability Act of 1997. This important legislation will help correct a flaw that exists in the way that the Department of Veterans Affairs ranks applications for its State Extended Care Facilities Grant Program.

The State Extended Care Facilities Grant Program provides Federal funding for up to 65 percent of the total cost for the construction of State veterans nursing homes. Many States have been desperately trying to get a grant under this program to assist in the construction of State veterans nursing homes. However, despite documented need, they have been unable to get the Federal funding necessary to move forward.

Because of the overall inequity of the system that the VA uses to rank State applications, I have decided to introduce legislation that will ensure that States with the greatest veteran need receive priority funding.

The current system that the VA uses to rank State applications gives priority to States that have never received a similar grant in the past. While on the surface this may seem logical, the practical effect is that States with the highest veteran's need are often neglected because they received a grant sometime in the past. As a matter of fairness, I believe applications should be ranked solely on the needs of veterans.

The legislation I am introducing will correct this inequity by ensuring that States with the highest need receive priority. The Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that there should be 4 nursing home beds for every 1,000 veterans in a State. Using this determination, my bill would have applications based on a formula where veteran need is defined as a number of veterans in the State multiplied by 4 and divided by 1,000 (need = vet. population \* 4/1,000).

Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation for our Nation's veterans. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in working for its enactment.

HONORING TISBE FALCONE DIMEO

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to praise a woman whose contributions are the kind which go unnoticed by society at large but which mean so much to the people who are directly affected. Tisbe Falcone DiMeo is such a person. For more than 20

years she has worked at the board of education in Public School 87 in the Bronx where she was a school lunch aide. But it was the personality and charm she brought to the kitchen which made it distinct. Mrs. DiMeo turned this into an area where teachers would come to relax, to talk about work and themselves, to take that vital time which reinvigorates us. That kitchen was such a center of the school that the principals would drop in to become a closer part of that small community. Mrs. DiMeo personifies the person we all remember who made school more like home than an institution, the one we always speak fondly of. As a former teacher I can appreciate the atmosphere created by such a person. I have also had the opportunity to witness first hand the warmth and charm of this caring individual. She is the mother-in-law of my administrative assistant, John Calvelli.

On the evening of Friday, April 11, 1997, members and friends of PS 87 will be hosting a dinner to celebrate a new chapter in Mrs. DiMeo's life: her retirement. I salute her and thank her for all she has given to the school, its teachers and its students, and consequently to our community. I look forward to sharing many special events in the coming years with her and the entire DiMeo family.

IN HONOR OF REV. THOMAS BOYD  
OF THE SALEM MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH OF BROOKLYN,  
NY

**HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound pleasure that I congratulate today an exemplary community and religious leader, Rev. Thomas Boyd of the Salem Missionary Baptist Church. He has devoted 50 years of his life to the church, 37 of those to the Salem Missionary Baptist Church alone.

Reverend Boyd has been an invaluable spiritual leader. He plays a vitally important role in the community to the many who over the years have come to depend on his warm heart and kind words. His dedication and service to the church is testament to what a commitment, in this case to the faith, requires of us all. His leadership is inspirational and extends well beyond the reaches of his congregation. As public servants we should draw from his example and strive to emulate this level of commitment.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending a hearty congratulations to Reverend Boyd for his 50 years of religious service. And also to the Salem Missionary Baptist Church, for providing him a base from which to build a spiritual home for the people of Brooklyn.

TENNESSEE CLASS A  
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

**HON. ED BRYANT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, may it be known that the Vikings of Perry County High School

in Perry County, TN, are Class A basketball champions. The feat gave Perry County High School its sixth State Championship Trophy for basketball since 1955.

Twenty-eight times during their regular season, these Vikings took to the hardwood floors of Tennessee's high school gymnasiums to measure their metal. And those 28 competitions brought upon them the inspiring thrill of success and victory. Indeed, their numerous regular season achievements, coupled with a sheer desire to win, would carry them to victory throughout the district, regional, sub-State, and the pinnacle of high school basketball, the State Tournament.

Coach Bruce Slatten is to be commended for such a fine year of coaching. Without his unwavering guidance and devotion to his players, this team would likely not have been the same. Seniors Phillip Carroll, Kirk Haston, Chris Jones, and Chad Marrs undoubtedly showed team leadership throughout the year. Other players who made this team a success include Cory Brown, Nick Coble, Shannon Hamm, Ben Mercer, Mitchell Rhodes, Blake Warren, Barton Coble, Clay Pope, Josh Warren, Dan McEwen, and Josh Walker. Team managers Kenny Tohn, Adam Trull, and Ryan Parnell lent helping hands, as did statisticians Jeremy Hester and Troy Himes, and cameraman Michael Jones.

Four Vikings would go on to earn All-State Tournament honors—Cory Brown, Kirk Haston, Chris Jones, and Mitchell Rhodes. Mr. Haston was named the Single A State Tournament's "Most Valuable Player," and for the second year in a row, was named "Mr. Basketball" in Tennessee Single A basketball.

I am proud to see Perry County High School uphold its winning and championship tradition in high school basketball, and wish this team the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES FARMER

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, 55 years ago this month, the first sit-in took place. It was at the Jack Spratt Coffee Shop in Chicago, IL. It was conceived, organized, and led by James Farmer.

Fifty years ago, in 1947, in followup to the 1946 Supreme Court ruling that blacks could not be forced to sit in the back of buses traveling interstate, Farmer led CORE members in a challenge to the practice of segregated seating. On what he called the journey of reconciliation, they traveled through Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and West Virginia. Some members of that group, including Bayard Rustin, were arrested and served 30 days on a chain gang in North Carolina for having violated local segregation laws.

These are among the little known but critical events on the road to equal rights and equal protection under the law in the United States. Better known are the Freedom Rides. James Farmer orchestrated them, too.

Tireless and committed, Jim Farmer led 13 of us—an interracial group of young men and women whom he had helped train in the Gandhian principles of direct action and non-violence—on a journey toward freedom,

through the deep South. There was violence all around. Our buses were burned. We were beaten. But, we never turned back.

The Freedom Rides catapulted Birmingham police commissioner, Bull Connor, onto the front page of major newspapers around the world. The Freedom Rides opened Bobby Kennedy's eyes to the intransigence of Southern segregationists and the need for the Federal Government to intervene in the struggle for civil rights. And the Freedom Rides brought down the white only and colored signs that had been hung over every bus seat, terminal bench, toilet, and water fountain in the South.

Although he was one of the "Big Six" leaders of the civil rights movement, a planner of the 1963 march on Washington and scheduled to speak at the march, Jim Farmer didn't make it to the march. He was in jail in Louisiana at the time; and, while he could have been released, he chose to stay with the 200 others who had marched in Plaquemine earlier in the week protesting the inhumane treatment of black people in that parish.

Almost a month later, the Plaquemine protesters were released. However, the only way Farmer was able to escape Louisiana was in a coffin in the back of a hearse. The State troopers had vowed to find him and kill.

Referred to as a "young negro aristocrat," Farmer was born in Texas, where his father was the first black person to earn a Ph.D. degree. Today, he is 77 years old. He is blind. He has lost the use of both of his legs. He is not in good health.

He is still teaching at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA, where is he Distinguished Professor of History and American Studies. He continues to inspire his students and all those who come in contact with him to set goals, direct their actions, lead, be creative, have vision and keep the faith.

I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to James Farmer, one of our Nation's greatest heroes, his work, his legacy, and his life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR PAY  
ACT OF 1997

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the Fair Pay Act [FPA], a bill that would require employers to pay equal wages to employees in comparable jobs in an effort to remedy the pay inequities which women continue to endure. I introduce the bill today, the day before Pay Inequity Day, because that is the day on which women finally earn what men earned in the previous calendar year. I have introduced this legislation each Congress with increasing support in both the House and the Senate, and I hope to have even more support in the 105th Congress. The bill already has 25 original cosponsors.

American families are becoming more and more dependent on women's wages. Today, 40 percent of all working women have children under 18. In two-parent families, 66 percent of the women work, and the number of female-headed households has more than doubled since 1970.

Although most American families today must rely heavily on women's wages, women continue to earn less than their male counterparts

with comparable qualifications. Women complete more schooling than men but earn only 72 cents for each dollar earned by men. Although the wage gap has slowly narrowed over the years, much of the gap is not closing for women at all but is due to the decline in men's wages. Much of the rest of the progress can be traced to earnings of a small group of professional or highly skilled women. The average woman has seen little if any progress. Over her lifetime, a woman loses over \$420,000 due to pay inequity, and collectively, women—and therefore often their families—lose more than \$100 billion in wages each year because of wage discrimination.

The Equal Pay Act (EPA) was passed in 1963, and by focusing on pay disparities where men and women were doing the same (or similar) jobs, its enforcement has helped narrow the wage gap between men and women. The Fair Pay Act takes the Equal Pay Act one step further and seeks to confront the pay disparity problem of the 1990's the way the EPA confronted the equal pay problem in the 1960's.

The FPA recognizes that if men and women are doing comparable work, they should be paid the same. If you are an emergency services operator, a female-dominated profession, for example, you should not be paid less than a fire dispatcher, a male-dominated profession, simply because you are a woman and he happens to be a man. If you are a social worker, a traditionally female occupation, you should not earn less than a probation officer simply because you are a woman.

The FPA, like the EPA, will not tamper with the market system. As with the EPA, the burden will be on the plaintiff to prove discrimination. She must show that the reason for the disparity between herself and a man doing comparable work in her workplace is sex—or race—discrimination, not legitimate market factors.

As women's employment becomes an increasingly significant factor in the diminishing real dollar income of American families, fair pay between the sexes for comparable employees escalates in importance. This new paycheck frontier must be conquered for women and their families. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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#### TRIBUTE TO LOS LOBOS

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the internationally acclaimed musicians Los Lobos for sharing their remarkable talents and their spirit of generosity with the people of America. The quintet has steadily gained fans internationally and earned a place as one of music's most uncompromising innovators. What is less known but equally as valuable about Louie Perez, Cesar Rosas, David Hidalgo, Conrad Lozano, and Steve Berlin is their roles as Ambassadors of goodwill. Los Lobos have become inspirational role models for the greater Los Angeles community, especially for our children.

Messrs. Perez, Rosas, Hidalgo, and Lozano were born and raised in east Los Angeles and

were friends at Garfield High School. They came of age during the 1960's rock movement but have never abandoned their Mexican folk music heritage. The band's 20-plus-year history incorporates traditional rhythms, American folk, rock-and-roll and R&B among its influences. However, the strongest pull for Los Lobos derives from their east Los Angeles roots.

Los Lobos have released 10 albums and collaborated on numerous film, television, theatrical, and commercial productions. In 1985, the group received the distinction as "Band of the Year" by Rolling Stone. It was their hit "La Bamba," one of eight Ritchie Valens remakes recorded for the namesake movie soundtrack, that thrust them into America's eye and brought the band international acclaim. The song was Billboard's No. 1 pop single in 1987.

In 1988, Los Lobos received a Grammy Award for "Best Mexican-American Performance" for "La Pistola Y El Corazon." They have received other accolades ranging from MTV Music Video Awards to "L.A. Times Album of the Year."

All of what I have just recited explains the fame. But, one of Los Lobos' most recent perhaps most cherished achievements has been their support of Broadoaks Children's School in Whittier, CA. The group has raised considerable funds during three sold-out benefit concerts at Whittier College. All of these funds have enabled the school to expand its services to children, families, and teachers throughout Los Angeles.

In 1996, Broadoaks dedicated its newest building the "Los Lobos Learning Center," honoring the groups commitment to this first through sixth grade elementary school. The Los Lobos Learning Center includes two classrooms for fourth through sixth grade students, many of whom require special education services. All students in this center are required to participate in public service projects to instill the value of volunteerism—a reminder and tribute to their benefactors.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 11, 1997, friends and family will gather at a dinner to pay special tribute to Los Lobos to acknowledge the group's commitment and generosity toward the children at Broadoaks Children's School. It is with distinct pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting these exceptional individuals for their outstanding contributions to the music world and for their lasting gesture of goodwill toward our community.

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#### THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA

### HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the American Medical Association and all health care providers should be alerted that legislation I am introducing today will require the Attorney General to revoke the Federal license to prescribe medication to any health care practitioner who recommends to a patient the use of smoked marijuana. This bill is a response to the fraudulent efforts of the pro-drug crowd in the States of California and Arizona where they

now allow for the medical use of marijuana. This bill will be offered as an amendment to the first available authorization or appropriations bill.

The organizations which promoted the California and Arizona medical marijuana initiatives—Drug Policy Foundation/NORML—intentionally exploited the pain and suffering of others as part of their back door attempt to legalize marijuana.

As we know, Mr. Speaker, it is a Federal offense to sell, use, or possess a controlled substance, such as marijuana. The Federal Government, or more specifically, the Food and Drug Administration has repeatedly rejected marijuana for medical use because it adversely impacts concentration and memory, the lungs, motor coordination, and the immune system.

There is increasing scientific evidence that smoked marijuana would be the last medication you would want to prescribe to persons with AIDS since this drug further compromises their immune system, thereby increasing the risk of infections and respiratory problems.

Specifically, my bill, the Medical Marijuana Prevention Act, requires the DEA to revoke the Federal license of a physician to dispense approved medication, under the Controlled Substance Act, if they recommend the use of smoked marijuana for a medical treatment.

Federal law (21 U.S.C. S. 824) provides the President authority to deny a doctor's registration to dispense controlled substances—medication—if the doctor is found to commit acts inconsistent with the public interest. In other words, the President already has the authority under existing law to end the medical marijuana fraud.

As I have said on countless occasions, the only legacy of the Clinton Presidency will be a dramatic increase in the use of illegal drugs in America. There is still time for the President to reverse this trend but it would require decisive action on his part. Unfortunately given his record on this most important of issues it may again be left to Congress to take the initiative.

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#### HELP COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY BASE CLOSURE

### HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will facilitate the swift transfer of closed military bases to local communities. I am happy to be joined in this endeavor by my colleague, Mr. SAXTON, the primary cosponsor of this legislation. This action is necessary because current law hinders the large and complex transfer of military base property with economic redevelopment in mind.

Many of the laws governing the reuse of military bases are antiquated and filled with confusing terms and conditions. One major existing hindrance is a clause prohibiting the obtaining of profit by local communities. This is a problem because it prevents local communities from generating profits through subleasing for the purpose of reinvestment to maintain and improve landscaping, maintenance, and infrastructure. The remedy for this situation is to replace the clause with legislation embodying the provisions of the base closure laws and amendments of the 1990's.

The interim lease provisions have not been as successful as planned because many of the terms and conditions act as disincentives to economic development conveyance. For example, there is no commitment for final ownership by Federal agencies upon assumption of control or occupancy of transferred property. Commercial firms are willing to enter into leases, but are refusing this option because of the lack of commitment for final ownership. In addition, the new occupants of closed base property are unable to conduct major renovations unless they agree to restore the property to its original condition. Many of the facilities require major alterations from their original condition just to bring them to local code standards. Why are we requiring restoration of undesired conditions? This makes no sense and ultimately results in taxpayer waste.

Prior to 1996, departure of Federal agencies reverted property to the Federal Government for disposal by GSA. A "leaseback provision" was established in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1996 to protect communities from a Federal agency revolving door. Under this law, property approved for Federal usage would be transferred to the local redevelopment agency, then leased to a Federal agency at no cost for up to 50 years. The reasoning behind this is to ensure transfer of property to local communities in the event of departure by Federal agencies. The lack of a mandatory requirement for leaseback acceptance allows for circumvention of the legislative intent. In Orlando, FL, the Veterans Administration [VA] has requested Orlando Naval Training Center property through the Federal screen process. VA has refused to enter into a long-term lease with the city. This creates major problems for community redevelopment authorities as it limits their ability to finalize reuse plans. My legislation guarantees an option for communities to obtain reuse property after the departure from the property by the first Federal agency lessee.

We must allow common sense to prevail in this base reuse process. There are some instances where it makes sense to lease to organizations affiliated with the branch of service that previously occupied the base property. This is currently prohibited; yet doesn't it make sense to relocate recruiting stations, reserve centers, and military processing centers onto closed base property?

The four branches of the U.S. Armed Forces are currently able to contract with local governments for fire and police services for only the last 6 months prior to the closure of a base. Many times a base is phased out over a long period of time and the military eliminates military fire and police services much longer before the base is fully closed. Families and military personnel remaining need fire and police services from the local community. The military should be able to contract for these services throughout a long closure process.

Mr. Speaker, the bill I'm introducing today will make major strides in reforming the base closure reuse process. We must enact this legislation to protect our local communities. I urge my colleagues' support.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SARAH  
THOMAS

**HON. JOHN W. OLVER**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Sarah Thomas, for her prize-winning entry in the 1997 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. This contest, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary, is highly competitive, with more than 109,000 entries and only 54 available scholarships. Sarah, a junior at St. Bernard's High School in Fitchburg, MA, distinguished herself from other competitors by composing an exceptionally insightful piece that truly reminds us all how fortunate we are to live in a nation of democracy and freedom. I would like to insert Sarah's inspirational script for the RECORD.

1996-97 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

(By Sarah Thomas)

As I look around the room in my history class I see many things that I consider my window to the world unknown. A map shows me where the problems we discuss are happening. A picture above of President Abraham Lincoln above speaks to me of a government " \* \* \* of the people, by the people, and for the people." A book on the desk retells the stories of those who fought many battles and we hear the mournful cries of those who lost and the joyful tales of those who tasted victory. And we learn from them all.

As I look around, though, I am saddened by what I see. A pair of gazing eyes stares aimlessly out the window thinking of this afternoon's soccer game and another person half asleep's thinking, "Why do we need history anyway? This stuff happened years ago." I must confess that I have asked myself the same question several times in my life—until this year.

I am lucky, for I have met and grown close to three exchange students this year. Much can be learned from them and I have been awakened to how privileged we in America truly are. Next to me sits Lan from Beijing, China. He takes notes furiously as he wants to learn as much as he can about the freedom and justice we have in our country. He desperately wants to expand his knowledge during his short stay here in the United States, for when he returns home he may not get the opportunity to further his education. Lan's government places a percentage on those allowed to college and Lan may be one of the many who will not be able to continue his schooling. In a government where the people do not have a voice over the laws placed over them, personal development and growth may be stunted and full potentials may not be reached.

Behind me sits Maria. "Living in Spain is quite different from living here," she once said to me. "You have so many opportunities that I cannot get at home." Unfortunately many of these opportunities are overlooked by those of us lucky enough to live in a country that allows us to enjoy the freedom of new experiences. Maria was surprised at all of the activities girls could participate in. In the schools of her native country, athletics are for the boys and there is not much offered to the girls. United States citizens are fortunate, for under the constitution an eminent theme of equality prevails. The people are also encouraged to voice their opinion if they are unhappy with the actions of

government. Elections and voting are just two of the numerous ways an individual can help to make change in our ever-evolving society. In our schools today men and women have equal opportunity and this is thoroughly supported by the laws of our governmental system.

Across the room sits Dahlia. When she speaks of her home in Israel, I see a picture with much turmoil. Saddened by the thought of leaving America, Dahlia tells us what she faces when she returns home—a home where she fears the unknown. Because Dahlia will soon be eighteen years old, when she goes home she will be forced to enter the military. All men and women, upon reaching eighteen years of age, must enter the military and give up their plans and aspirations at least for a while. Unfortunately many forms of government do not allow their people to take a stand for what they believe in. Government controls all. But in those forms of ruling \* \* \* who controls the government?

In the United States of America, we, the people, have a voice. Through our democratic society, our voice is heard. My worry for Lan, Maria, and Dahlia helps me to have a clearer vision of my "land of opportunity"—a country that allows me to develop my potential and realize my dreams.

In class, a poster over-head is yet another reminder of our unparalleled good fortune. It echoes the words of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "Since the beginning of our American History we have been engaged in change—in a perpetual peaceful revolution—a revolution which goes on steadily, quietly adjusting itself to changing conditions." I believe a society must be able to adapt with the changing world if it is to succeed. Democracy is above and beyond all other forms of government because it allows us to do just that. By allowing its people to make change, our country not only survives, but as a nation of involved people, we thrive. A nation, a people, a voice, we must be heard. Through democracy, we are heard.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
PROVIDING FOR THE RELIEF OF  
NANCY WILSON

**HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a private relief bill that would provide Social Security widow benefits for my constituent, Nancy B. Wilson of Bremen, ME. I appreciate the opportunity to help resolve Nancy Wilson's unjust restriction of benefits.

Section 216(c) of the Social Security Act requires that a widow be married for at least 9 months to collect her spouse's benefit. Nancy Wilson is not eligible for her husband's Social Security benefit because she was legally married to Al Wilson for only 7 months.

In the mid 1940's, Al Wilson's first wife was committed to a mental institution in Massachusetts. Mr. Wilson wanted a divorce, but was unable to proceed due to Massachusetts State law. According to a study conducted by the Congressional Research Service (CRS), the existing State law excluded insanity or institutionalization as grounds for a divorce.

In 1950, Nancy had a common-law marriage with Mr. Wilson. For 19 years, these two people lived as husband and wife. Al had two children from his original marriage. Nancy also had a child. They raised their children together

as a family. Nancy stayed at home, allowing Al to work and support the Family. Through his employment, Mr. Wilson paid into the Social Security trust fund.

In 1969, Al Wilson's wife passed away in the institution where she had spent her last 25 years. Within 20 days, Nancy and Al Wilson were legally married. After waiting 19 years to be legally recognized as husband and wife, Al and Nancy's marriage lasted less than 1 year. Seven months after their marriage, Al passed away.

In 1991, upon turning 64, Nancy Wilson applied for widow benefits. She was refused on the grounds that the duration of her marriage did not satisfy the 9 month requirement. She went through the full appeal process, but was again denied.

A spouse forgoes employment to work in the home. Work in the home helps the family, but hurts the individual who, as a result, does not accumulate Social Security benefits. The intent of the Social Security Act is that widows and widowers be entitled to their spouse's benefit to offset their personal lack of sufficient benefits. This private relief bill seeks to fulfill this intent in the case of Nancy Wilson. The 9 month requirement for Social Security widow benefits is not disputed by this bill.

Nancy Wilson's situation fulfills the intent of the Social Security Act. Al and Nancy were prohibited from marrying. It was their choice to coexist as husband and wife, and as a family. Nancy raised the couple's children while Al provided financially for the family. Clearly, Nancy and Al Wilson would have married if the law would have allowed. Now, after a lifetime together, Nancy cannot collect the widow benefits she deserves.

This private relief bill makes Nancy Wilson eligible for widow benefits. The bill establishes that Nancy and Al were married for no less than 9 months. This unique situation is an exception that will not be repeated. Since their marriage, the no-fault divorce statute has been enacted in Massachusetts, which prevents this situation from reoccurring.

Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity to advocate for my constituent, Nancy Wilson. Clearly, Nancy's unfortunate situation deserves to be addressed.

#### HONORING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

### HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 176th Anniversary of Greek Independence. On this day of celebration of Greek and American democracy, we pay tribute to the people of both our nations, and to the common bonds of democracy that unite Greece and the United States.

While the Founding Fathers of the United States of America drew heavily upon the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy, the founders of the modern Greek state modeled their government after that of the United States in an effort to best imitate their ancient democracy. Today, Greece is one of only three nations in the world that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict this century.

The First Congressional District in Connecticut has long-lasting ties to Greek democracy and independence. During the Greek War of Independence, fundraisers to support the struggle for democracy were held in the Hartford home of Lydia Sigourney. In addition to raising moneys, she sheltered refugees and in 1832 established the first Greek school in the United States. Today, that long-lasting relationship is evidenced by the 120,000 people of Greek ancestry who call the Constitution State home.

I support the efforts to expand the opportunities for cultural and trade exchange between the United States and Greece and the continuation of this historical relationship, and I offer my congratulations to all Greek-Americans as they celebrate Greek Independence Day.

#### VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

### HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 1997*

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 57,000 Veterans in the fifth district of Connecticut, I rise today to support H.R. 240, the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1997.

Veterans provided an invaluable service to this Nation, and they continue to play a critical role in our work force. H.R. 240 protects the rights of veterans who are in the Federal work force by establishing a Special Counsel to bring those who knowingly violate preference laws before the Merit System Protection Board.

H.R. 240 also protects veterans during Federal reductions in force and expands veterans preference to jobs that are not currently covered. This bill opens Federal employment opportunities for individuals honorably discharged from the military after 4 years of service, by eliminating artificial barriers which prevent them from competing for Federal jobs because they are not already civilian employees or employees of a particular agency.

Our veterans are treasured national assets. They have defended our country in time of war, and safeguarded it in time of peace. This bill today honors them with the respect and dignity they deserve, by utilizing their skills and expertise in the Federal work force. I urge the House of Representatives to pass this measure unanimously.

#### MARTIN LEE AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN HONG KONG

### HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, as you may know, the future Government of Hong Kong recently made public its specific proposals to restrict personal and political freedoms after the transition to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997. Such proposals should be of great concern to every Member of this body because they represent the unraveling of the

economic and political miracle that is Hong Kong. These proposals are especially disturbing in light of other actions by China that are directly aimed at dismantling the fledgling democratic institutions in Hong Kong, such as the dissolution of the Legislative Council and threats against journalists by high-ranking Chinese officials.

In sharp contrast to these ominous signals from Beijing, Martin Lee continues unabated in his fight to preserve democracy and freedom in Hong Kong. Martin bravely perseveres despite the fact that he is reviled by the Government of the People's Republic of China as a traitor, and his public, global crusade to protect Hong Kong's way of life is a thorn in its side.

Last night in the Russell Caucus Room, Martin Lee received the 1997 Democracy Award from the National Endowment for Democracy, along with praise, good wishes and pledges of support from many Senators and Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle. This award recognizes the strength of Martin's character, the righteousness of his cause and the commitment that he brings to his mission.

I believe that we owe it to the people of Hong Kong to meet with their legitimately elected representatives and give them our unequivocal support. Martin represents the very principles that our country was founded upon. More than most, Martin deserves to be heard at the highest level of our Government and he needs our help. He has heeded the call of freedom and democracy—we must not abandon him now.

It is in this spirit that I have written a letter to President Clinton calling on him to meet with Martin during this visit. Such a meeting would send a clear message to Beijing that the United States cares about what happens in Hong Kong—not just because we have economic interests there, but because we have shared values and ideals with the people of Hong Kong. I urge my colleagues to join me in asking the President to send this message and demonstrate our support for Hong Kong at this historic juncture.

#### BILL LYNCH—ALL AMERICAN BASKETBALL STAR

### HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lift up a very talented young man from Indiana's Second Congressional District. Billy Lynch of Muncie, IN, was recently awarded one of Indiana's top tributes as a basketball player.

Billy Lynch, a senior at Delta High School, was the recipient of the Trester Award for his leadership on the basketball team. The Trester is awarded for leadership above and beyond. Given each year to a senior member of the four State finalist, the Trester recipient must receive the nomination of his principle and be recognized as a team leader for his mental attitude.

Recently, Billy and his fellow teammates—the Delta Eagles—advanced all the way to the Final-Four Tournament in Indianapolis. In Indiana, advancing to the Final-Four is considered one of the highest honors earned by a ball-player.

It was Billy's positive, mental attitude that helped the Delta Eagles though the season, the playoff's and win the coveted place in Hoosier basketball history by advancing to the Final-Four. Today, I'd like to join the community of Munice, the State of Indiana and the Delta Eagles in praising Billy Lynch for his leadership.

In Indiana, Hoosier's hysteria for high school basketball has a special place in the hearts of many. Indeed, Billy Lynch's performance and contribution to the Eagles winning season has captured the hearts of many in Delaware County.

Billy Lynch has made so many of us so very proud.

RESTORING TRUST IN  
GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1997

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, for most Americans, the November elections and their aftermath clearly demonstrate the need for campaign finance reform. Unprecedented amounts of soft money were spent, special interests seemed to have played a disproportionate role, and there seemed to be no way to police the system. And now, very day seems to bring a new allegation of improper fundraising activities. The cumulative effect of these problems and the recent allegations of fundraising impropriety undermines the people's faith in their government. In my view, the only way to begin to restore that faith is to take a hard look at the problems with our existing campaign finance system and develop sensible changes to address them.

Today, I am introducing the Restoring Trust in Government Act. It makes some specific changes that I think address these concerns and that I believe are long overdue. The bill reduces special interest influence, curbs soft money, expands disclosure, eliminates undue incumbent advantages, and, in general, restores faith in our political system.

To curb special interests, it bans the increasingly influential activities of Political Action Committees [PAC's]. It will also reduce the influence of outside groups by requiring House candidates to raise 60 percent of funds in their own district, and Senate candidates to raise 60 percent of their funds from within their own State. It's an idea based on a simple premise—if you're going to represent the people of your area, you shouldn't take most of your money from outside special interest groups.

The bill places significantly tighter restrictions on the use of so-called soft money given to national political parties. It would also require increased disclosure of soft money donations. And, it would address recent concerns about improper use of Federal property for political fundraising by making the solicitation of soft money on Federal property a criminal offense. The bill also clearly prohibits political contributions by noncitizens to eliminate any trace of foreign influence on our elections.

Finally, the bill levels the playing field by reducing built-in incumbent advantages and puts some teeth in the important enforcement responsibility of the Federal Election Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve a new campaign finance system that addresses the 1996 soft money abuses, curbs special interest influence, requires disclosure and given the FEC the authority they need to better police the system. This bill represents a comprehensive approach that addresses each of these problems. I urge my colleagues to join with me in making these commonsense changes to restore trust in our campaign finance system and in our government. Let's make real campaign finance reform a priority this year.

REMEMBERING ALBERT SHANKER

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to remember Mr. Albert Shanker, president of American Federation of Teachers. I considered him one of the better educators in the country. He demanded excellence from the teachers and insisted that teachers demand excellence from students. Mr. Shanker was very interested in helping all students by holding them to high academic standards.

Mr. Speaker, in my mind Mr. Shanker was a very important advocate for a quality education system in this country. He would always put the needs of the students first, and constantly sought to challenge them. Over the years I always appreciated his honesty and forthrightness. He will be missed.

PSCA COUNSELORS OF THE YEAR

**HON. RON KLINK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute three individuals who have performed a great service to the people of Pennsylvania. Gene James, Susan Gill, and Jeanne Brimmeier have performed above and beyond the call in their field of professional school counseling. They truly deserve the designation of Counselor of the Year at their respective levels.

These three will be honored at the Pennsylvania School Counselors' Association [PSCA] Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. The theme of this year's conference, "Navigating the Rivers of Change," is especially appropriate considering the struggle that each and every person involved in the education of today's adolescents must face. Susan, Jeanne, and Gene have shown that they are adept in navigating the perilous waterways of their life and steering them in right direction. They along with all of the members of the PSCA demonstrate the visionary and bold leadership needed to counsel the youth of today.

And so I urge my colleagues to rise and join in the recognition of these people who devote their lives to helping others. They should be commended for their excellence.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TEMPLE  
BETH EL

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, today, we celebrate a milestone in the history of Bakersfield, CA, one that is of great importance.

The Temple Beth El has been with us now for 50 years and with each passing decade its strength and enduring qualities have grown. It is fitting that with this anniversary we pause and reflect upon the many miles traveled and obstacles overcome. We look back and remember that the founding of Beth El coincided with the end of one of the saddest times in human history—World War II. Indeed, some of the veterans of that war were founding members of Beth El. I wonder if those founding families ever imagined that their small temple in Bakersfield would someday blossom into the revered institution Beth El is today.

Temple Beth El has been ecumenical in reaching out to churches in the area, thereby strengthening the intangible ties that bind the fabric of Bakersfield. This task, while no small deed, has opened eyes and minds that were once closed and diluted the misunderstanding that flows through some, making Bakersfield shine more as a city.

The contributions of Beth El to the community are numerous—the charities, the food drives, the commitment. One goal Beth El members have continually pursued is to make life better for others. This congregation has achieved that goal in many ways.

They have given us hope for a better, fairer, safer, more tolerant, and caring world. As we approach the end of the century and look forward to the next, the current generations of members of Beth El are sure to pave the road to the future by continuing their efforts to make Bakersfield a better community. Again, I congratulate the congregation and look forward to Temple Beth El's many anniversaries in years to come.

HONORING THE JOLIET FEDERATION  
OF MUSICIANS ON ITS  
100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and dedication of the many members of the Joliet Federation of Musicians Local 37 as they celebrated their 100th anniversary on Tuesday, April 8, 1997.

Tonight they recognize the past and present members who have entertained the members of their communities as they performed at area free concerts, parades, and dances.

The members of the Joliet Federation of Musicians Local 37 have helped direct the musical aspirations of their students as they have taught music lessons and served as grade school, junior high school, senior high school and college band directors.

Also being honored for their many years of commitment to the organization are those members of the organization who have served

for 25 and 50 years. Their dedication should be commended.

The Joliet Federation of Musicians Local 37 is a strong organization that has greatly benefited and enlightened our community.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO TRANSFER CERTAIN FACILITIES OF THE MINIDOKA PROJECT TO THE BURLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I'm introducing this bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to transfer certain facilities at the Minidoka project to the Burley Irrigation District.

In 1926, under contract with the Bureau of Reclamation, operation and maintenance of the distribution system of the southside pumping division of the Minidoka project was transferred to Burley Irrigation District. The district has operated and maintained the distribution system ever since.

In the early 1950's the main southside canal and certain electrical distribution lines were transferred for operation and maintenance to Burley Irrigation District as well. In addition to those transfers the district agreed, under its contracts, to pay to the United States the construction costs incurred in constructing the project and the Minidoka Dam.

It also agreed to pay its proportionate share of the construction costs of storage facilities in which the irrigation district attained a right to all water stored in the space acquired by the district in the reservoir.

At this time, the Burley Irrigation District has paid in full all construction costs allocated to the district in the storage facilities and all costs incurred in the construction of the distribution system operated and maintained by the district.

For 70 years the Burley Irrigation District has demonstrated its competence in operating and maintaining the facilities proposed for title transfer. Clearly they have the technical capability to meet both their physical and financial obligations.

For these reasons I am introducing this bill to convey title to the Burley Irrigation District, of Federal reclamation distribution facilities.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Student Health Insurance Portability Protection Act of 1997.

Last year, we made great strides in passing the Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Portability Protection Act. However, 14.3 million college students covered by health insurance plans sponsored by their college or university are not covered under last year's health provisions. It is essential for college students to fall under these provisions.

My bill requires college-sponsored health plans to be portable and exclude long pre-existing condition waiting periods. College-sponsored plans will be considered as group plans and allow students to go from college-sponsored plans to work-sponsored plans without loss of coverage due to a preexisting condition. Students will also be eligible for another school's health plan when transferring from university to university. This bill takes an important step in ensuring health care coverage for our country's college students at no extra cost to the taxpayer.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and ensuring health care for our Nation's college students. Give them the health care they need to enter the work force. Do not leave college students out of health care reform.

THE TAX FREEDOM RESOLUTION

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I will introduce the Tax Freedom Resolution to repeal the 16th amendment to the Constitution. This resolution will reverse one of the most destructive amendments to the U.S. Constitution and deny Congress the ability to lay and collect taxes on income.

I believe that the 16th amendment has created a system that is economically destructive, impossibly complex, overly intrusive, unprincipled, dishonest, unfair, and inefficient. Now is the time for us to restore freedom to the American taxpayer.

The tax freedom bill is the first step to do that. It will encourage an open, honest and constructive debate about why our current tax structure has failed and what we expect in a new system.

Why do we need to repeal the 16th amendment? Let me tell you. The current system cannot be fixed. It has already undergone 31 major revisions and 400 minor ones in the past 40 years. And each time the system has become more and more complicated, not less.

The IRS has 480 different tax forms, plus 280 more to explain how to fill out the first 480. The original Tax Code had 11,400 words; today it has 7 million.

Our current system also discourages savings and investment and hampers economic growth. Complying with the Federal Tax Code costs taxpayers more than \$200 billion each year. In 1991, the tax foundation reported that small corporations spent a minimum of \$382 in compliance costs for every \$100 they paid in income taxes.

In addition, several economists have said that replacing the current tax system will cause interest rates to go down and savings and capital investments to increase.

Right now, we have a system that stifles opportunity by picking winners and losers; a system in which Washington decides what is best for the people, instead of letting the people decide what is best for America.

The Federal Government simply takes too much money out of people's pockets. As recently as 1982, Americans paid only 19.90 percent of their income in taxes. New data reveals that in 1995 Americans paid 31.3 per-

cent of their income in taxes: The highest level in history.

By embracing the principles of freedom, we can create a system that is fair and simple that reduces the Federal Bureaucracy, that encourages savings and investment, that is efficient, that drives the economy, that creates opportunity for all, and that puts more money in your pocket.

Fundamental and comprehensive tax reform will be one of the most profound changes this Nation experiences this century. It is time for all of us—whether you support a flat tax, a consumption tax, a value added tax, or a national sales tax—to come together and focus on our one common goal: Replacing the current system. The tax freedom bill gives us the chance to do that and at the same time restore freedom to the American taxpayer.

IN HONOR OF JOHN A. PICA, SR., RECIPIENT OF THOMAS D'ALESSANDRO, JR., GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute John A. Pica, Sr., the 1997 recipient of the Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr. Good Citizen Award. John Pica exemplifies the spirit in which this award is given. He has devoted every day of his adult life to service of his country and his community, especially the Italian-American community of Baltimore.

Raised in the Little Italy section of Baltimore by Italian immigrant parents, Tony and Maria, John Pica received a bachelor of law degree at Mt. Vernon School of Law and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore. In addition, he attended the Maryland Institute of Engineering.

In 1943, John enlisted in the Army and served in the 34th Infantry Division. He returned home as the most highly decorated war hero in the State of Maryland, achieving the Silver Star, three Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts, a Combat Infantry Badge for courage, and the Roll of Honor Award for Distinguished Service.

John Pica also served with distinction as an aide to my father, Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr. In 1955, when my father was mayor of Baltimore, he appointed John to a vacancy on the Baltimore City Council, where John served until 1967. During his tenure on the council, John was instrumental in passing major legislation of great importance to the community of Baltimore. Among his many legislative accomplishments, John was responsible for securing Social Security and health insurance benefits for city employees and for revising the housing building code, which brought about the reorganization of the Department of Public Works. John continues his public service today by serving on the Maryland Transportation Commission as an advisor to Gov. Parris Glendening.

Mr. Pica's extraordinary professional success has not prevented him from active involvement in his community. His enthusiastic participation in organizations including Italian-American Charities, the Little Italy Lodge, and as cofounder of the Little Italy American Legion, merely solidified the great respect and

affection the community of Little Italy feels for this native son.

Mr. Pica's love, understanding and compassion for others have earned him the loyalty and admiration of many friends. It is said by his friend that if you look up the meaning of the word kindness in the dictionary, you find John Pica. His list of friends have included such names as Truman, Kennedy, Schaefer, Nixon, Reagan, D'Alesandro, McKeldin, and Schmoke.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to salute John Pica for the honor he has brought to the Italian-American community by his many accomplishments and commitment. He deserves this award for the contributions he has made in the spirit and tradition of its namesake, Thomas D'Alesandro.

MEDICARE MEDICALLY  
NECESSARY DENTAL CARE ACT

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with Congressmen CARDIN and STARK, the Medicare Medically Necessary Dental Care Act. This bill will improve health care for thousands of senior citizens and save the Nation millions of dollars in Medicare costs.

Under current law, Medicare cannot pay for outpatient dental work. However, untreated dental problems can lead to expensive complications when other unrelated procedures are performed. The failure to treat these conditions has both a high cost in suffering for seniors and a high price tag for Medicare.

The Medically Necessary Dental Care Act would permit Medicare to pay for dental care when it is necessary to prevent complications in valvular heart disease, cancer of the head or neck, lymphoma, leukemia, and organ transplants. While expanding dental coverage in these areas is estimated to cost nearly \$17 million, the act would save Medicare about \$117 million by preventing further complications. The bill would also give the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services the authority to expand coverage of medically necessary oral health care in connection with other medical problems if the Health Care Finance Administration determines that the dental coverage will result in cost savings to Medicare.

Take the case of Alma, a senior citizen in Baltimore who underwent a heart valve replacement surgery. Not long ago, she went to the University of Maryland medical system emergency room with a racing heart, fever, chills, and pain in her mouth. Alma was diagnosed with an acute abscess over her upper front teeth which had led to a systemwide infection. She was hospitalized, and will have to undergo 6 weeks of intravenous antibiotics to knock out the infection. In addition, she will probably have to have her heart valves replaced again.

In many ways, Alma is lucky. Dental infection is a common cause of complications in heart valve replacement patients, and some die before their infection can be stabilized. Medicare covered the cost of Alma's hospitalization, and will pay the \$20,000 to

\$40,000 bill if her heart valves have to be replaced again. But all of this could have been avoided by a simple dental checkup and treatment before her first surgery.

A few years ago, James, another Maryland senior, was diagnosed with neck cancer and treated with radiation therapy to his head and neck. Over time, James started to feel pain in his lower jaw, and to have difficulty opening his mouth. His doctor diagnosed a jaw fracture, caused by radiation-related complications of previously infected teeth. To cure the problem, James underwent three surgeries, including removal of a portion of his jaw and a hip graft to replace it. Removal of James's infected teeth before radiation would have cost less than \$300, but Medicare covered the actual cost of \$27,950.

This bill is supported by the American Association of Hospital Dentists, the American Society for Geriatric Dentistry, the Academy of Dentistry for Persons With Disabilities, the American Association of Dental Research, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Association of Dental Schools, and the American Association of Public Health Dentistry. More importantly, it will save taxpayers millions, while improving the quality of life for senior citizens. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

DETERIORATION OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS IN BELARUS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, over the last year, we have witnessed a steady deterioration in the human rights situation in Belarus. Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has flouted international commitments by infringing on the human rights of the citizens of Belarus. He has violated elementary human rights and freedoms, such as freedom of speech, assembly and association, and has stifled democracy by clamping down on the media, on the democratic opposition, and on fledgling nongovernmental organizations. Lukashenka has amassed near-dictatorial powers, using an illegitimate constitutional referendum held last November to extend his power, disbanding the Parliament and creating a new legislature and constitutional court subservient to him.

The international community has widely censured Lukashenka for his blatant disregard for international commitments. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] has repeatedly called upon the Government of Belarus to respect human rights and democratic principles, to enter into dialog with the opposition and to ensure freedom of the media. The chairman in office of the OSCE has stated that neither the preparations for the November 1996 referendum nor the new constitution comply with OSCE norms, principles, and commitments. The OSCE hopes to send a mission to Belarus this month if it receives assurances that the mission can meet with members of the opposition.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the human rights situation in Belarus has taken a turn for the worse in recent weeks. Last week, on April 3, the leadership of the Commission on Secu-

urity and Cooperation in Europe—Helsinki Commission—wrote to President Lukashenka expressing our dismay at recent developments in Belarus and urging President Lukashenka to reverse the deterioration of human rights in his country and live up to obligations freely undertaken as an OSCE member.

Mr. Speaker, I request that the letter be included in the RECORD.

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND  
COOPERATION IN EUROPE,  
Washington, DC, April 3, 1997.

His Excellency ALYAKSANDR LUKASHENKA,  
President, Republic of Belarus,  
Minsk, Belarus.

DEAR PRESIDENT LUKASHENKA: We are writing to express our heightened concern about the further deterioration in the human rights situation in your country and to protest a series of actions by your government in blatant violation of OSCE principles and norms.

Within the last few weeks, two American citizens, including a U.S. diplomat, have been expelled from Belarus. First Secretary Serge Alexandrov was unjustly and illegally detained and expelled for observing an opposition rally, a routine practice of diplomats. A few days earlier, on March 16, Belarusian Soros Foundation Executive Director Peter G. Byrne was prevented from reentering Belarus, detained, held incommunicado for over 12 hours in flagrant violation of diplomatic and consular conventions in effect between the United States and Belarus, and forcibly expelled the next day. Mr. Byrne ostensibly was expelled for illegal activity, but in reality, was expelled for supporting efforts to develop Belarus' fledgling civil society.

These expulsions come on the heels of other repressive actions, including arrests and beatings of demonstrators who have been protesting your policies over the last few months. Organizers of these rallies, such as former Chairman of Parliament Mechyslau Hryh have received stiff fines or have been arrested and jailed for up to 15 days. We are alarmed by reports of beatings that resulted in injuries and detentions of several hundred protestors and journalist during yesterday's demonstrations in Minsk.

We are deeply concerned about the Belarusian Government's restrictions on the right to freedom of speech and assembly—as manifested by your March 5 decree which also bans the display of Belarusian national symbols at rallies—and the arrest of peaceful protestors, as well as journalists, at a number of these rallies. We are also alarmed by the political intimidation of leading opposition figures, as illustrated by police visits to their homes demanding they admit they violated a presidential edict that restricts demonstrations, and by police searches of various political party headquarters. In February, two opposition leaders were attacked in Minsk in separate incidents by unidentified assailants under suspicious circumstances. Also, we have received reports of the intimidation of university professors and other examples of crude threats by police against democratic activists.

We are especially troubled by the plight of Henadz Karpenka, Deputy Chairman of the 1996 parliament and chair of the opposition shadow cabinet, who was on a hunger strike to protest the special police guard placed outside his ward in a hospital where he is currently a patient.

Another example of apparent intimidation is the March 10 decree calling into question important tax exemptions granted to the Belarusian Soros Foundation and other nongovernmental organizations and the March 18 announcement that all nongovernmental

organizations in the country will be investigated. We understand that these investigations by government security officials have commenced.

Furthermore, freedom of the media in your country continues to be assailed, most recently by the withdrawal of press accreditation from and the expulsion of Russian NTV reporter, Alexander Stupnikov, the March 23 decree banning of several Russian television networks from broadcasting footage from Belarus, and the recent announcement by your government that all foreign journalists must obtain new accreditation.

Earlier this year, OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Danish Foreign Minister Helveg-Petersen, urged your government to take action to respect fully OSCE norms, principles and commitments, to enter into dialogue with the opposition and to ensure freedom of media. Unfortunately, actions since that time have only further called into question your government's commitments under the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE agreements. We urge you to take to heart the concerns of the OSCE and other international entities, as well as individual countries, including the United States, and to begin to reverse the serious deterioration of human rights that has occurred in your country during the last year.

Mr. President, last week you spoke to your countrymen about the international isolation that Belarus is now facing. The best way that you can prevent this international isolation, if you so desire, is to live up to obligations you have freely undertaken as an OSCE member.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,  
*Co-Chairman.*  
STENY H. HOYER,  
*Ranking Member.*  
ALFONSO D'AMATO,  
*Chairman.*  
FRANK LAUTENBERG,  
*Ranking Member.*

CHARLES DEDERICH, SR.,  
FOUNDER OF SYNANON

**HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the efforts of the now deceased Charles Dederich, Sr., founder of Synanon, a drug rehabilitation organization that reformed the lives of thousands of people. Dederich distinguished himself in the area of drug rehabilitation and amassed great wealth before his organization was associated with violence and tax problems. Because of the continuing negative social impact of substance abuse in our society, it is appropriate to pause to reflect on the positive contribution made by Mr. Dederich to create a treatment regime to solve this problem at the individual level.

Charles Dederich, Sr., was himself a reformed alcoholic, who founded Synanon in 1958 with a \$33 unemployment check in Ocean Park, CA. His approach to rehabilitating drug addicts has become a major paradigm for drug recovery and therapeutic communities the world over. He believed that relief for addicts would come when they realized they must admit and face their addictions head-on. Much of the rehabilitation involved teaching a strong work ethic. Synanon was a new kind of group therapy; an effective ap-

proach to racial integration; an unusual kind of communication; and an exciting, fresh approach to the cultural arts and philosophy.

His organization created a new social movement and approach to life that provided a structured community-type living atmosphere for treatment of medical problems—persons, including narcotic and other drug addicts, alcoholics, former criminals, and juvenile delinquents were all the beneficiaries. Participants in the Synanon movement moved from the gutters, prisons, brothels, and back rooms of society into positions of moral leadership and more importantly regained hope and control over their lives.

REGARDING THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CARING PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

**HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, in 1995–96, there were 23 million American children who did not have health insurance for all or part of that 2 year period. This is one out of three children. Further, recent research suggests that the number of children who have access to privately sponsored employer-provided health insurance benefits is declining.

I would like to highlight an important program in my State of Pennsylvania that is providing a critical point of entry to the health care system for thousands of children. The Western Pennsylvania Caring Program for Children, administered by the Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Program and financed by a State tobacco tax and private donations, has succeeded in providing health insurance to nearly 60,000 children in Pennsylvania. In Pennsylvania, nearly 92 percent of newly enrolled children in the Caring Program have parents who work full time—they simply cannot afford the high cost of health insurance.

The following is an article on this highly successful program that appeared in the Washington Post on April 1, 1997. I commend the Caring Program and the Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Corp. for the determination and perseverance in helping the families of Pennsylvania provide their children with the opportunity to lead healthy lives. It is my hope that the 105th Congress can look to the example set by the Caring Program and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and pass legislation that will provide every child in America the same opportunity to receive needed health care services that Pennsylvania's children have.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 1, 1997]

INSURING CHILDREN

(By Steuart Auerback)

IRWIN, PA.—Jodie Gavin's serene middle-class lifestyle ended in the wreckage of a car crash that killed her husband, Larry, and his brother 3½ years ago on what she now ruefully describes as a "chance-of-a-life family vacation" to see relatives in Ireland.

The vibrant young wife and mother of two young sons was transformed into a 28-year-old widow who was forced to cope without her husband's paycheck and benefits to pay for all the normal trappings of life: mortgage payments on a neat one-story home, health insurance, money for food, clothing and recreation.

"We came home and the kids were crying. They asked me, 'Will we have to move from our house, Mom?'" Gavin recalled.

Another big worry was health coverage. Her youngest son, Philip, now 6, suffers from congenital heart disease that so far has required three operations. The family had been covered through the husband's job as a maintenance supervisor at the University of Pittsburgh. Although Gavin could have continued her husband's policy, the \$650-a-month price tag was beyond her income of \$1,476 a month in Social Security benefits.

"It was either food on the table or health insurance or pay the mortgage or health insurance. Social Security meant I was too rich for medical assistance, and I couldn't afford to buy insurance myself," she said.

"Those were really hard times. I didn't know what to do. I was afraid we'd all end up on the street somewhere."

Her most immediate health concern was Philip's heart problem.

A relative told Gavin about the Western Pennsylvania Caring Program for Children, a private community initiative, administered by the local Blue Cross Blue Shield organizations, to provide health insurance to children of parents who can't afford to buy it themselves but whose income is too high to qualify for federal-state Medicaid.

Gavin was able to enroll Philip and Larry, 9, without a waiting period. Once enrolled they had their own Blue Cross Blue Shield card; as far as any doctor or hospital knew, they were members of the health care plan. But the cost of the insurance was borne not by the Gavin family or a private employer, but by the Caring Program, which is funded through charitable donations and state funds.

While the Caring Program only covers children from 1 to 19, Blue Cross Blue Shield offers low cost coverage to parents of children in the Caring Program for \$730 a year. "I was devastated by my husband's death. But because of the Caring Program, I knew that my children could stay in this house and that I could clothe them, that I could feed them and that I could love them," Gavin said.

The Pennsylvania program is gaining attention as a national model for covering the growing ranks of uninsured children, estimated as totaling 10 million across the nation.

A FULL RANGE OF BENEFITS

The 12-year-old program, now expanded to the entire state and financed largely through a two-cent-a-pack tax on cigarettes, provides health insurance for 60,000 Pennsylvania children 26,000 in the 29 counties of western Pennsylvania. The program provides a full range of health care benefits including visits to doctor's offices, immunizations, diagnostic tests, emergency care, outpatient surgery, dental treatments, vision and hearing care, prescription drugs (with a \$5 co-payment), mental health care and hospitalizations.

While the coverage is free for eligible children, Charles P. LaVallee, vice president and executive director of the Caring Program, calculated the cost of the insurance at \$850 a year for each enrolled child.

"Covering kids is relatively cheap. Extending coverage to more children should not be a big financial burden," said E. Richard Brown, director of the University of California at Los Angeles Center for Health Policy Research, which studied uninsured children in California.

The Western Pennsylvania Caring Program has been replicated in 26 states by Blue Cross Blue Shield. In some states, including Massachusetts, the program is financed by increases in the cigarette tax.

Pennsylvania's children health insurance program is targeted largely to middle-class

working families who don't get health insurance for their children as part of their employee benefits and don't earn enough money to buy insurance on their own. They also earn too much to be eligible for Medicaid. Under the Pennsylvania program, a family of four earning \$28,860—185 percent above the \$15,600 poverty line—qualifies for free health insurance for their children.

In western Pennsylvania, 92 percent of newly enrolled children have parents who work full or part time. This reflects the national profile of the uninsured. A UCLA study found that nine of 10 uninsured children in California come from a working family and 60 percent of the uninsured children come from families with at least one full-time working parent. The Children's Defense Fund found similar figures in a national sampling, as a growing number of parents are working for employers who no longer offer health insurance for children as a benefit.

A new study released last week by Families USA Foundation, based on federal census data, reported that an estimated 23 million American children were without health insurance coverage for at least one month during a two-year period.

"America's uninsured children live in families where the breadwinners work hard, pay taxes and play by the rules. But they don't get health coverage on the job, for themselves or their children. And they can't afford to pay for it out-of-pocket," said Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA.

#### AVOIDING TRIPS TO THE DOCTOR

A typical situation is that of Susan Din, executive director of the Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce.

"I almost called for help," said the mother of two teenage daughters.

"My husband has been out of work for two years, and I was taking care of a family of four on my chamber salary of about \$20,000 a year. We had no insurance for the kids or ourselves. There was no way we could have afforded insurance. It was just food on the table and mortgage payments," Din said.

"I just kept saying to the kids, 'Don't get sick.'"

Without insurance, Din also avoided going to the doctor. The family was lucky. There were no injuries or major illnesses. Her husband, Angie, now has a job with an axle manufacturing company in Michigan, where the family will move after the school year is over.

"I can't wait until we get insurance [from her husband's new job]," she said. "I haven't seen a doctor in three years."

She explained that she didn't sign her children up for the Caring Program because her family was not destitute. "We had a nice house and investments we could tap into. We are not like people who don't have anything. There's a lot we could have gone through before we got to the place where a lot of people already are," Din said.

"But I still was afraid to go to the doctor in case he found something wrong. That could wipe us out."

That is a common fear among parents with no health insurance for their children. A survey taken for the Caring Program by the University of Pittsburgh health economists Judith R. Lave and Edmund Ricci found that three out of four parents of uninsured children postpone going to the doctor, preferring to save that cost to pay for medical care for their children.

Because they can't afford it, many parents also put off getting needed treatment for their children.

As a result many of the children who come into the Caring Program have unmet medical needs. The Pittsburgh study found that

one in four new enrollees needed to see a doctor for untreated ailments such as asthma, bronchitis, bruised kidneys, depression, diabetes and sprained ankles. The illnesses were caught before they caused permanent damage, and the researchers said treating them meant the children grew up to be healthier adults.

More than four of every 10 children enrolled in the Caring Program needed dental care and almost two in 10 needed glasses.

The lack of health coverage also affected the family's lifestyle. In the study, about 12 percent of the children were forced to restrict activities such as bike riding and ball playing because parents feared their children would get hurt.

"They wouldn't let their children engage in a sport that they feared would lead to an accident and a need for emergency medical care they couldn't afford. I was surprised. It had never occurred to me that lacking health insurance would keep children away from playgrounds and out of sports," Ricci said.

But this was no surprise to social workers in the community. "I can't tell you how many parents say, 'Now he can play baseball again,'" said Kimberly Rodd, an outreach coordinator for St. Michael's of the Valley Episcopal Church in Ligonier. The church both raises money and seeks out children for the program.

"Schools require physicals before a child can participate in organized sports. They can't afford physicals if they don't have health insurance," added Amy Salay, a counselor for the Ligonier schools who steers children into the Caring Program.

#### FOUNDED AFTER LAYOFFS

The Western Pennsylvania Caring Program was born after massive layoffs hit the steel mills that had been the bedrock of the region's economy. Teams of ministers asking about the needs of thousands of formerly well-paid laid-off steelworkers were told:

"Don't worry about us. Do something for our kids," recalls LaVallee, who was studying for the ministry at the time.

The ministers settled on offering a basic package of primary care health coverage for children, financed by community donations matched by Blue Cross of Western Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Blue Shield, now merged into a single organization, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. The Blue Cross Blue Shield organizations took an active interest in the program, donating the administrative services that keep it going.

In the beginning, the benefits were far from comprehensive—doctors' visits, immunizations, diagnostic tests, emergency care and outpatient surgery—but the cost was low, just \$13 a month for each child, which amounts to \$156 a year.

LaVallee and others raised the money from the community by holding bake sales and making the rounds of Kiwanis Clubs and church groups. They argued that every \$156 raised from the community would be matched by the Blues and thus would provide health insurance for two children.

Community fund drives remain a part of the Caring Program, accounting for \$500,000 to \$900,000 a year. But LaVallee said he quickly realized community support could go only so far. The explosive growth for the program came in 1993, after Democrat Harris Wofford won a U.S. Senate seat from Pennsylvania on a platform favoring national health insurance. He upset former governor and U.S. attorney general Dick Thornburgh, and helped put health insurance on the national agenda for the next three years.

In Pennsylvania, State Rep. Allen Kukovich had a bill to expand and enlarge the western Pennsylvania program, financ-

ing it with two cents from a 13-cent-a-pack cigarette tax, which added up to \$20 million for the program.

"I had the only serious health care bill around," recalled Kukovich, now a state senator. "It was languishing, but all of a sudden it moved to the front burner. It passed in five weeks and was signed in 1993."

"We had this Caring Program in western Pennsylvania providing primary care only for 6,000 children," recalled LaVallee. "All of a sudden we could provide comprehensive care for 25,000. We got more money in a month from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania than we got in a year of fund-raising. For us that was a dream come true . . . and enabled us to take the next step."

The program has turned out to be a way station for families, 40 percent of whose children move off the program within a year—largely because their families got jobs. Thus the program becomes a bridge to mainstream coverage.

That is what happened with Maurine Ceidro, 41, who lives with her three children—Sarah, 11, Jason, 13, and Janean, 19—in nearby Greensburg. They were covered by the Caring Program for four years after her husband died in 1992. Although she has a college degree in theology, she was working low-paying, no-benefit jobs: part of a crew cleaning houses and offices after they had been damaged by fire and soot and as a caregiver at a home for disturbed children. Neither provided health insurance for herself or her children.

She saw a Caring Program brochure advertising free health care for children. "I thought this was too good to be true. This is not possible," she said.

"Once I knew we had health care coverage, I could think about steps I have to take, because obviously I was their sole support. If we kept on the way we were going, we would be putting out fires for the rest of our lives. It offered no future."

Ceidro went back to school for her master's degree in theology. "Having health coverage for the children gave me the opportunity to go back to school because I didn't have to worry about any bad mishaps devastating the family," she said. Unlike Gavin, she didn't worry about health insurance for herself.

In January, after her children had been covered for four years, Ceidro started work as director of pastoral care at Jeannette District Memorial Hospital.

That's how it works. It got us through that really awful period," she said. "But in January I called up and said, 'I don't need it any more make room for three new children.'"

The Gavins have been in the program for more than three years and it has proved its worth. After three operations at Pittsburgh Children's Hospital, covered by the Caring Program, Philip is behaving like any other rambunctious 6-year-old, chasing his older brother Larry, 9, a straight-A student who holds a second-degree red belt in karate.

"Without health insurance in no way could I treat Philip as normal, I have a hard time treating him normally now, but I let him go and I bite my nails. To me he is special, but to an insurance company he's just medical bills," Gavin said.

"When I am sure he is well, then I can figure out what I want to do when I grow up," said Gavin, who believes the best thing she can do now is be "a full-time mom."

"When that happens we won't need insurance from the Caring Program anymore and someone else can get it."

INFORMING DOD PERSONNEL OF  
EXPERIMENTAL DRUG ADMINIS-  
TRATION

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I have come to the conclusion that trust and confidence in the American Government could very well have reached a low point. No one can dispute that citizen trust is vital to the health and well-being of our country and our way of life. We especially need the trust of the men and women of the U.S. military, those who have served, those who serve today and those who will serve in the future. The men and women in our Armed Forces are willing to risk their lives in defense of our national security interests, therefore we must continually work to ensure the bonds of trust endure in peace and in war time.

Unfortunately, it appears that this trust has been called into question. One need merely read newspaper articles surrounding the Persian Gulf war to see what I mean:

On February 28, the New York Times ran an article entitled: "Pentagon Reveals It Lost Most Logs on Chemical Arms: Missing From Two Sites: Gulf War Veterans Now Raise Questions of Cover-Up or Criminal Incompetence."

Allegations of cover-up and criminal incompetence indicate to me that we have our work cut out for us if we intend to earn back that trust. Just 3 days earlier, a New York Times headline read: "Army Warned Early of Chemical Exposure in Gulf."

The article stated that the CIA gave the Army information more than 5 years ago that some American troops may have been exposed to nerve gas from the destruction of an Iraqi ammunition depot following the Persian Gulf war. The article further stated that these CIA reports discredit the Pentagon's continued assertion that it became aware of the potential exposure only last year.

And in today's Washington Post the headline of the lead article read: "CIA Knew In '84 of Iraq Poison Gas: Agency Official Apologizes To Persian Gulf War GIs."

Unfortunately, what we have here are glaring examples of why some of our troops and veterans may question the veracity of information provided by their own Government. It appears that this situation goes hand in hand with another major cause of mistrust: the unsolved mysteries of gulf war syndrome. Far too many of our troops who deployed to the gulf are suffering from undiagnosed illnesses that neither they nor their doctor can explain.

I commend the President for his efforts aimed at finding answers and restoring this trust. He directed the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses to investigate and search for a cause of the symptoms experienced by so many gulf war veterans; he convened a White House Panel; and he appointed Bernard D. Rostker, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, to lead the DOD's investigation into possible chemical agent exposure during the war.

More can and must be done, however, to rebuild trust, to avoid repeating past mistakes, and to prevent future health consequences similar to those experienced during and after

the gulf war. Our troops must be assured that when we send them into battle, they will be protected by the best military technology, the best leaders, and the best medicine. Protection also means proper education and training, as well as provision of critical information, including information about investigational new drugs that may be administered to our troops for their protection against chemical and biological threats.

Unfortunately, for our troops, the threat of chemical and biological weapons have become an increasing reality. During Operation Desert Storm, the DOD sought to utilize two investigational vaccines, Pyridostigmine Bromide [PB] and Botulinum Toxoid [BT], to protect troops against chemical weapons. The FDA deemed these drugs investigational because they were not originally approved for the purpose DOD intended to use them. Under FDA regulations, use of such Investigational New Drugs [INDs] required informed consent by recipients, except where not feasible. Concerned with its inability to obtain informed consent during the exigencies of war, the DOD sought an exception from the FDA of its informed consent requirement. In response, the FDA established an interim regulation defining "combat exigency" as one instance where informed consent could be waived. The DOD subsequently applied for the exception and the FDA granted it, subject to certain conditions, including:

1. Each BT vaccine was to be recorded in the individual's permanent immunization record.

2. The DOD had to maintain a roster of all individuals receiving the investigational vaccines.

3. Recipients were to report adverse reactions to the vaccines.

4. Most importantly, the DOD had to provide individuals receiving the vaccines accurate, fair, and balanced information about the vaccines. The information was contained in leaflets produced by the FDA.

Approximately 8,000 troops received the BT vaccine, while at least 250,000 received PB. However, the DOD believes that only 40 percent, and that is on the high end of the scale, only 40 percent of those services members actually received information about the vaccines administered to them. This is unacceptable.

Prior to Desert Storm, it was agreed that PB and BT constituted the best available preventive therapy against chemical agents our troops might face in the Persian Gulf. Even though the use of these investigational drugs could not have been avoided, failure to inform the troops about the drugs could and should have been avoided.

The men and women who served in the Gulf War had a right to know that the vaccines administered to them were investigational.

The same service members had a right to know about the side effects of the investigational drugs.

Let me give you an example of the importance of this information to our troops. PB is known to cause gastrointestinal problems, cramps, and headaches; but these symptoms disappear after the drug is taken for a certain period of time. Some service members stopped taking PB once they experienced these symptoms, making them dangerously susceptible to chemical agents. Had they known about PB's symptoms and that these

symptoms eventually would disappear, they may not have stopped using the drug and would not have put their lives in further jeopardy.

In addition, some of our veterans who did not receive the information about the nature and side effects of the INDs may wonder today what lingering impact the drugs have on their health. With no information, a person has nothing to refute either misinformation or worst case scenarios. All of our military personnel have a right to know about the investigational inoculations they receive from the DOD. Today I rise to introduce legislation to ensure that this gulf war situation is not repeated, to ensure that in the future our troops are informed of investigational drugs, and to help ensure that our service members can and will trust their government.

The legislation will require the DOD to inform service members about the use of experimental drugs. Specifically, the bill requires that the DOD inform individuals prior to, or no later than 30 days after administration.

1. That the drug being administered is investigational;

2. The reasons why the drug is being administered;

3. The potential side effects of the drug, including side effects resulting from interactions of the drug with other drugs or treatments being administered to the individual.

While information about investigational drugs will not prevent possible side effects, the information will ensure our troops know that the Government is not intentionally misleading them or seeking to hide information from them. They will know that we value their service to our country and that we too are doing our best to protect them. Through sharing of this information can we contribute to the process of rebuilding the bonds of trust.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
WALTER AND MARGARET BARBER

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the sanctity of marriage is more precious than any other matter in the relations that people have. It is a commitment that seems easy to make on the day of the wedding, and more priceless to hold on to for each and every additional day.

Today marks the 50th wedding anniversary of Walter and Margaret Barber, two of my constituents who I have the pleasure to know personally, and who serve as an inspiration to all of us who treasure the value of devotion. They will celebrate this golden anniversary with friends and family this Saturday in Auburn, MI.

Walter Barber served our country as a member of the Army Air Force in Europe. After returning and working at Dow Chemical, he was fortunate enough to meet Margaret Ida Koch of Bay City. They were married at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Auburn, IN, by Pastor Allen Trout.

Their family grew with the addition of two sons, Dennis and David, and one daughter, Lynn. They now have eight grandchildren.

Their civic involvements hold great importance for Walter and Margaret Barber. He, with the support and understanding of Margaret, had been a longtime member of the

Williams Volunteer Fire Department, an activity that is of great importance to the public, and quite honestly frequent risk to the volunteer and their families. They are charter members of Grace Lutheran Church, and life members of VFW Post 6950 and its auxiliary.

They have lived very full lives, and continue to try to do more each day. It was very touching to have Walter describe for me his great love, appreciation, and gratitude for his wife Margaret, for having put up with and taking care of him for the last 50 years.

If we want to praise family values and their importance for young people, we need look no further than the lives and commitment of Walter and Margaret Barber. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing them the happiest of anniversaries, and many more to come.

ST. PETERSBURG FOLK FAIR SOCIETY HONORS JOSEPH MATHEWS OF SEMINOLE, FL

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, St. Petersburg is home to the St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society, or SPIFFS as it is known, which is one of the most unique organizations of its kind anywhere in our Nation. The highlight of every year comes in March when SPIFFS hosts its annual folk fair to celebrate the blend of ethnic backgrounds and history that have made the Pinellas County area of Florida I represent such a special and diverse community in which to live.

This was the 22d annual folk fair, and over 55 ethnic groups participated to showcase their culture, ethnic diversity, and foods, as well as provide continuous entertainment from around the world. For the first time this year's festival was held outdoors in St. Petersburg's Vinoy Park.

In conjunction with this year's folk fair, the Central Florida Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association sponsored an essay competition entitled "Why I'm Glad America Is a Nation of Immigrants." The winning essay was submitted by Joseph Mathews, a seventh grader at Seminole Middle School. Joseph was recognized for his essay during the opening ceremonies of the folk fair, and it is an honor for me to bring this young man's thoughts to the attention of my colleagues today.

"WHY I'M GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS"

(By Joseph Mathews)

The American dream. It's something we born on U.S. soil take for granted, but to others, it means hope, and a way of life. Many immigrants in American have lived the dream and added to it.

Madeline Albright was brought to the United States by her parents to escape the holocaust. America didn't only mean her future, it also meant freedom, a place of refuge, and a chance to serve as the first woman Secretary of State.

Irving Berlin was another fortunate and successful immigrant. After traveling to the U.S. at the age of 5, Berlin became one of our most famous songwriters. "God Bless America" expresses his feelings about his new home.

Immigrants touch the lives of Americans on a smaller scale as well. My piano teacher, Gloria Bolivar, immigrated to California from Mexico as a teenager, bringing her talent, the knowledge she had gained, and nothing more. She told the Stanford Music Conservatory that she had no money, nowhere to stay, spoke little English, and needed all of her tuition paid. During the audition, Ms. Bolivar had played but a few moments when the professors said, "We want you." She became a top graduate. After several years as a concert artist, she is now teaching in Florida, and has enriched my life by sharing her musical gifts with me.

For hundreds of years, foreigners have travelled in a continuous wave to our country, bringing experience, knowledge, and skills. I am definitely sure it should remain so.

IN TRIBUTE TO MARY LOU McGRATH

**HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I pause today to join the city of Cambridge, MA, in paying tribute to local hero and community leader, Mary Lou McGrath, who is retiring after a long and distinguished career in the field of education and in service to her city, State, and country.

For the past 40 years, Mary Lou McGrath has been instrumental in determining the shape and direction of the public schools in Cambridge. After receiving her Masters of Education from Boston State College, Mary Lou went on to become an educator in and later the first Superintendent of the Cambridge Public School System.

In her years as Superintendent, Mary Lou McGrath has led the way toward the future of education through constant reform and innovation. Collaborating with local colleges and universities, businesses, health organizations, and government agencies, Mary Lou has sought to enhance the experience of education for both student and teacher alike. Her work has included the creation of model programs in the areas of bilingual education, gay/lesbian student education, and special needs education.

One can only begin to describe the depth of Mary Lou's devotion of time and energy to issues concerning the youth of her community. Serving on various boards and committees, Mary Lou has worked to address issues of civil rights, violence, drug use, and other youth-related concerns.

In recognition of her dedication to and efforts on behalf of the welfare of our young people and the ideals of education, Mary Lou McGrath has been presented the Ford educational "Woman of the Year" by the Cambridge YMCA. These are only a few among many honors accorded Mary Lou throughout her career.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Cambridge, MA, owe their gratitude to Mary Lou McGrath. On June 19, they will gather to salute her 40 years of devoted service. I ask my colleagues in the House to join with them and me in extending a simple, "thank you and Godspeed to Mary Lou McGrath. She has made us all proud.

IN MEMORIAM, HELEN BERNSTEIN AND ALBERT SHANKER

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, with the sudden passing of Helen Bernstein last week, public education in Los Angeles suffered a terrible blow, one that will continue to ache for many years to come. Only 52 years old, Helen was struck by an automobile while crossing a street to address the Miracle Mile Residents Association.

Those who were fortunate enough to glimpse the private Helen know that her daughter, mother, and brothers will mourn the premature loss of an unquenchable source of energy and warmth. To them, I offer my deepest sympathies.

Those of us who were familiar with the public Helen—and who were products of the Los Angeles Unified School District—are painfully aware that the voice of its most articulate critic and energetic champion has been silenced forever. The civic life of Los Angeles will be impoverished by that silence.

Helen's experience, intelligence, and wisdom will be especially missed in the months and years immediately ahead: Her beloved school system, the second largest in the Nation, will be negotiating difficult passage through budget restrictions, multicultural complexities, performance standards, and various proposals for reform and restructuring.

Only 5 months ago, Helen became Mayor Richard Riordan's first education advisor. Previously, she had taught history in three different public schools and served as president of United Teachers-Los Angeles from 1990 to 1996. At the time of her death, Helen was running for election to the commission that will rewrite the Los Angeles City Charter. She was also developing a national teacher union reform network.

Helen's passing, coupled with that of Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers, will be a disorienting effect on the movement to revitalize public education in America. Congress, the President, State departments of education, and local school districts across the country are now placing a high priority on educational reform; but all of us feel an urgent need for the patient counsel of battle-tested veterans—in short, for the wisdom of a Helen Bernstein and an Albert Shanker. Only members of their immediate families will miss their presence more than public officials grappling with complexities of again creating a matchless system of public education.

THE COLLEGE STUDENT TAX RELIEF ACT OF 1997

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, in recent years the price tag on a college education has gone through the roof. Last year, the General Accounting Office reported that between 1980-95, tuition at 4-year public colleges and

universities increased by a whopping 234 percent. In comparison, the Consumer Price Index increased by 74 percent and median household incomes—the measure of a family's ability to pay for college—increased by 82 percent over the same period.

With tuition increases outpacing inflation and the growth in family incomes, it has become harder and harder for students to pay for college without taking out loans and going thousands of dollars into debt. As a result, the average student loan has increased from \$518 in 1980 to \$2,417 in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that addresses this serious problem by strengthening the Federal work-study program. Under current law, earnings from this program are taxed. My bill, the College Student Tax Relief Act of 1997 excludes these earnings from the Federal income tax.

The Federal work-study program enjoys strong bipartisan support because it rewards those who are willing to help themselves. This program provides jobs to needy students who must earn money to help pay their college expenses.

By allowing these students to keep more of what they earn, my bill will significantly increase the take-home pay of working students and ease the financial burdens created by the aforementioned increases in college tuition.

Consider the following example:

Jennifer, an undergraduate student at a public university, qualified for a work-study award of \$2,600. To earn her award, Jennifer worked 18 hours a week during the school year—28 weeks—at the library and was paid \$5.15 an hour for her services. During the summer—12 weeks—Jennifer earned \$3,600 by working as a receptionist in a law firm.

Therefore, Jennifer's total earnings for the taxable year were \$6,200.

Under current law Jennifer would be able to deduct \$4,000—the standard deduction for individuals who can be claimed as a dependent—from her taxable income, leaving her with a tax burden of \$332.

Under my proposal, Jennifer's tax liability would be eliminated because she would also deduct \$2,600—the amount of her work-study earnings—from her taxable income.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the College Student Tax Relief Act of 1997. While \$332 might not sound like a lot of money, it would help students like Jennifer make ends meet and minimize their student loan debt.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

### HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce H.R. 1275, the Civilian Space Authorization Act. This bill authorizes appropriations in fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for, and provides policy direction to, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Office of Commercial Space Transportation in the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Office of Space Commerce in the Department of Commerce.

This is an aggressive but responsible bill. Based on the Committee on Science's Views

and Estimates, which calls for strengthening our Nation's research and development investment while pursuing the bipartisan goal of balancing the budget, this bill provides a slight increase in funding for NASA above their fiscal year 1997 level, while holding the other two agencies essentially constant.

This bill reflects priorities set by the Science Committee and its Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee over several years, under both parties' leadership. We strongly support human spaceflight, space science, and the aeronautics and space technology efforts which will keep American industry No. 1, and open the frontier of space to commercial enterprise.

With a few exceptions, we have approved the President's budget request for NASA. It is a greatly improved budget submission than the one he made in fiscal year 1997, especially with regard to the outyears. In two areas, we have added the funds necessary to achieve important goals. In others, we have made small reductions or limitations on the use of funds.

After preserving the safety of the Space Shuttle Flight Program, NASA Administrator Goldin has repeatedly stated to the Congress and audiences all over the country that his most important goal is dramatically reducing the cost of transporting people and cargo into space. NASA has made an excellent start in that direction with the X-33 program and its smaller sibling, the X-34. We are fully funding those programs, and indeed specifically funding the X-33 amount. Unfortunately, the NASA budget only has funds to develop and flight-test one concept for the X-33. NASA has indicated, both in testimony and direct conversations with me and staff that they wish to pursue additional X-vehicles in the future to continue pushing down the cost of space transportation. They also wish they could have funded more than one X-33 concept. This bill uses most of our increase over the President's request to fully fund a different, competitively chosen X-vehicle concept using the most advanced technologies possible. This will provide technical redundancy to the X-33, enable downstream competition in the reusable launch vehicle industry, and accelerate the drive toward cheap access to space.

Another important goal of the subcommittee is preserving steady funding for Space Science. We are providing some small increases to the Space Science accounts in this bill, particularly for analysis of the data coming back from science missions, and also for important initiatives like asteroid detection and NASA participation in the Air Force's Clementine II asteroid intercept mission.

Perhaps the most well known program in this bill is the International Space Station program, which we are fully funding at the President's request, so it will enable important science and help open new frontiers to American free enterprise. Of course, the station program is currently facing the challenge of lack of funding from the Russian Government for their share of the hardware. The Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held an excellent hearing on April 9 which discussed both the problems with the Russian partnership and the great importance of completing the space station on schedule for scientific and commercial reasons. I am hopeful that the White House will work with us over the next week so that when this bill is marked up in the full Science Committee on April 16, we can address the problems with Russia in this legislation.

Now, this bill doesn't just fund NASA. As commercial space activities continue to grow, creating high wage, high technology jobs here in America using private capital, it is vital that the Government provide a stable and streamlined regulatory and positive business environment for this emerging industry. That's why President Reagan created the Office of Commercial Space Transportation and the Office of Space Commerce. This bill funds and directs the Office of Commercial Space Transportation, now part of the Federal Aviation Administration, to license commercial space transportation vehicles and spaceports. We also fully fund and permanently establish, the Office of Space Commerce, which promotes the growth of current, and the emergence of new, commercial space activities.

As I said earlier, this bill provides significant policy direction as well as authorizing appropriations. That direction boils down to two important themes: ensuring NASA's accountability in spending nearly \$14 billion each year in taxpayer funds, and improving the cost effectiveness of all government civil space spending.

Regarding accountability, this bill gives NASA four major directives. First, in the International Space Station program, the Congress should be better informed as to the thinking behind, and the commercial impact of, the international hardware barter agreements NASA is negotiating with various foreign entities. Second, we want to make sure that as NASA consolidates its nonshuttle operational contracts and moves those activities more into the private sector, that NASA fully consider and inform the Congress regarding the issues of competition and fixed-price versus cost-plus-fee contracting. Third, we direct NASA to pursue independent cost analyses of its programs which include all costs to the taxpayer. And finally, we direct NASA to provide the Congress with a detailed report on the status of the Earth Observing System's Data Information System.

Of course, all of us on the committee and in this body want to ensure that our constituents' tax dollars are spent as effectively as possible, particularly as we drive toward a balanced budget in 2002. So for civil space, like all other so-called discretionary programs, the Congress and administration must work hard to continually improve and reform the cost effectiveness of all Federal space activities. To that end, this bill does several things to improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of the taxpayers' investment. We include an initiative to improve NASA's procurement of new technology. We direct NASA to actively pursue the greatest possible commercial participation and use of the International Space Station program. We direct NASA to purchase space science data from commercial providers. We fund a continuing program at the Stennis Space Center to purchase commercial remote sensing data to more cheaply meet the needs of the Mission to Planet Earth program. We strongly state our commitment to move from government-operated space launch vehicles to the purchase of commercially provided launch services, including the possible option of a privatized Shuttle fleet. And we place in statute a very important provision of the President's National Space Policy mandating the purchase of, and preventing NASA competition with, commercially available space goods and services.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is quite a bill. We fund vital Federal space activities in three agencies, and set a positive policy direction for the future of American enterprise, as well as Government projects, in space. I look forward to speaking on the floor for its adoption as soon as possible after the Committee on Science reports it to the full House.