

our farmers and ranchers to conduct their daily operations and help them bring their products to markets. For the small businesses—the entrepreneurs of my State—highways and roads are absolutely vital to keep our out-of-state visitors moving from border to border.

I grew up in Murdo, a small town on Interstate 90 in western South Dakota. Murdo is built upon the agriculture and tourism businesses. Growing up, I worked in both industries. Having that four-lane highway running past my town played a key role in building these businesses and keeping Murdo alive and thriving.

But this last winter and spring have brutalized our highways. The record cold temperatures, excessive snow fall, and subsequently flooding have turned miles of roads and bridges into crumbled pavement and asphalt. Some of these extra needs can be met through disaster relief efforts. However, rebuilding our infrastructure will take much, much more. South Dakota already has a highway maintenance backlog of over \$500 million.

This bill recognizes the need to tie together the expanses that separate people as it gives certain States the tools they need to overcome the obstacle of distance. Nationally the high-

ways in these States—particularly the National Highway System routes—help improve transportation for the entire country.

I have submitted a chart to be printed in the RECORD following my remarks that outlines which States would qualify under this legislation as well as the level of funding for which each State would qualify.

I thank my colleagues, Representative YOUNG of Alaska, HILL of Montana, and CUBIN of Wyoming, for joining me as original cosponsors of this bill. I hope other Members will join them in their support of this legislation.

NATIONAL INTEREST IN RURAL HIGHWAYS ACT

	HM-48P ¹ NHS lane miles	Percent of total NHS lane miles	NHS lane miles dis- tribution	VM-3P ¹ total NHS VMT (mil- lions)	Percent of total NHS VMT	Total NHS VMT distribu- tion	Total dis- tribution	Percent of total dis- tribution
Alaska	3,508	4.90	5,939,987	1,821	3.78	4,577,675	10,517,662	4.34
Idaho	6,303	8.81	10,672,674	4,474	9.29	11,246,853	21,919,527	9.05
Montana	10,357	14.48	17,537,186	4,237	8.79	10,651,076	28,188,262	11.64
Nebraska	7,534	10.53	12,757,088	6,393	13.27	16,070,883	28,827,971	11.90
Nevada	5,764	8.06	9,760,002	4,932	10.24	12,398,185	22,158,186	9.15
New Mexico	8,932	12.49	15,124,278	8,344	17.32	20,975,355	36,099,633	14.90
North Dakota	7,411	10.36	12,548,816	2,605	5.41	6,548,514	19,097,330	7.88
South Dakota	7,628	10.66	12,916,255	3,263	6.77	8,202,611	21,118,866	8.72
Utah	7,037	9.84	11,915,533	8,909	18.49	22,395,666	34,311,199	14.17
Wyoming	7,051	9.86	11,939,239	3,200	6.64	8,044,240	19,983,479	8.25
Total	71,525	100	121,111,058	48,178	100	121,111,058	242,222,115	100.00

¹ Revised Feb. 1995 FHWA Highway Statistics Table.
Total adjustment 242,222,115.

SERGIO ESPINOZA AND THE
USIAA—TRUE CHAMPIONS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute one of my constituents, Sergio Espinoza, the first San Diegan to win the National Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions, and also to pay tribute to the U.S. Institute of Amateur Athletics, the organization that provided Sergio with the training that led him to his victory.

Boxing for the U.S. Institute of Amateur Athletics, Sergio was crowned 106-pound National Golden Gloves Champion on May 3, 1997. This tournament has a distinguished history that spans 70 years of pugilistic excellence.

Sergio is an intense young man from my congressional district, who began boxing 4 years ago. In his short career, he won a national tournament for 17 to 19-year-old boxers, and reached the quarterfinals in the World Junior Championship in Cuba. He has served notice to the world that he will be a force in the next Olympics.

I am proud to have the U.S. Institute of Amateur Athletics located in my own 50th Congressional District. The USIAA has succeeded in both training and educating student athletes. Under the guidance of its executive director, Mr. Robert C. Coons, and a very dedicated board of directors, the USIAA has become a permanent fixture in amateur athletics in San Diego.

The success of Sergio Espinoza and many other young people from USIAA who have represented our city, depend on a community that is willing to share its time, its talent, and its financial resources. In that sense, all of my constituents in the 50th Congressional District share in his victory.

Sergio and the USIAA serve as role models for our community—they are true champions and heroes.

The citizens of San Diego will honor the remarkable achievement of Sergio Espinoza in a homecoming celebration to be held May 29, 1997, at High Park Church in San Diego. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join with me in saluting this fine young man, his family, friends, and the organization that he has represented so well in competition, the USIAA.

IN HONOR OF THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc. as they celebrate the 31st anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Guyana. In honor of this event, a commemorative flag-raising ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 27, 1997 at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers at Jersey City Hall, 28 Grove Street, Jersey City, NJ.

The word "Guyana" is an indigenous Indian word that means land of many waters. This land is believed to have been populated since the 1200's by the Arawak, Carib and Warrow tribes. Christopher Columbus was the first European to have sailed along its coast in 1498. Sir Walter Raleigh organized expeditions in the 1500's in search of the mystical city of El Dorado believed in be in Guyana.

In 1621 the Dutch started to colonize Guyana and in 1640 the first slaves arrived from Africa. In 1763, about 100 years before the American Emancipation, the slaves in Guyana revolted in the ill-fated effort known as the Berbice Slave Rebellion.

In 1781 the British captured the colony but were ousted within the year. From 1782 until the return of the British in 1812 the colony was administered by French and Dutch administrations.

In 1835 laborers were brought in from Portugal and 1838 marked the beginning of indentured servitude with the arrival of laborers from India. The Chinese came in 1853.

In 1953 elections were held for the first time under the system of universal adult suffrage. The People's Progressive [PPP] won this election but was removed, after 133 days in office, by the British.

The PPP was reelected in 1957 and again in 1961. During these two terms under the system of internal self rule, the colony of the then British Guiana experienced significant social and economic growth in spite of political disturbances, especially in the early 1960's.

In 1964, an unpopular government was brought to power through external influences. It remained in power until 1992 through constant rigging of national elections.

In 1966, Guyana became an independent Nation and in 1970 it obtained republican status.

On October 5, 1992 the first free and fair elections were held since 1964. This election, supervised by a team of international observers led by former U.S. President Carter brought the PPP-civic government under the Presidency of Dr. Cheddi Jagan to office.

Over 50 percent of Guyana's population consists of East Indians, whose ancestors came to Guyana from India. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to applaud the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc. for their support of Hindu culture and serving the educational, cultural, and religious needs of the Hindu immigrant population that lives in New Jersey.

NORTH HOOSICK FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as in many primarily rural areas, volunteers provide most of the fire protection in the 22nd Congressional District of New York.

One of those, in fact one of the best volunteer fire companies, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. On May 1, 1947, a group of citizens gathered at the old North Hoosick Schoolhouse on the corner of routes 22 and 67 to form the department. For the next 50 years the North Hoosick Fire Department has provided the communities of North Hoosick, East Hoosick, and Walloomsac with outstanding fire protection. These volunteer companies, Mr. Speaker, save billions of dollars of property and countless lives every year in New York State alone. Volunteers are increasingly well-trained and professional. But more than that, the spirit of volunteerism that they exhibit is America at its best. Neighbor helping neighbor at the local level. That's what volunteer fire companies are all about.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all 435 congressional districts in this great country are blessed with their own volunteer firefighters who do equally fine work. Please join me in saluting the North Hoosick Fire Department, so ably led by Chief Alan J. Bornt, and all the other members, and wish them another 50 years of dedicated service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO JO-ANN MAXWELL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual who has dedicated her life to education. I am speaking of Ms. Jo-Ann Maxwell, who will be retiring on May 22, 1997, after a lifetime of exemplary service.

Ms. Maxwell has been involved in education since her graduation from Indiana State Teachers College in 1958. She holds certificates in secondary speech and dramatics, secondary English, secondary education, as well as an elementary certificate. Currently, Ms. Maxwell is using her skills as a basic skills instructor for the upper elementary grades at Erial Elementary School. She has shown a deep commitment to passing along the skills that each student will need to be successful in the future. For her efforts, Ms. Maxwell received the prestigious honor of being selected as the 1986-87 Teacher of the Year.

All who have known Ms. Jo-Ann Maxwell, especially those who have benefited from knowledge, are honored by her service to their community. On behalf of all the citizens of New Jersey, I thank and congratulate Ms. Maxwell. We all will miss her remarkable talents.

SEEKING SOLUTIONS FOR SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT NEEDS

HON. JOHN J. LAFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are again being hurt by a lack of loan guarantee assistance through the Small Business Administration. This, in turn, is directly attributable to a shortage of Federal moneys to adequately support the 7(a) loan guarantee program.

The President's budget request for fiscal year 1997 was for \$11 billion in guarantees for SBA's 7(a) loan program.

The House-passed appropriation bill only provided funding for \$7.2 billion.

The Senate-passed bill provided funding for \$8.4 billion.

And the enacted bill funded \$7.8 billion.

I want to emphasize that these are loan guarantees. The Federal Government only spends money to pay claims in the event of default in repayment of these loans which are made by private lending institutions. For the 1997 program, we appropriated \$158 million, along with usage of \$40 million which was unspent in 1996, in order to support almost \$8 billion in guarantees.

It is now clear that the \$8 billion in loan guarantees is not sufficient to meet demand, which is estimated at \$9.5 to \$10 billion.

In order to prevent the program from running out of money this summer and being forced to close, SBA took administrative action to limit the size of a loan which it would guarantee. Instead of the statutory maximum of \$750,000 in Federal exposure per borrower, a cap of \$375,000 was imposed effective May 5.

Unfortunately, the notice of SBA's decision to impose a cap, which is required by law, provided lenders with a window to rush through most of their pending bigger loans and caused what has been termed a "run on the bank."

As of yesterday, the amount of 7(a) loan guarantees available through the end of this fiscal year is less than \$1.65 billion. This meager amount must stretch over 4 months as compared to usage of \$6 billion in the first 8 months.

It appears certain at this point that even though the previously imposed loan cap will reduce demand, it will not have sufficient impact. Additional action must be taken.

At this point we cannot engage solely in an exercise in assessing blame and finger pointing.

If Congress had appropriated more money as the President requested, we would not be confronted with this problem today.

If SBA had reacted more quickly in acting to dampen demand and live within the budget enacted, less severe action would be necessary.

The most immediate need is to craft a solution to small business credit needs, on a short term basis to see us through the end of this year and into next, but also over a longer range.

There is a wealth of knowledge available to examine this problem and develop a solution. We should take full advantage of it.

Today, I have introduced a resolution calling upon the Administrator of SBA to appoint a

blue ribbon commission to quickly examine small business credit needs.

This examination should encompass the entire concept of Federal programs to assist small firms in obtaining loan capital.

Over the short term, the options are probably limited to some minor changes in existing standards, terms and conditions. There simply is not time to develop new programs. But priority must be placed on developing some reasonable short term solution.

For the long term, however, there is an opportunity to expand the options being considered.

The quality of small business guaranteed loans have been greatly improved in the past few years.

Substantial user fees are now imposed upon those who participate in these programs.

In fact, SBA's major plant and equipment program, the certified development company program—which is not the one involved in the shortage of funding—now operates without any subsidy from the Federal Government. It costs us nothing.

The subsidy rate for the 7(a) program has also substantially improved.

Now is perhaps the time to consider privatizing these programs. It may be that 7(a)'s costs can be further reduced.

It probably is not possible to completely eliminate Federal support all at once. It will probably take an evolution just as in past decades SBA lending evolved from direct loans to loan guarantees.

The evolution from Federal loan guarantees to privatization may involve a concept called a government sponsored enterprise or GSE. Simple described, a GSE is a privately owned entity which is not part of the Federal budget but which may receive financial assistance in the future from the Government if the need arises and the Government agrees to do so. GSE's have been used to assist housing. They have been used to assist students. They have been used to assist agriculture.

This may also be a useful model to help small business. Or perhaps a GSE should be used to help at least some small businesses which need a small amount of credit enhancement—that is, a small percentage of the loan needs to be guaranteed—as compared to other firms which need an 80- or 90-percent guarantee.

I advanced the privatization concept 20 years ago. I refined it over the years and specifically directed it toward small business in the late 1980's. It did not receive the necessary support. But small business loans were very different then than now, and we did not confront the budget constraints we now do.

A GSE is not a panacea. Establishment does involve some potential problems. It is, however, worthy of consideration as one of a variety of alternatives, and my resolution simply calls for its consideration.

PENSIONS TO FORMER NAZIS WHILE SURVIVORS GET NOTHING

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of