

require aggressive leadership implementation to secure the best results.

I am confident we can accomplish this. After all, in the adjustment from war to peace, America has led the way in beating swords into plowshares. We have realized an enormous peace dividend in the form of R&D and production resources released to general economic development, and in this regard, we must credit government initiatives that led the way to downsizing while balancing the interests of national defense and industry viability.

Before I conclude, I should add one controversial issue that is relevant to an effective defense policy. Any discussion of the future of defense should include the critical role of trade in preventing military confrontation. As I mentioned earlier, Loral is now totally focused on commercial satellite manufacturing and satellite-based services. As such, we are deeply immersed in foreign markets, notably in China, which is a customer for our large geostationary satellites and a partner in our globalstar satellite telephone system.

In my travels to China, and in my involvement in the policy debates on global trade, as well as Loral's widespread engagement in international joint ventures, I have become increasingly convinced that expanding commerce is the best way to promote peaceful relations between our two countries and to avoid the type of isolation that can lead to military miscalculation.

In that regard, I believe it is critical that President Clinton be given fast track authority to continue his highly successful trade policy. Over the past five years, 13 million new jobs have been created in the United States, close to two million of them in new, export-related jobs that pay on average 15 percent higher wages.

Unemployment is at a 24-year low and we are now the most competitive economy in the world. Exports are up by more than \$300 billion, notably in high-technology, and we have regained world leadership in automobiles and semi-conductors. This is not the time to hamstring the President and threaten our unprecedented prosperity. Our startling economic progress is due to the combined impact of defense recycling, new technologies, improved productivity, dynamic capital markets, and a global economy. I hope that our friends in the Congress will keep their eyes on the ball and will approve the fast track legislation to keep us on the fast track to even greater prosperity.

Thank you. I will be delighted to answer questions.

WORDS OF POSITIVE INSPIRATION

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the topic of human life. I am deeply concerned about the lack of concern for what the Declaration of Independence calls the unalienable * * * Right to Life * * *. Our society today has too often ignored the sanctity of human life to the point of relegating it to someone else's choice. Trivializing human life to this extent debases our culture and erodes our fundamental respect for the self-evident right to life. As such I would like to relay the views of a constituent of mine from Greeley, CO, Miss Sonni Biundo. Her words have powerful meaning, and I think ought to positively inspire our colleagues here today assembled:

My whole life I was programmed to be pro-choice. I was told that as a woman it was my duty to protect women's rights—this included, most of all the right to have an abortion. I entered and finished college a pro-choice activist. I felt that no one had the right to tell me what to do with my body. I thought that pro-life activists who protested at abortion clinics on the nightly news were out of touch with reality, and that the poor women who joined the pro-life fight were simply brainwashed and could not think for themselves. What I didn't understand is when life begins.

That is the essential difference, and what ultimately divides the pro-choice and pro-life camps. As I have grown older, and hopefully wiser, I have begun to understand when life begins—at conception. Therefore, I am not letting government intrude on your life and instruct you on what you can and cannot do with your body—I am asking government to protect the life of a human being who has no voice. If our society cannot protect the most vulnerable in it, then where are we going?

Ask yourself some simple questions. Why is it a tragedy when someone you love suffers a miscarriage? Why do we have a name chosen for a child before it is born? Why do we touch a pregnant woman's stomach to feel movement? Why do we bring pictures from an ultrasound in to work to show our colleagues?

Before my nephew was born, I wondered what he would look like, what he would be good at, the sports he'd like, if he would be tall or short—what his dreams would be. I looked at my sister and her husband and wondered about the miracle they had created, and prayed he would have all the love he needed to get through life. I asked these questions at the very first movement, when all I could see on the ultrasound was a kidney shaped mass. He was already a child to me, already a human being with all the rights that he enjoys now.

Do I believe you are immoral for having an abortion? Yes, but you do not have to answer to me. Only to God. Do I think we can legislate morality? No. When I say it would please me to have abortion outlawed, I am not pleased because I have made you agree with me. I do not think I have made you a "moral" person by making you conform to my standards. I am pleased because a child who deserves a chance has it. A chance that we all got and have taken for granted, by simply being alive.

Mr. Speaker, these words are a good indication of the positive inspiration our country needs. It is crucial for us as a nation to rise above the selfish and politically expedient trend pervading our culture and restore the standard of a paramount value placed upon the lives of all human beings.

OSCAR GARCIA RIVERA POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 282, a bill that would designate the U.S. Post Office Building located at 153 East 110th Street in my district in New York, as the Oscar Garcia Rivera Post Office Building.

Mr. Oscar Garcia Rivera was the first Puerto Rican to be elected to public office in the con-

tinental United States. On March 7, 1937, he made history by becoming assemblyman of the 14th Congressional District, in the State of New York, which at that time was Harlem.

Oscar Rivera was a true leader who was committed to improving the lives of those who resided in his community. He was committed to protecting the rights of manual laborers and encouraged workers to organize themselves into active unions. However, his many contributions did not stop there.

He went on to introduce a bill guaranteeing safeguards against unemployment which was enacted into law in February 1939. He defended minimum wage laws, fought for regulated hours of labor, and worked to establish tariff agreements.

Oscar Garcia Rivera was a man of many talents. His vision of helping others to lead a better and more prosperous life, began as a young man who established the Association of Puerto Rican and Hispanic Employees within the U.S. Postal Service where he was employed, and continued throughout his entire adult life until his passing in 1969.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and proud to be a part of this legislation honoring this outstanding and renowned individual. The life of Oscar Rivera is an inspiration not only to New York State and the Puerto Rican community, but to all people whose lives were touched in some way by his vision.

Let us salute him and pay tribute to him in this way.

HONORING VIRGINIA B. HARTER FOR FOUR DECADES OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite Members to join me in honoring the career of Virginia B. Harter, Assistant Commissioner, Debt Management Services, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury. Mrs. Harter retires from the Senior Executive Service effective October 31, 1997, after nearly 40 years of employment in the Federal service. Mrs. Harter's career consistently exceeded the high standards for superior performance and is a credit to the Financial Management Service and the Department of the Treasury.

Mrs. Harter began her career as a civil servant in 1957 with the National Security Agency. After joining the Department of the Treasury's Financial Management Service in 1959, Mrs. Harter rose through the ranks while serving in numerous important management positions. Between 1979 and 1981, Mrs. Harter served as the program manager for the design and development of the Treasury's Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer Program. As a result of this program, 53 percent of the 840 million Treasury disbursements were made electronically in 1996, saving taxpayers \$169 million. Mrs. Harter also served as the Director of the Governmentwide Cash Management Program and Director of the Credit Management/Debt Collection programs at the Financial Management Service.

In 1989, Virginia B. Harter was appointed to the position of the Chief Disbursing Officer for