video tapes, CD–ROMs, games, statues, and replicas of White House china. Under the signature, on the lower level, is the library, with more than 200,000 newspaper and magazine clippings regarding Lincoln; more than 5,000 original photographs (including those from Lincoln's own family album); 200 documents signed by Lincoln; 7,000 19th-century prints, engravings, newspapers, and music sheets; 18,000 books; scores of period artifacts and Lincoln family belongings, and hundreds of paintings and sculptures. Here, too, is the traveling exhibit area—most recently the site of the ''White House Style'' show.

So how did this $6 million, 30,000-square-foot tribute to Lincoln and interactive multimedia essay on his impact on American life come to be created in a mid-sized northeastern Indian city? In 1905, Arthur Hall was forming an insurance company in Fort Wayne. A great admirer of Lincoln, he wrote to Robert Todd Lincoln, the son whose attendance at the Cooper Institute had provided Abraham Lincoln with a platform for his watershed 1860 speech, for permission to use his father's name. Along with his approval, Todd sent a photograph of his father—the same one that is the basis for the engraving on the $5 bill today.

The company grew into what is today one of the nation's largest financial services organizations. The Lincoln National Corporation opened its first museum on Lincoln's birthday in 1928. The new museum, now owned by the nonprofit Lincoln National Foundation, opened October 1, 1995, in Lincoln National headquarters—less than a mile from the site of the railroad station where Lincoln, we now know, changed trains on February 23, 1860.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SANCHEZ addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1515

CELEBRATING LITHUANIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PITTS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the people of Lithuania who will be celebrating their Independence day next Monday. With the passage of each year, Lithuania grows into a more stable, prosperous and Democratic country. To ensure this growth continues in Lithuania and the rest of the Baltic States, the United States must remain committed to supporting the region.

Lithuania is rich in history and has proven its resilience. This country has continually been occupied by rogue regimes which exploited its resources and people. However, the desire for democracy continued to grow within the Lithuanian people. After four decades of suppression, Lithuania finally achieved freedom in 1990 and reestablished the independent Lithuanian state.

I do not think that many Americans paid attention to the recent presidential elections in Lithuania. I wish they would have. They should be proud of the fact that an American citizen was elected the new President. Valdas Adamkus, from my home State of Illinois, is a shining example of the Democratic reforms which have come to this former Soviet state. His election testifies to the desire of the Lithuanian people to do away with ex-Communists and to embrace western ideas.

President Adamkus and his family fled the country as the Communists took over during World War II. After spending part of his teens in a Nazi camp, President Adamkus emigrated to the United States. Here he forged a truly distinguished career as a regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. With the many years spent in America, president Adamkus will be able to bring fresh non-Soviet ideas to government.

Now is the time for the United States to recognize the struggle the Lithuanians have endured for democracy and freedom. On January 16 President Clinton took the first step in realizing the importance of this region of the world. On that day he signed the U.S.-Baltic Charter. While the charter does not contain any security guarantees, it does prove to the Baltics the continuing commitment of the United States to their country. Additionally, the charter commits the Baltic States to democracy, rule of law, free markets and human rights.

However, what the charter should not do is close the door on the expansion of NATO to include the Baltic region. Recently, we have begun to hear that NATO does not need to be expanded. Some fear the expansion will dilute the military alliance which is the essence of NATO. They would rather have the European Union do much of the work for the emerging democracies while leaving NATO to deal with Russia. This is very shortsighted.

What we need to do is focus on the region, providing guidance and support while these countries are developing. The United States should not pull back and leave these countries stranded in a strategic uncertainty. Enlargement, with the need to meet the rigorous military and political standards will continue to promote calm in the region. We need to leave the door open for expansion so that Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have a goal to strive towards as they continue to develop.

Mr. Speaker, again I would like to congratulate the Lithuanian people on another year of independence. After all their hard work and struggle, they are beginning to reap the rewards. The United States should wholeheartedly embrace Lithuania and the entire Baltic region through the expansion of NATO so these emerging democracies can continue to prosper.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. VISCLOSKY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. COX addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the centennial of Philippine independence, and to recognize some true heroes of World War II, the Filipino World War II veterans.

Filipino soldiers were drafted into the Armed Forces by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and promised full benefits as American veterans. But those benefits were rescinded by the 79th Congress in 1946. The gentleman from New York (Mr. BEN GILMAN) and I have now introduced a Filipino Veterans Equity Act, H.R. 836, which would restore the benefits promised when these soldiers were drafted into service by the President of the United States and fought side by side with soldiers from the American mainland against a common enemy.

Over 175 of our colleagues have cosponsored H.R. 836, in support of these brave veterans. A most appropriate way to commemorate the centennial year of Philippine independence is to pass H.R. 836 and restore honor and equity to the Filipino veterans of World War II.

As Congressman of the congressional district which includes more Filipino American residents than any other except for Hawaii, I am very honored to have been chosen as their Representative in Congress. I look forward to participating in the 1998 celebrations commemorating Independence Day and the spirit, resourcefulness, warmth and compassion of the people of the Philippines and of Filipino Americans.

June 12, 1898 is the day the Philippines gained its independence from Spain and June 12 is celebrated in the Philippines as Independence Day by order of President Diosdado Macapagal.

This year, in the Philippines and in the numerous Filipino-American communities in the United States, lengthy celebrations are being prepared that will occur throughout the entire year. In my hometown of San Diego, a civic parade showcasing Filipino culture is among the many events planned to commemorate this milestone.

Historians tell us that the Philippines was ''discovered'' in 1521 by Portuguese sailor Ferdinand Magellan. In spite of a bloody battle between Filipino freedom fighters and the invaders,