

citizen deserves the right to be heard. The First Amendment to the Constitution, to which we all pay homage, singles out a few basic rights for particular emphasis, and one of those is the right to petition for the redress of grievances. Mrs. Exe chooses to do so, and as her Representative in Congress, I am pleased to be able to do my constitutional duty and insert her petition at this point in the RECORD.

*Bridgewater Mass., January 21, 1998.*

CONGRESSMAN BARNEY FRANK,

DEAR SIR, My husband, John B. Exe, United States navy, retired, served his country with honor and dedication and retired after 20 years service. During my husband service he took out the FRA insurance plan. He was told by the navy that should he pay high premiums in the event of his death his widow would not have to pay any further insurance premiums.

My husband had great love for his country and the navy. Therefore he believed that his country would honor the pledge they made to him and other service men.

Shortly after my husband's death I received my first insurance premium, due and payable. Upon making enquiries I was told the funding had run out. Later I was told by a representative of FRA that the navy had told them to stop paying widows and to put funding into HMO's. This is a lie still being told our service men and retirees. In other words our service men do not deserve the truth. Once again this country has broken faith.

Should this happen in Bosnia, Iraq, Mongolia the United States would call this genocide. I call what the United States has done genocide against widows of service men in the United States.

A US judge ruled that retirees can sue the government for breaking the promise of free lifetime health care.

Now as usual the navy has once again proved inept with the closure of military bases dependents now have to go to an outside pharmaceutical CO. Which has not been organized completely a dependent obtaining meds through mail order often have to wait two to three weeks. God help our heart patients. Also, after submitting prescriptions which are being returned due to changes which are not notified of this causes another wait for the patient. It would appear the navy had knowledge and plenty of time to organize instead of which they appear to create confusion and more disorganization.

Does anyone really care my words are just a whisper, but I am sure they will eventually become a loud roar. And many more people will become aware of tactics which the government and United States Navy have done their best to keep secret.

The genocide to our retirees and their families must **STOP!!!**

The buck stops here gentlemen. It is now **YOUR** responsibility. I will be very surprised but very interested to obtain a response.

I am 73 years of age. I would like to see changes in what time I have left.

LYNNE EXE.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1995

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 1998*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the Point Reyes National Seashore Farmland Protection Act, H.R. 1995, is a unique solution to a grow-

ing problem in our country—How do we protect disappearing farmland while simultaneously protecting our natural resources?

Keeping local farms in agriculture is absolutely essential to local economies across the country, and California's Sixth Congressional District is a prime example. Approximately, 167,000 acres—half of Marin County's total land—are farms or ranches. In Sonoma County, 40 percent of the 1.2 million acres of land is agriculture. The majority of this farmland is divided into small third and fourth generation family-owned operations. Of the 285 agricultural operations currently in Marin County, 78 are considered large farms (annual gross income of \$100,000 or more), and 207 are considered small or mini-farms. The average farm size is 588 acres.

By authorizing the purchase of agricultural conservation easements, H.R. 1995 allows willing landowners to receive compensation for keeping their farms in agriculture. At the same time, the lands remain on the tax rolls, and private property rights are protected. The majority of local landowners support this bill—including Joe and Doris Mendoza.

POINT REYES STATION, CA,

*November 7, 1997.*

Hon. JAMES HANSEN,

*Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands,*

*U.S. House of Representatives,*

*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. HANSEN: We are writing in support of Lynn Woolsey's legislation H.R. 1995, the Point Reyes National Seashore Farmland Protection Act. We operate a 500-cow dairy on the "Historic B Ranch" located on the Point Reyes peninsula which became part of the Point Reyes National Seashore when it was authorized in 1962. We have enjoyed a favorable tenant/landlord relationship with the National Park Service for over 25 years, and have operated a viable business partnership with our son during that period.

We reinvested our proceeds from the sale of the "B" Ranch in 2,300 acres of land on the east side of Tomales Bay. This property lies within the boundary of the Farmland Protection Act. Lynn Woolsey has worked very diligently to write this legislation in a manner to address the concerns of the agricultural land owners while protecting the interests of the people of the United States and their investment in the lands of the Park.

We feel that this innovative concept protects the land from development for the benefit of the park while providing for agriculture's need of a "critical mass". It leaves the land in private ownership and on the local tax rolls. Win! Win! We also greatly support the principle of using a local land trust to administer this arrangement.

Please enter our support of H.R. 1995.

Sincerely,

J.H. MENDOZA, SR.  
DORIS S. MENDOZA.

OVERRIDE OF MILITARY CONSTRUCTION LINE-ITEM VETOES

**HON. RON PACKARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 1998*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to praise our colleagues in the Senate for successfully overriding the veto of H.R. 2631, which will restore all 38 Military Construction projects canceled by the President late last year.

As Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, I have visited U.S. bases at home and around the world and I have been shocked at the deplorable working and living conditions we are asking our soldiers and their families to endure. The Military Construction Bill funds family housing as well as construction of troop barracks, hospital and medical facilities, schools and child-care centers for military personnel and their families stationed here and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is, we did our homework and crafted a responsible bill. Every project in this bill meets a validated military requirement and every project is executable this fiscal year. The bill we sent to the President was \$610 million less than last year's bill and almost \$2 billion less than the level just two years ago. That is hardly wasteful spending.

I have long supported the line-item veto authority and Congress' responsibility to correct the President's mistakes when he makes them. Within two days of vetoing 38 items on the Military Construction Bill, the Administration admitted it made mistakes on two cancellations. Hours later, that number was up to eleven and then eighteen. The line-item veto is a powerful tool and Congress must ensure that this new authority is held to the highest possible standard.

The line-item veto can be a useful tool if it is used fairly, carefully and responsibly. Mr. Speaker, we sent a strong message yesterday that Congress will accept nothing less.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NANCY LEE HINDS

**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 1998*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nancy Lee Hinds, the founder of Hinds' Hospice Home Foundation in Fresno, for being recognized with the Social Action Award. Nancy Lee Hinds has dedicated her life to the dying and their families, and is very deserving of this honor.

The award for Social Action is named annually by Temple Beth Israel for works on the diocesan and community levels. The award recognizes the long practice of Christian virtues. Nancy Lee Hinds was chosen for this award based on both her current work and her instrumental efforts to have hospices recognized throughout the state.

Nancy Hinds' Hospice Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides care for those who have life limiting illnesses and no further medical treatment available. Hinds' Hospice Foundation has cared for patients that range in age from 3 months to 103 years. The Hospice Foundation also provides outpatient care that involves volunteers caring for patients in their own homes. Outpatient volunteers also perform such duties as yard work, grocery shopping, and haircutting.

Nancy Lee Hinds was born and educated in Cleveland, Ohio. There she received a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. In 1970, she married Godfrey Hinds, a missionary doctor in Ireland. In 1977, her husband died of cancer in Northern Ireland. Following the death of her husband, Nancy opened her arms and doors to the dying and has been