

occasion and discharged their leadership responsibilities to the institution.

Marilyn Elrod is a person who understands the right and responsibility of an American to thoroughly investigate government policy and, using her influence as a staff person, would always try to craft the best legislative product. She did it with a sense of humor, a sense of duty and above all, a sense of patriotism. She is a dedicated American in the finest tradition, and this institution will greatly miss her.

TRIBUTE TO THE PLANT A ROW
FOR THE HUNGRY PROJECT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many Coloradans who contributed hard work, selfless dedication, community spirit and fresh produce to the Plant a Row for the Hungry Project. This locally organized, nationally recognized project asks local gardeners to donate fresh produce for local people in need.

Last spring, seed packets were given out to many participants in the program. Now, their gardens are overflowing with fresh vegetables, many of which were donated to local residents living below the poverty line.

Susan Moore, Becky Simmons and the rest of the staff at Gulley's Greenhouse contributed storage space, time and labor as did Chuck Gill and Paul Blackburn of the Larimer County Food Distribution Center. These fine people handled, stored and distributed bushels of cucumbers, carrots, squash, lettuce and peppers locally for the program.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ms. Susan Moore, Ms. Becky Simmons, Mr. Chuck Gill and Mr. Paul Blackburn for all of their fine efforts. Particularly, I would like to recognize the many participants in the program. Their toil has brought forth produce from the land, and food for the needy.

Often, we don't recognize those who provide us with the essentials of life like food, water, shelter and security. Like the many farmers in Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, these local gardeners strengthen the age-old bond between land, labor, food and happiness.

CHILD POVERTY AND BLOCK
GRANTS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would link HHS award granting to child poverty rates.

As part of welfare reform, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant program (TANF), provides over \$1 billion for incentive awards to states. Beginning in FY 1999, TANF's High Performance Bonus Award program will give bonuses to states that reduce the number of welfare recipients. In an unrelated section of the bill, TANF requires that states determine the rate of child poverty

each year and initiate corrective action if the rate increases above five percent from the previous year due to the TANF program. There is no linkage between the receipt of a high performance bonus award and child poverty rates. Therefore, under the current system, a state could sustain a dramatic increase in child poverty rates and still qualify for a bonus award if enough adults have been removed from the welfare rolls.

Such an outcome would not only constitute a major "disconnect" in welfare policy but is highly likely. For instance, in recent testimony about the Summer Food Service Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) found that TANF caused half of the states to reduce the number of food items in the meals or reduce the number of meal locations. GAO predicted that 2 million children would be provided insufficient meals, would travel further to obtain meals or may go hungry because meals will not be served in an accessible location. Under the current rules, states that reduced the lunch program would be eligible for bonus grants. I am sure my colleagues will agree with me that this result, though unintended, is something we cannot ignore, or allow to continue.

This legislation would require HHS to consider child poverty rates prior to granting awards and prohibits an award to any state that allows child poverty to increase more than 5 percent per year. My colleagues, if you share my concern about the well being of children under welfare reform, join me in support of this timely and needed legislation.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMY RESERVES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO CALIFORNIA

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great contributions of the United States Army Reserve to our country. I particularly want to recognize the 63rd Regional Support Command in California. The Army Reserve was started as a pool of people whose professional skills were not regularly needed during peacetime, but were critical during deployment and mobilization. The Reserves have grown to fill a critical need for our armed services in war and peace.

The Army Reserve has served in every major American military operation since its establishment and has played a key role in supporting international peacekeeping missions around the world. Additionally, the mission of the Reserve goes far beyond aiding American interest missions abroad. An often forgotten contribution of our Army Reservists is their role here at home supporting fellow Americans in the event of disasters.

No discussion of the United States Army Reserves would be complete without mentioning their greatest resource of all—their people. These are citizen-soldiers—the fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, husbands and wives—that give their time to serve and protect us at home and abroad. These noble men and women make up 20 percent of the Army's

organized units, provide 46 percent of the Army's combat service support and 30 percent of the Army's combat support. All of this is done for about 5 percent of the Army's budget. Having served for 8 years in strategic intelligence with the Army Reserve, I can attest to the important role for these men and women.

In Southern California, the U.S. Army 63rd Regional Support Command proudly stands as our regional branch of the Army Reserve. This Support Command was established originally to help the 63rd Infantry Division support relief efforts during natural disasters and other regional crises more quickly. Headquartered in Los Alamitos, California, the 63rd Regional Support Command continues to support Active Army missions with more than 14,000 soldiers.

In response to a downsized force and frequently shifting missions, the United States Army Reserve announced in 1995 its largest realignment in decades. This realignment led to the 63rd having its geographic boundaries realigned to conform with the standard Federal district observed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The 63rd Regional Support Command continues to provide combat support and combat service support to field units during deployments. The 63rd adds flexibility to our Active Army force by filling in for troops deployed abroad. Furthermore, the 63rd is trained to provide medical units; port, rail, and other transportation support; as well as acting as a training base during full mobilization.

Presently, the 63rd Regional Support Command has control of more than 14,000 men and women serving in approximately 140 units in my home State of California, as well as Arizona and Nevada. Commanded by Brigadier General John L. Scott, the 63rd will certainly continue to shine as a keen example of the importance and prominence of the United States Army Reserve.

Today, the Army Reserve is positioned better than ever to be an active and vital player in America's Active Army. The Army Reserve stands as a symbol of the strength of the American citizen-soldier and I want to thank the Army Reserve for the continuation of their past efforts and their 90 years of dedicated service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on October 1, 1998 for roll call votes 474 and 475. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 474 and "yea" on roll call vote 475.

THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF REPRESENTATIVE LEE HAMILTON OF INDIANA

SPEECH OF

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, being unable to attend the Special Order for retiring Congressman LEE HAMILTON, I take this means to