

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING HARRY S TRUMAN'S
BIRTHDAY, MAY 8TH

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Harry S Truman, the thirty-third president of the United States of America and to celebrate his birthday, which is May 8th. I am proud to represent the fifth Congressional district of Missouri, where Harry Truman spent most of his life. He grew up in Independence, ran a haberdashery in Kansas City, and in his later life helped with the family farm in Grandview.

Harry Truman's first year as President, which he called a "year of decisions," dealt with the end of World War II, the beginning of the Cold War, and the founding of the United Nations. As part of this critical time, Truman spearheaded the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan to resist communist threats and revive the ailing economies of Europe. In addition, Harry Truman was a major player in the creation of NATO—an organization that guaranteed peace in a reunited Europe and remains crucial to our efforts to support democracies throughout the world.

These tough decisions were not immediately appreciated by all Americans. In 1948, Truman's defeat in his reelection campaign was widely assumed, in fact a prominent newspaper printed before the final ballots were counted featured the headline, "Dewey Defeats Truman." Truman's "whistle stop campaign" brought his campaign to the people, and his willingness to confront issues and find solutions to the questions facing the country at that difficult time provided him the margin of victory for a second term as the Chief Executive of the United States. Harry Truman is a daily inspiration to me, and as I look at his picture hanging in my office, I draw strength from his courage and determination to take responsibility for the tough choices he had to make and to do the right thing for this country. I hope that our leaders today will also be inspired by Harry Truman and refuse to continue to be like the historic 1948 "Do Nothing Congress." Let us shoulder our responsibility and rise to the challenges before us at this difficult time in our nation's and our world's history.

In my office is a replica of the motto that Truman kept on his desk in the Oval Office: "The Buck Stops Here." Truman referred to this saying often, noting that "when the decision is up before you . . . the decision has to be made," in an address before the National War College in December 1952. The motto inspires me and reminds me that I cannot shirk my responsibility as a Member of Congress. I must make the difficult decisions and cast my votes to do the right thing for this country, our allies, and my constituents. Truman carried his favorite prayer in his wallet, and this prayer is one that we, as Members of Congress, could also find comfort in today, Mr. Speaker.

Help me to be, to think, to act what is right, because it is right; make me truthful, honest and honorable in all things; make me intellectually honest for the sake of right and honor and without thought of reward to me. Give me the ability to be charitable, forgiving and patient with my fellowmen—help me to understand their motives and their shortcomings, even as Thou understandest mine!

Happy birthday, President Truman! Thank you for your service to our nation and the world.

RECOGNITION OF EVA
MCCLELLAN, GREEN THUMB 1999
PRIME TIME AWARD WINNER

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eva McClellan, senior citizen from Providence, Rhode Island who was recently selected as a Green Thumb 1999 Prime Time Award Winner.

I am a firm believer that we are all responsible for working hard to accomplish our dreams, and Ms. McClellan is an excellent example of a someone who had done precisely that. As a youth, her goal was to become a telephone operator, but she was later discouraged from pursuing that ambition because of a physical disability caused by childhood polio.

Ms. McClellan persisted in her dream, however, taking advantage of training opportunities and computer classes and striving to improve her skills. Now 67 years old, Ms. McClellan works as an Accessible Communications Assistant for AT&T in Providence, Rhode Island, a position in which she supports the deaf community by relaying conversations between deaf and hearing customers. Her employers have called her "a valued employee," and she herself says that her work is "so rewarding" and that she likes "helping others." She has led, and continues to lead, an outstanding life, and serves as a role model to us all.

Part of Ms. McClellan's continuing education has been through initiatives of Green Thumb, Inc. This organization has earned its excellent reputation as an innovative national non-profit institution leading the field of older worker training and employment. Serving mature and other disadvantaged individuals in urban and rural areas, Green Thumb has been an important and valuable resource to communities around the country since opening its doors in 1965. Last year, through Green Thumb and its programs, more than 28,000 senior Americans living on limited incomes contributed an estimated 16 million hours of community service. I salute this organization for its role in improving the quality of life of tens of thousands of our senior citizens, as well as the untold numbers of people who have benefitted from the wisdom and experience of these older workers.

Please join with me in the recognition and appreciation of Eva McClellan and other senior citizens like her. We owe much to these individuals, and to organizations like Green Thumb, Inc., for their significant and continuing contributions to our communities and nation as a whole.

HONORING MADELEINE APPEL

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Madeleine Appel, who is this year's recipient of the Houston Chapter of The American Jewish Committee's Helene Susman Woman of Prominence Award. Helene Susman was a widowed mother of two who became the first woman from Texas admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. When she died in 1978, she left a legacy of a commitment to Judaism, a belief in the importance of contributing to the community, and the need for individuals to act responsibly and with integrity at all times.

Madeleine Appel has demonstrated her commitment to her profession, community, and family in such a manner as to distinguish herself as a role model for other women to follow.

Madeleine Appel presently serves as Administration Manager in the Comptroller's Office for the City of Houston. Her work experience with the City of Houston has included a number of positions: Administrator/Senior Council Aide, Mayor Pro-Tem Office; Houston City Council from 1996–1997; Senior Council Aide, Houston City Council Member Eleanor Tinsley 1980–1995; and Administrator, Election Central, ICSA. She has also worked for Rice University.

She began her career as a journalist working as an Assistant Women's Editor and Reporter at The Corpus Christi Caller and Times. Additionally, she worked as the Women's Editor and Assistant Editor for The Insider's Newsletter and as a reporter for The Houston Chronicle where she won the "Headliners Award." She received her B.A. from Smith College in political science and graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Madeleine Appel's community involvement includes Scenic America, League of Women Voters of Texas, Houston Achievement Place, Jewish Family Service, League of Women Voters of Houston, Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism, Houston Architecture Foundation, American Jewish Committee, City of Houston Affirmative Action Committee, and Leadership Houston Class XII.

Madeleine Appel has been married for 36 years to Dr. Richard F. Appel and she is the proud mother of two sons and two daughters-in-law.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Madeleine Appel for her service to her community and to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Houston. She is the best of public servants and an inspiration to others who want to engage in public service.

CONGRATULATING VIDA EL VALLE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article by the Fresno Bee entitled "McClatchy's bilingual weekly honored again." This article speaks of the achievements and past honors of Vida en el Valle, the Central Valley's primary bilingual newspaper.

Vida en el Valle, the bilingual weekly owned by The Fresno Bee's parent company, McClatchy Co., was named the nation's outstanding newspaper in its category for the fourth time in seven years during the 11th annual Hispanic Print Awards sponsored by the National Association of Hispanic Publications.

Vida en el Valle also received six other first-place awards for editorial excellence, four second-place awards and four honorable mentions. The newspaper was judged the Outstanding Bilingual Weekly for the third consecutive year by the nation's largest Latino newspaper organization. Vida en el Valle is the only newspaper that has won the award for three consecutive years.

John Esparza, Vida editor and publisher, said the newspaper won its latest honors at the association's weekend convention. Vida competes among larger bilingual newspapers in the association.

Only the daily newspaper El Nuevo, published by the Miami Herald, and the Los Angeles weekly publication Vida Nueva won more first-place awards than Vida, Esparza said. The category for larger publications is based on annual budget.

Vida also took first-place honors for: "Outstanding color photo," by former photographer Tommy Monreal, who left the newspaper to work on a master's degree, "Outstanding color photo essay," by Monreal, "Outstanding political and economics reporting," by reporter Maria Machuca, about the citizenship process, "Outstanding entertainment column," by Andrew Landeros about comedian Carlos Mencia, "Outstanding entertainment section" and "Outstanding sports section." "This is the most first-place awards we've ever won," Esparza said. "We want quality news coverage for our readers and for the Latino community. This shows we are on the right path."

Mr. Speaker, Vida en el Valle has served a vital role in the Central Valley. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Vida en el Valle, and wishing them many years of continued success.

PRAYING FOR THE SAFETY AND
FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning on the 48th National Day of Prayer to

ask all of you and the American people to join me in praying for the safety of our children.

Today's youth are growing up in a world very different from the one I knew years ago. We live in an age where most families require two incomes to make ends meet, and nearly half of all marriages end in divorce. Our children simply do not have as much supervision or guidance as we did. Add to that, the dangers of drugs and the prevalence of gangs and violence in our schools—as any parent knows, it is not an easy time to raise a family or to be a student.

My father died when I was a young boy, leaving my mother to fend for me and my brothers and sister. She couldn't have done it alone. In those days, neighbors looked out for each other and watched out for each other's kids. Our family received support from the entire community. In fact, our friends and neighbors considered us an extension of their own families. That's an important reason why my siblings and I were able to achieve our goals and live the American Dream.

Now more than ever, our schools, churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples need to stand together with our families to set an example for our children. Our kids are the future and we must invest as much time and energy into their well-being as possible.

I ask that we all pray for not only our teachers, counselors, and students, but also our law enforcement officials who are charged with the responsibility of protecting our children. It takes all of us to ensure that our children can enjoy their childhood and grow up to be successful adults.

TRIBUTE TO REV. ROBERTO O.
GONZÁLEZ, O.F.M.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to serving others, Rev. Roberto O. González, O.F.M., who was recently appointed by his Holiness Pope John Paul II to be the Archbishop of San Juan, PR.

Reverend González was born on June 2, 1950 in Elizabeth, NJ. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Siena College, Loudonville, NY, in 1972, a Master of Arts in Theology from Washington Theological Coalition, Silver Spring, MD, in 1977, and Masters and Doctoral degrees in Sociology from Fordham University, Bronx, NY, in 1980 and 1984, respectively.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend González was received into Franciscan Order in 1972, ordained to the Priesthood on May 8, 1977, appointed to the Episcopacy by Pope John Paul II on July 19, 1988, ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Boston on October 3, 1988, appointed coadjutor Bishop of Corpus Christi on May 16, 1995, and succeeded to the See of Corpus Christi on April 1, 1997.

Reverend González has been an outstanding leader and a great role model, not only to the religious organizations he served so well but also to the Hispanic community.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Reverend González personally for many years, and I am very familiar with his experience, character,

and personality. In short, Reverend González lives to help other people. He has been diligent in providing spiritual guidance and support to the members of our community.

The many religious organizations to which he belonged, like the books and articles he has written speak volumes about him.

As it is written in Hebrews 6:10, "for God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them," the community recognizes him, Pope John Paul II, too, recognizes him and honors him with this appointment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and in congratulating Rev. Roberto O. González, O.F.M. for his new appointment to be the Archbishop of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

HONORING MARK L. WALKER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the accomplishments of a man who has made a strong commitment to protect and defend human dignity. On May 8, the members of Oman Temple 72, of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, will gather at their 45th Annual Potentate's Ball, where they will honor their illustrious Potentate, Mark L. Walker.

Mark Walker was born in Dora, Alabama, in 1960. His family moved to Flint, Michigan, in 1975, where Mark graduated from Beecher High School. He then attended Lansing Community College, where he completed the Correction Officer's Training Program, and later received degrees from C.S. Mott Community College, and the University of Michigan—Flint, both times graduating with honors. Not content with stopping there, Mark is currently seeking a Masters of Public Administration, also from the University of Michigan.

It was during this time that Mark became involved with Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He rose to the level of 32-degree Mason, and has held positions of distinction within the group. He is recognized as a Past Master, Past Most Wise and Perfect Master, and Captain of the Guard, prior to his tenure at Illustrious Potentate. Whether as a member of the Shrine, or on his own, Mark shows a tremendous amount of dedication to being a positive force in the community. He has been an organizer of a Summer Food/Children Reading program, has been president of the Flint Park Lake Neighborhood Association, and the Great Flint Educational Consortium.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions that Mark Walker has given the Flint area in the areas of community service and education are tremendous, and I am indeed fortunate for the impact he has made within my district, especially amongst our children. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating him for his dedication and perseverance.

CONGRATULATING RUSS BERRIE
ON BEING NAMED HONORARY
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Russ Berrie on being named Honorary Citizen of the Year by the Oakland (New Jersey) Republican Club. Mr. Berrie's millions of dollars of contributions to a wide variety of worthy causes makes him one of the most active and prominent philanthropists in our state. In fact, Fortune magazine has called him one of the 40 most generous people in the nation. But Mr. Berrie is appreciated for more than just his monetary contributions. This Citizen of the Year award reflects his sincere concern about the well being of the community and his true commitment to helping others. He has supported causes as varied as religion, medicine, education and the arts.

Mr. Berrie is chairman and chief executive officer of Russ Berrie and Company Inc., an internationally successful business empire specializing in novelty items and "lifestyle gifts." Mr. Berrie founded the company in 1963 while working as a manufacturer's representative. Today, it is the premier company in its field worldwide, with offices and distribution centers in Cranbury, New Jersey; Petaluma, Calif.; Canada and England. The firm also has offices in Hong Kong, China, Korea and Taiwan. It has 1,600 employees around the globe.

In addition to running a successful business, Mr. Berrie devotes his talents and energy to a number of charitable causes. Most recently, his many contributions have included a \$5 million donation to the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center Foundation and \$13.5 million for the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University.

In addition, he has supported the Russell and Angelica Berrie Early Childhood Wing at the Jewish Community Center on the Palisades, the Russ Berrie Building for the Center for Strategic Studies at the College of Judea and Samaria in Israel, and the Angelica and Russell Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts at Ramapo College. I am particularly proud to have worked with Mr. Berrie on the Center for Performing and Visual Arts project, which was partly funded by a \$500,000 grant I obtained from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He and Mrs. Berrie have been staunch supporters of Ramapo College.

Mr. Berrie has also established the Russell Berrie Foundation, which sponsors the "Making a Difference Award" to recognize unsung New Jersey heroes who have made contributions to their communities or performed heroic acts.

Chairman of the Center for Inter-religious Understanding, Mr. Berrie also serves on the boards of New York University's Leonard Stern School of Business, United Retail Group, the Jewish Community Center and the John Harms Center for the Arts. He has received almost two dozen awards and honorary degrees from universities, cities, religious groups and organizations across the country.

Mr. Berrie and his wife, Angelica, live in Englewood. They have six children.

Mr. Berrie is an outstanding example of a philanthropist. His kindness and generosity have benefited thousands in fields from education to medicine to the arts. He has taken the saying "share the wealth" to heart, and seen to it that his success in business helps countless others as well. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to congratulate Mr. Berrie on being named Honorary Citizen of the Year and in wishing him the best for the future.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. JAMES
HABERKOST

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Rev. James Haberkost, a dedicated pastor in my district who is celebrating his 40th anniversary of service to the Lutheran Church.

Pastor Haberkost is a 1959 graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. That same year he was ordained and installed as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Streamwood, IL., where he served the congregation for 21 years. In August of 1980, Pastor Haberkost began work at St. John's Lutheran Church in La Grange, IL. While Pastor of Grace Congregation, Pastor Haberkost also found the time to serve as part-time Lutheran Chaplain at the Illinois State Training School for Boys at St. Charles. In addition to his duties as Pastor of St. John's Church, he has served on the Northern Illinois Board for Missions and the Town & Country Committee of the District, and led devotions twice a month on WTAQ in LaGrange, until the radio station was sold. Reverend Haberkost proceeds to serve as the senior Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church. The church congregation and school both continue to rapidly increase in number and faith.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Rev. James Haberkost for his many years of commitment and dedication to the church, school, and community. I extend to him my best wishes for many more years of quality service in his noble vocation.

RECOGNITION OF ASHAWAY LINE
AND TWINE MANUFACTURING
COMPANY—175 YEARS OF
SUCCESSFUL SMALL BUSINESS

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ashaway Line and Twine Manufacturing Company, a family-owned firm in Ashaway, Rhode Island, which celebrates 175 years of successful small business this June.

Six generations of the Crandall family have owned and operated this company since its inception in 1824 at its Laurel Street headquarters in Ashaway. Today, it is one of the oldest family-owned companies in the United States and exemplifies this country's proud tradition of manufacturing and innovation. Over the course of the last 175 years, the

company has gone from a local fishing line supplier to a global seller of medical threads, tennis strings, and other specialized lines.

In recent times, we have all heard many disheartening stories of manufacturing plant closings in communities around the country. Some of these firms were unable to compete in the new global marketplace; luckily for the citizens of Ashaway and the Line and Twine's customers, the Crandall family has always been able to adapt to the changing times and remain open for business. Its products are now sold to sixty countries, and fifty percent of its business is currently done outside the United States. The company has discovered new and creative uses for its products, including special strings for NASA to sew up its space suits, and movie props for Hollywood. Because of this resourcefulness and innovative spirit, eighty-seven employees continue to work today at the Ashaway Line and Twine Manufacturing Company plant, operating the 3,000 machines that braid lines, and dyeing and packaging the strings.

The Crandall family and the Ashaway Line and Twin Manufacturing Company are planning an anniversary celebration for June of this year to recognize and thank their many customers and dedicated employees. I would like to take this opportunity to extend the same gratitude to the family and the firm for their loyalty to the community of Ashaway and the state of Rhode Island. Please join with me in the recognition of one of the oldest family-owned manufacturing firms in this country, and let us always remember the incalculable contribution such companies have made and continue to make to this great nation.

HONORING HEAR O'ISRAEL OF
HOUSTON, TX

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a valued organization within the Houston community, Hear O'Israel, which is sponsoring Listen to the Cries of the Children National during the month of April 1999. Hear O'Israel works to make a difference in the lives of the disabled, battered and abused women, the elderly and young people across Houston. They work to give these men and women a stronger sense of self-worth and instill in them the need to treat others with compassion and respect. The following resolution approved by the Houston City Council demonstrates the high regard for Hear O'Israel in our community.

LISTEN TO THE CRIES OF THE CHILDREN
NATIONAL

A non-profit, non denominational organization, Hear O'Israel International, Inc. developed its Listen to the Cries of the Children National campaign to strengthen the unity of families and enhance public awareness of the negative effects that alcohol and drug abuse, family violence, child abuse, and gang activity have on children and their families. The campaign's goal is "for everyone to Hear and Listen to the cries; stop violence; have mercy, love, and compassion for our fellow man, and turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the

children to their fathers hence, linking the family together and creating the connection that should be present between every parent and child."

The Listen to the Cries of the Children National campaign strives to focus public attention on the plight of children around the world who are abused, neglected, or physically challenged; and who does not have adequate food, shelter, clothing, and health care and all children, young and old, who are crying out for help. As part of its ongoing effort to help suffering children, I fear O'Israel International, Inc. has been going into schools and detention homes, campaigning with former gang members who were shot and, after becoming quadriplegic, are taking with them the evidence and consequences of their actions in order to help the children to become aware of the price they are paying. Hear O'Israel International, Inc. has also conducted community-oriented programs to help more children become aware of the negative consequences of gang involvement and drug and alcohol abuse.

The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Houston do hereby salute Hear O'Israel International, Inc. for its efforts to improve and enhance the quality of life for our children, and external best wishes for continued success.

Approved by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Houston this 8th day of April, 1999, A.D.

CONGRATULATING DEANNE MEYERS FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deanne Meyers on receiving the Friends of Agricultural Extension's "Award for Outstanding Achievement."

The "Award for Outstanding Achievement" is designed to identify and bring broad recognition to educational programs devised by University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Farm Advisors and Specialists that represent the most significant contributions to production, agriculture and the consuming public.

Ms. Meyers is a UC Davis-based Cooperative Extension Waste Management Specialist. She represents the University on an inter-agency work-group for confined animal feeding operations. Deanne presented her program on the subject, "Environmental Stewardship Short Course for California Dairy Operators." She is recognized for her research which addresses key areas of environmental concern to dairy operators throughout California. Through her research, Ms. Meyers has focused on creating a balance between the current requirements of agricultural producers and possible future requirements by disseminating information to dairy producers regarding their obligations and liabilities for compliance with water quality regulations.

Five other finalists are also honored: Lonnie Hendricks, Merced County, "Integrated Pest Management in Almonds;" Steve Koike, Monterey County, "Unique County-based Plant Pathology Lab;" Neil McDougald, Madera Coun-

ty, "Rangeland Water Quality Research and Education Program;" Michael McKenry, Kearney Ag. Center, "Orchard Replant Problems and their Management;" and Ron Vargas, Madera County, "Cotton Week Management." Every program submitted is vitally important to production agriculture and every participant received at least one "first" from individual members of the panel.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deanne Meyers as Winner of the "Award for Outstanding Achievement," and recognize each of the five finalists, Steve Koike, Neil McDougald, Michael McKenry, and Ron Vargas. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Meyers and each of the finalists best wishes for a bright future and continued success.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY DARIN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Walden Robert Cassotto for all the joy that he gave to the world through his talent, music, and generosity. He will be honored on his birthday, May 14.

Known as Bobby Darin, Walden Robert Cassotto was born in Harlem on May 14, 1936. For most of his young life he lived at 629 East 135th Street in the Bronx. He attended PS 43 and Elijah D. Clark Junior and graduated from the Bronx High School of Science in January 1953, at the tender age of 16. Darin's first paying musical job was at a school dance at Bronx Science. For their performance, Bob and his band mates were reportedly paid "twenty cents and a stick of gum each," a rather inauspicious start to what would turn out to be a brilliant career. Just a few years out of high school, Bobby Darin would find fame and fortune.

Mr. Speaker, between the ages of 8 and 12, Bobby suffered of rheumatic fever four times. In those days, there was no effective treatment for the disease. During one of his bouts with the illness, Bobby overheard the doctor tell his mother that he wouldn't live to see his 16th birthday. From then on, the young man became driven to succeed. He wanted desperately to leave his mark on the world.

Blessed with talent and determination, Bobby Darin would see his dream come to fruition. With his musical gifts, and his intuitive acting ability, and by the sheer force of his personality, Bobby Darin did indeed become a legend in his own time.

On December 2, 1959, Darin was the subject of Ralph Edwards' "This is Your Life." One of the gifts bestowed upon Bobby that night was the establishment of The Bobby Darin Award at Bronx Science—a medal presented to outstanding music students at Bobby's old high school until it lapsed in 1965. Sadly, on December 20, 1973, at the age of 37, Bobby Darin passed away following heart surgery. He left a son, Dodd.

Mr. Speaker, for me, Bobby Darin was more than a great singer. He added great musical joy to my world with his style and grace, the

lyrics of his songs, and his music. His first major hit came in 1958 with "Splish Splash" and "Mack the Knife" which exploded onto the charts, rocketing to number 1, and stayed there for months.

Bobby inspired me and so many other young people from the Bronx. He had a remarkable passion for life, tenacity to accomplish what he was set to do, great courage and sensitivity. I can remember how proud we were in the Bronx to know that he came from our own Borough.

Mr. Speaker, May 14, 1999 has been proclaimed "Bobby Darin Day" in the Bronx by Bronx Borough President, Fernando Ferrer and, at the Bronx Science Spring Concert, the school's alumni association will revive the Bobby Darin award as a scholarship for talented music students. What a fitting tribute.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a great American artist and in wishing the Bobby Darin Award Committee continued success.

HONORING AZTECA BOXING TEAM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the longtime success of a group that has provided a valuable community resource in helping to teach many youths discipline and character. On May 7, local officials, family, and friends will gather to celebrate the Azteca Boxing Team of Pontiac, MI, for 25 years of service.

Twenty-five years ago, Pontiac resident Ruben Flores, a former Golden Gloves champion, envisioned an opportunity to give Pontiac youth a chance to help young people off of the streets and into positive activities that promoted self-esteem and responsibility. He was joined in this endeavor by Juventino Prieto, and the Azteca Boxing Team was born. In 1977, Flores and Prieto were joined by Robert Paramo as a coach, and the three of them began a quarter of a century of teaching youth not only about boxing, but about dedication, physical well being, and pride in one's self and one's abilities.

Since 1973, over 2,800 young people have benefited from the programs that the Azteca Boxing Team has had to offer, many of whom have ventured and excelled in the field of professional boxing. The large volunteer staff they maintain assist in the children's total development, including educational guidance, diverse cultural experiences, and community activism and awareness. The group, an official non-profit organization, receives 98 percent of its funding from donations, including computers for their students, field trips, and more. The remaining 2 percent comes from a \$2 membership fee, however they have pledged never to turn away a child due to lack of funds.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions that the Azteca Boxing Team has given the Pontiac community is tremendous. Many of these youngsters owe their very lives to the impact that the group has made. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating Ruben Flores, Juventino Prieto, and Robert Paramo for all their efforts.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR
GERALD CARDINALE

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate state Senator Gerald Cardinale on receiving the prestigious Lincoln Award from the Woodcliff Lake Republican Club in recognition of his many years of service in the New Jersey Legislature and service to the community. This award is given to officials who epitomize the spirit of Abraham Lincoln and the ideals of the Republican Party. Senator Cardinale meets that test and clearly deserves this high honor in recognition of his hard work and dedication. Whether he is raising money for the Boy Scouts, attending to his dental practice or giving a speech on the Senate floor, he is one of New Jersey's finest public servants.

I have known Gerry Cardinale for many years and can tell you he is a gentleman of integrity and character. It has been a pleasure to work with him on projects of mutual concern in our home county of Bergen. He has been a source of sound advice and counsel. He has done much to make our community a good place to live, work, and raise a family.

Senator Cardinale has been a member of the state senate since 1981, following two years in the state assembly. He is currently deputy majority leader and, as chairman of the powerful and influential Senate Commerce Committee, presides over all legislation dealing with the business community, labor, insurance, industry and professions. Legislation he has sponsored to promote business and job development has included unemployment and automobile insurance reforms, lawsuit reform, tax relief for money market mutual funds, a 30-year rent control moratorium for new construction and government incentives for formation of corporate day care centers by the private sector.

Senator Cardinale has been involved in politics since he was elected to the Bergen County Republican Committee in 1962. He served as mayor of Demarest from 1974 to 1979 before being elected to the state assembly. He has been a delegate or alternate delegate to every Republican National Convention since 1980 except 1996 (when illness kept him from attending). He sought the Republican nomination for Governor in 1989.

Senator Cardinale is a true citizen legislator, operating his own dental practice in Fort Lee since 1959. He is a graduate of St. John's University and the New York University College of Dentistry. In addition to his political and professional careers, he has been active with many community organizations, including the Knights of Columbus, UNICO, the Sons of Italy, the Columbians and the Elks Club. A native of Brooklyn, he discovered the charms of New Jersey and moved to Fort Lee in 1960. He has lived in Demarest since 1964 and he and his wife, Carole, have raised five wonderful children in New Jersey—Marisa, Christine, Kara, Gary, and Nicole.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating my good friend Gerald Cardinale on this occasion and wishing him success in the future. He is a truly dedicated public servant who cares

deeply about those in his community and does all in his power to improve life in the State of New Jersey.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. DOYLE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas J. Doyle, a valuable principal in my district who is retiring. Thomas Doyle is retiring after 42 years of dedicated service to the Chicago Public Schools.

Mr. Doyle has been the principal at Byrne Elementary School since September of 1989. He has administered the Chicago Board of Education since 1957, where he started his career at the Graham Elementary School as a physical education teacher. In addition to Mr. Doyle's work with the Chicago Board of Education, he was also an instructor at other educational institutions. He worked summers from 1967 to 1970 at the Pirie School Teacher training Workshops as an instructor for Audio-Visual Techniques. Mr. Doyle worked part time as an instructor for various institutions, including Chicago State University and Daley City College. Mr. Doyle is committed to numerous professional affiliations and activities including serving as a member of the State of Illinois Reading Subgoals Committee, International Reading Association, the State Evaluation Team for the Illinois Office of Education, and the Chicago Area Reading Association (CARA).

Mr. Doyle's fairness, generosity, and positive attitude generate a strong respect from his staff and students. Mr. Doyle is attentive to the needs and concerns of the students and parents. As the leader of instructional activities, Mr. Doyle gives student recognition for academic achievement in the classroom. His positive reinforcement has boosted the morale of both the teachers and students of Byrne Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas Doyle's forty-two years of commitment to our youth is certainly worthy of recognition. I know that the community joins me in thanking Mr. Doyle for his dedication to our children.

RECOGNITION OF DIANE
PONTICELLI, MOTHER TO 1,022
CHILDREN

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Diane Ponticelli, an eighty-year-old resident of Johnston, Rhode Island who recently received—for the second time—the key to her hometown, in commemoration of her thirty-five years of service and dedication to more than 1,000 children for whom she cared over the years.

This selfless, big-hearted woman has been, and still is, a mother to these children, and the adults they have become, in every positive sense of the word. She considers each and every one of them to be her own child and

has always treated them accordingly. In a recent article in the Providence Journal, Mrs. Ponticelli remarked that she loves children and wishes she "could take care of more." I stand in awe of this woman and her incredible gift of unconditional love and acceptance to these children, who undoubtedly struggled through difficult family situations until finding the security provided in the Ponticelli home.

At one point, Mrs. Ponticelli had nine children staying in her house in Johnston, many placed by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families. She took in entire families of children so that siblings would not be separated; she gave up her own bedroom for the children and slept on a couch near one of her physically-disabled charges; she cooked big Italian dinners and maintained three sheds, four freezers, and three refrigerators; all the while, she showered them love, practiced discipline, and provided them with a stable, caring home. Mrs. Ponticelli is now eighty years old, suffering from cancer, voiceless because of sickness, and small and frail, yet she remains a figure larger than life. Her capacity for love knows no bounds, and her children reflect that same sense of caring and devotion, visiting her often and caring for her in her illness.

We often decry cases in which our foster care system has run awry and allowed innocent children to fall through the cracks. Tragedies such as the recent shooting in Littleton, Colorado, force us to reexamine and reevaluate what we are teaching our children, at home and at school. As often as we lament these tragedies, however, we must celebrate the occasions in which the system and strong parenting work. We must recognize that when the system does provide children with the stable home they so desperately need, it is people like Diane Ponticelli who make those successes a reality for the children. We cannot underestimate or understate the importance of instilling positive values in our children and teaching them to love and respect others.

Please join with me in the appreciation of Diane Ponticelli and other caring parents like her. We owe much to these individuals for their significant and continuing contributions to our communities and nation as a whole by raising children with love and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND J.
DELNOAH WILLIAMS AND THE
SILVER PARK PLAZA

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend J. Delnoah Williams, a highly respected community leader and Publisher of the Silver Star News, a weekly newspaper in the Ninth Congressional District. Since the newspaper's establishment in 1986, Reverend Williams has sought to make it more than just an outlet for the dissemination of news. The Silver Star News plays an integral role in improving our community. On its pages are important local and national issues. Reverend Williams and his professional staff always work to ensure that the activities of important local institutions like churches, small businesses, associations, sororities and non-

profits are given prominent attention. As the newspaper's masthead states, the Silver Star News is "Building Bridges For A Brighter Future" in Memphis.

In that tradition, Reverend Williams has undertaken a new venture. On May 15th, Reverend Williams will open the new Silver Park Plaza, a multi-service complex, for public and private events, including conferences, banquets, receptions, weddings, parties, meetings, seminars, recitals and concerts. The center will also serve as the newspaper's new home. What's significant about this new complex, Mr. Speaker, is that it not only represents a new beginning for the paper, it represents a new beginning for the Orange Mound community, the area of Memphis where the Silver Star News has had its offices since its founding. Through Reverend Williams vision and leadership, the Silver Star Park Plaza will serve as a catalyst for economic growth in the Ninth District.

The Silver Park Plaza venture is part of a larger national trend of capitalizing on the untapped social and economic assets in our under-served and rural areas. Michael Porter, a Professor of Business Administration at the Harvard Business School and founder and Chairman of the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, believes that a new vision of economic development is needed to accelerate business growth in these areas. Sustainable economic progress, according to Professor Porter, must be based on drawing on our untapped competitive economic advantages which already exist in our central cities. Consider that more than 54 percent of the workforce growth over the next ten years will come from workers in central cities. Moreover, our central cities represent more than \$85 billion in retail spending potential each year in the United States. The University of Memphis has documented this untapped economic potential in various sections of our city. Governments can help spur economic growth, but ultimately, it's the private, for-profit business enterprises that will transform our communities, create jobs and produce wealth. The Silver Park venture embodies that philosophy. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to recognize Reverend Williams and the Silver Park Plaza. I know that similar, untold success stories exist in congressional districts throughout the nation. I urge my colleagues to take a close look at them in order to learn how we can best shape public policy in recognition of this new direction of economic growth in America.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT M. BALL

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, this session Congress once again finds itself debating ways to strengthen our most important domestic program: Social Security. Like many Members, I have long valued the wise counsel of one of Social Security's greatest defenders, Mr. Robert M. Ball. For six decades, Mr. Ball has worked on behalf of our nation's elderly and the Social Security program. I have found that his long-term perspective and familiarity with the program invariably transcend the whims of today's younger critics. Earlier this

week, I read with great pleasure an article on Mr. Ball's achievements in the New York Times. The article which I include for the RECORD, eloquently describes his long-standing commitment to the Social Security program, and gives me hope that we will continue to benefit from his wisdom for years to come.

[From the New York Times, May 3, 1999]

A GREAT DEFENDER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY

BATTLES ON

(By Robin Toner)

The conventional wisdom these days is that any major change to Social Security is unlikely before next year's elections, but Robert M. Ball remains ever vigilant. In the unending debate over the nation's pension system, Mr. Ball stands as the great defender of traditional Social Security, the genius of its basic principles, the soundness of its basic approach.

"Though I feel good about our position," he said in a lull in the struggle on a lazy spring afternoon, "people who think like I do better be very careful, and we better have good proposals and we better be alert. Or something may happen that we don't like."

Mr. Ball comes by his passion honestly, having been at the Social Security wars for a very long time. He went to work for Social Security in 1939, ran the program as Commissioner from 1962 to 1973, and has since played a principal role on some of the important advisory commissions. He is a regular source of advice for leading Congressional Democrats, has sent a series of memorandums on the issue to the White House over the last few years and, yes, is a Social Security beneficiary himself.

Mr. Ball, who is 85, said he had no complaints about life on the other end of the Social Security check. "They do a good job," he said, happily settled for the moment like any other cardigan-clad retiree in the living room of his ranch house in Alexandria, Va.

For many Democrats engaged in the issue, Mr. Ball is an irreplaceable link with 60 years of history. "There's a reason why the program is what it is," said Representative Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota, a Democratic point man on Social Security in the House. "And Bob Ball can explain it to you."

For the last few years, Mr. Ball's consuming cause has been beating back the forces of privatization: the notion that at least part of Social Security should be replaced with individual accounts that workers could invest as they see fit.

He sees privatization as a "slippery slope," a dangerous step away from the guaranteed benefits of Social Security. He contends that the system can be shored up for the next century by far less radical measures, like raising the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security taxes.

Mr. Ball acknowledges that his views are shaped by a very different world than that of the young privatizers. One of three children of a Methodist minister, he grew up in northern New Jersey and graduated from Wesleyan University with a master's degree in economics during the Depression. There were no jobs.

For help, he turned to his thesis adviser, who happened to have a friend involved in the new Social Security program. "He said, 'Well, this program is just starting up. It's going to be a big program. It's an attractive program and an important social program, and it would be a good thing if you got in on it in the beginning.'"

So Mr. Ball took the Civil Service exam during his honeymoon (he spent the rest of the time on a camping trip with his wife, Doris) and began work as a field representative in the Newark office of Social Security for \$1,620 a year.

He spent his early years visiting employers, trying to straighten out wage records and, along the way, proselytizing for a program that seemed quite revolutionary at the time. On the wall of his office at home, he has a picture of that Newark field staff, earnest young foot soldiers of the New Deal.

There are other pictures on that wall: President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the law creating Medicare, which Mr. Ball helped put into effect. The Presidential commission, signed by John F. Kennedy, that named Mr. Ball head of Social Security. (Mr. Ball noted that it mentioned more than once that he served at the pleasure of the President.) A picture of the Balls with President Richard M. Nixon in 1973, when Mr. Ball was leaving office. The newspapers at the time said he was "pushed out." Mr. Ball says: "I was perfectly happy to go, but I couldn't have stayed if I wanted to. I lasted for the first term."

Along the way, the Balls brought up two children: their son is a psychotherapist; their daughter, an art therapist.

Mr. Ball acknowledges that his retirement has been less than restful. He does a lot of reading, and not just on social insurance issues, he said a trifle defensively. Mostly novels and Romantic poetry.

But the care and tending of Social Security keeps pulling him back.

"There was a time when I felt a lot of pressure on the basis that there wasn't anybody else really working on it very much," he said. "Now there's a whole group. They'll carry on whether I die tomorrow and do as good or better job."

That was the idea behind the National Academy of Social Insurance, a nonprofit organization that does research on social insurance and tries to "enhance public understanding" of the issues; Mr. Ball was one of its founders 11 years ago.

Still, it is not at all clear that Mr. Ball is ready to pass the torch and enter the land of retirement he helped create.

"My wife and I had dinner with him and Doris two nights ago," said Henry Aaron, an economist at the Brookings Institution. "I don't know of any other 85-year-old who's wrestling with what he's going to do, new. But Bob is wrestling with that. I think he sees the health care issue emerging anew."

IN HONOR OF THE VENTURA HIGH SCHOOL WIND ORCHESTRA

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Ventura High School Wind Orchestra, which earned a near-perfect score at the National adjudicators Invitational last month in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

This group of dedicated musicians walked away with Outstanding Concert Band Trophy, the Outstanding Percussion Trophy and the Outstanding Brass Trophy. Piccoloist Karen Magoon won the Outstanding Soloist Trophy, perhaps the most prestigious prize at the competition.

As a group, they earned a Performance Trophy Superior Rating, scoring 99 out of a possible 100 points.

During the contest, their rivals from schools across the United States gave the Ventura youngsters two standing ovations.

Mr. Speaker, as our nation works in concert to better our education system, it's important

that we support our music programs as part of an overall educational experience. Recent studies indicate that a study of music helps children's comprehension of math. It also gives them a feeling of accomplishment and worth. At the very least, it brings beauty into our world.

Michael Takazono, the Ventura High School Wind Orchestra director, deserves much credit for teaching his young charges the fulfillment of playing good music well.

The members of the Ventura High School Wind Orchestra deserve our congratulations. They are:

Brian Anderson, Luke Bechtel, Andrew Bittner, Jeremy Black, Kori Brashears, Amy Chinn, Bryson Conley, James Davis, Josephine DeGuzman, Joshua DeGuzman, Tim Eckberg, Shelby Fannan, Johann Gagnon-Bartsch, Russell Gardner, Joe Gartman, Laura Hardesty, Natasha Hart, Isaac Hilburn, Kelsey Hollenback, Derek Hutchison, Malena Jones, Matt Liter, Chad Long, Karen Magoon, Veronica Matsuda, Brianna McIntosh, Sarah Merin, Jason Morgan, Nathaniel Morgan, Ariel Murillo, Joshua Norton, Aaron Novstrup, Rahsaan Ormsby, Nicole Paillette, Michael Parker, Dana Parry, Megan Price, Aaron Singer-Englar, Rebecca Sams, Roger Suen, Graham Talley, Emily Talwar and Viena Wagner.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in applauding Mr. Takazono and the fine young musicians who comprise the Ventura High School Wind Orchestra.

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR NATION'S TEACHERS

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have this opportunity to add my voice as we honor our Nation's teachers on National Teacher Appreciation Day. I do so with great pride, because I was a school teacher and basketball coach back home in Mississippi for many years.

Every day we entrust the lives of our children into the hands of our Nation's teachers. The best thing we can do to honor teachers on this special day is to take all the heartfelt words of praise and turn them into meaningful acts.

We owe it to our teachers and our children to build new schools and modernize existing ones. We must move them out of old and overcrowded schools that are in need of repair, into new schools with new technology in the classrooms, so America can provide an education that competes favorably with schools systems around the globe.

We live in a global environment. The "arms race" has become the "economic race". We must keep up with new technologies, because our economic security depends on it. We must prepare our children for the kinds of jobs that arise from new technology.

As a Representative from a largely rural area in Mississippi, I have taken it upon myself to try to provide Internet access to every school in my Congressional district. Few students in my 15 counties are linked to the Internet, so I am bringing together school super-

intendents and local telecommunications executives and workers to make this dream a reality.

I am proud to have been a schoolteacher. I love working with the kids of today, for they are the promise of great things to come. Celebrating National Teacher Appreciation Day affords us the chance to honor teachers who are the bedrock of our community.

But we should not end the celebration when the gavel does down after the speeches are finished. We should honor our teachers every time we see construction cranes rise over a new school building, or every time a schoolchild logs on to the Internet to explore the world beyond the school walls.

But most of all, we should honor our teachers in whom we entrust the health and well being of our children by being good parents, good neighbors and good role models.

TEACHER APPRECIATION

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding teacher in my district of Washington State during Teacher Appreciation Week. This special teacher is Mark Oglesby, a government instructor at Tahoma High School in Maple Valley, Washington. Mark is a dynamic teacher who is consistently praised by both his peers and students for his dedication to helping government come alive for Tahoma High School students.

Each year, I have the pleasure of talking with Mark and his students when they visit Washington, D.C. for the We the People civic education program. The "We the People" program is a three-day national competition modeled on the hearings here in the United States Congress.

For the past several years, Mark has taught a class of students who, under his guidance, have won their state competition and then have come to Washington, D.C. to compete against other states at the national level. The extra time Mark takes with students shows in their consistent achievement.

Each spring I host a mock congress for high school students in my district to help them to gain hand-on experience of our government at work. These students elect a Speaker, run committees and hearings, write legislation, and lobby their fellow students to vote for their bills. Each year the students in Mark Oglesby's class stand out with their knowledge of how our democratic system of government works.

Mark also serves as the tennis and volleyball coach at Tahoma High, and as a Maple Valley City Councilman. He is clearly dedicated to teaching and willing to dedicate personal time to support the ideas in which he believes. Mr. Speaker, Mark Oglesby is one of our state's exemplary teachers. We are fortunate he is helping to train the leaders of our next generation.

TEACHER APPRECIATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, as Teacher Appreciation Week draws to a close, I want to especially commend those teachers, in my district and throughout the country, who make the extra effort to bring history, math, English, science, and other subjects, alive.

One example of that extra effort made by teachers throughout the country is Linda Stephenson, Bill Mulligan and Carols Lopez who have brought 42 students from Upland Junior High History Club in my district to learn about history and civics here in the Nation's Capital. They could have stayed back in California and taught from textbooks, but instead they made the effort to fly 3,000 miles with 42 junior high students to make the subject matter come alive.

Those are the kinds of teachers you remember into adulthood. I commend those dedicated American teachers who make what they teach come alive for their students.

HONORING KENNETH L. MADDY

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and honor a lifetime of dedicated public service.

Ken Maddy is a political legend in California's great Central Valley. A Republican in a largely Democratic district, Ken understood early what many of us have yet to learn about bipartisanship. Like the freeway which funds down the middle of the Valley bearing his name, Ken cuts through the political heart and soul of the Valley.

As we pause to honor him on the occasion of his retirement after 28 years, I am reminded of his very unique leadership style. Ken skillfully forged a niche of consensus in finding solutions that proves leadership transcends political parties.

To call Ken's style unique, is not to fully do it justice. Every once in a while someone comes along bringing a little something 'extra' to the table. Though it isn't tangible, it is nevertheless very real and it helps define leadership ability. Ken Maddy personifies that.

The Central Valley is a truly unique political arena. We pride ourselves on independent thought. We are proud of our ability to see beyond party labels and ideologies. Mr. Speaker, in large part, it is because of Ken's leadership that this thinking is prevalent today.

His dedication as a public servant is exemplary. Equally impressive is his list of accomplishments. Throughout his career, Ken authored more than 400 bills which were signed into law.

His vision and foresight put him on the front lines of legislative battles ranging from ethics for state legislators to crime; private property rights to reducing the scope of governmental regulations on agriculture; and balancing land use against legitimate environmental concerns.

Ken was also often on the cutting edge of health care issues such as Medi-Cal and Welfare Reform, free-standing cardiac catheterization labs, surgi-centers and most recently, the Healthy Families Act.

Because of his love and expertise of horse racing, Ken has virtually rewritten the horse racing law in California—writing more than 45 bills that were later adopted into law on the subject.

I know he is proudest of the very significant and lasting contributions he made in helping establish the California Center for Equine Health and Performance and the Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory at the University of California, Davis.

It is with great pride that I report to my colleagues that UC Davis officials named the building in his honor. Additionally, he was awarded the California State University Lifetime Achievement Award earlier this year.

One of the most telling signs of political maturity is acceptance and recognition by your peers. For three years, Ken served as Chairman of the Senate Republican Caucus before serving eight years as Republican Leader. He's a text-book case on "how to make things happen while serving in the minority party."

Ken was awarded the Lee Atwater Minority Leader of the Year Award in 1992 by the National Republican Legislators Association and is a six-time delegate to the Republican National Convention from 1976–1996, including two terms as an RNC whip in 1976 and 1984.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to rise and join me in honoring the lifetime achievement of a great man—my good friend, Ken Maddy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 13 young women from my home city of Grand Rapids, Michigan for achieving the highest honor in United States Girl Scouting, the Girl Scout Gold Award. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development.

Obtaining the Girl Scout Gold Award is no easy task and involves a total commitment. Over the last two years, these young women have dedicated themselves to obtaining this goal. In order to receive this award, recipients must earn four interest project patches: the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, as well as designing and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project in cooperation with an adult Girl Scout volunteer. This is all in addition to their school work and extracurricular activities. Recipients must and should be very proud to join this elite group of Girl Scouts.

The young women who will receive the Girl Scout's highest honor are: Carissa Becker, Jessica Gorman, Melissa Grossman, Shannon Kobs, Laura LaPorte, Liz Nieboer, Jennifer

O'Conner, Laura Olney, Tracy Peters, Erin Potter, Nicole Rittersdorf, Sarah Roberts, and Kristin Steelman.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to take this time to recognize the accomplishments of this distinguished group of young women. I applaud their dedication and desire to be among the best Girl Scouts. The lessons they have learned in obtaining this award and the teamwork they have experienced will be beneficial as they enter adulthood. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating each of these young ladies on this remarkable achievement. I wish each of them continued success in the future.

FOREST SERVICE FEES

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I introduced legislation which will prohibit the Forest Service from charging a fee for special permits issued to churches.

Some churches, which were established many years ago, currently fall within the boundaries of National Forests. These churches are now charged, or taxes, by the Forest Service to continue to hold their services or schools on the property that they have traditionally occupied.

I do not believe that this is an appropriate practice. Thus, I have introduced this bill which would prohibit this practice by the Forest Service.

Most of these churches are small and located in rural area. Unfortunately, they operate on a very limited budget. I do not think that eliminating these fees will hurt the federal government, which currently spends billions of dollars a year.

While this will mean very little in terms of the overall federal budget, it will be very important to these small churches in rural America.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a very modest proposal which I believe just about everyone could endorse. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill by cosponsoring it.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the fact that May is Mental Health Month. I have long been a strong supporter of our mental health programs and I would like to extend thanks to the many thousands who work day after day in the mental health field.

Those who work in the mental health field provide many of our constituents with the opportunity to consult with mental health specialists and receive the care they so desperately need. With an estimated 15 percent (or 28 million of the 185 million U.S. adults aged 18 and over suffering from mental health disorders), the need for recognition of the instances of

mental health is paramount. Moreover, because approximately 22 percent of the population will experience a mental disorder during the course of their lives, at an estimated cost of \$129 billion per year, the services that those in the mental health field provide is essential. Many Americans, who otherwise would have suffered in silence, now have the opportunity to seek treatment and lead the happy and productive lives so many desire.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that our colleagues will join in paying tribute to Mental Health Month and to those who suffer with mental disorders and those who work in the field. It is hoped that with the continued support of the Congress, forward progress can be made in mental health treatment.

ADLER PLANETARIUM CELEBRATES SPACE DAY

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize one of Chicago's premier institutions, the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum and to celebrate Space Day 1999. Located on Chicago's beautiful lakefront, the Adler was founded in 1930 by Max Adler "to be the foremost institution for the interpretation of the exploration of the Universe to the broadest possible audience."

Nearly 70 years later, the Adler has fulfilled Max Adler's mission by becoming one of the world's premier planetaria and astronomy museums. One of the first exhibits at the Adler featured a collection of historical scientific artifacts and rare books from around the world. This collection has grown dramatically, gained world-wide recognition and continues to be a mainstay of the Museum's exhibits.

Today, the Adler continues to grow and remain on the cutting edge of technology. On January 8th, 1999, the Adler celebrated the completion of its new Sky Pavilion, the first phase of a comprehensive expansion project which will ultimately double the Adler's current exhibit space. The architecturally striking Sky Pavilion is a two-story, 60,000-square-foot addition on the east side of the Adler's existing 1930 landmark structure. This facility comprises four major exhibition galleries, including the world's first "StarRider" Theater, a 3-D interactive virtual reality experience which transports audiences to other planets, stars and distant galaxies.

To fulfill its mission to reach the broadest audience, the Adler has become a key line between the astronomy research community and the education community. As a lead science museum, the Adler develops innovative education programs and exhibits and provides teacher training and support, as well as a field site for student experiences. Astronomers also work extensively with schools, complementing elementary and secondary school curricula, and have received enthusiastic support from teachers, principals, school councils and parents.

Today, the Adler is celebrating Space Day '99 with a full slate of gallery programming. The local Chicago chapter of the Mars Society will sponsor an information booth on how we have viewed Mars in the past, how and why

we are no traveling to Mars, and how we can transform Mars so it is suitable for humans. The Planetarium will also host video-conferencing sessions between astronomers and suburban Maine West High School students. Finally, Jim Plaxco of the Planetary Studies Foundation will give a lunchtime lecture on "The Intelligent Traveler's Guide to Mars." These events demonstrate the wide variety of activities and experiences the Adler has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 21st Century, it is clear that exploration of the cosmos is proceeding at a faster pace than ever before and the world is entering an exciting new era of discovery. It is with an eye to the future that I invite all Members to join me in celebrating Space Day with the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum.

IN HONOR OF BETTY FRANKLIN-HAMMONDS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay solemn tribute to a longtime civil rights advocate, Betty Franklin-Hammonds, of Madison, Wisconsin. Ms. Franklin-Hammonds has been known in the Madison community for her long-time advocacy on behalf of human equality and mutual understanding. She has ranked among the region's noted civil rights leaders, and has been widely recognized as effective, tenacious, low-key, and out front in nearly every civil rights campaign of the past 20 years. It is with great sadness that I note her passing on April 28, 1999.

Betty Franklin-Hammonds' commitment to organizations such as the NAACP and the Urban League was critical in ensuring equal rights for all of our citizens. Her unshakeable belief in equality of education for all was likely the force behind her strong leadership of the Madison Committee on the Achievement of Black Students, leadership which positively affected the educational possibilities for countless African American children in Madison. For nearly a decade, Betty Franklin-Hammonds served as the publisher of the Madison Times, today one of the most widely-read publications in Dane County. In her weekly column, Betty Franklin-Hammonds remained an outspoken advocate, sometimes voicing the concerns of thousands of others, other times advising, educating, or comforting.

Her unselfish contributions to the community brought numerous awards and recognition and she graciously accepted it all in stride, never slowing for even a minute from the enduring struggle for human equality and understanding. In the past few years, she has been recognized for her leadership at the helm of the Madison Urban League, and in 1993, Betty received the City of Madison's prestigious Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award. Earlier this year, she received the City of Madison Martin Luther King Heritage Award, and this month was due to receive the YWCA's Women of Distinction Award.

In recognition of the lifelong leadership provided by Ms. Betty Franklin-Hammonds, I ask the Congress today to recognize the life of this

great Civil Rights leader. She will be greatly missed by many, but her legacy lives on, as together we strive to achieve the goals of equality, education, and understanding that were so central to her life's work.

MOTHER'S DAY

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, on May 9, America will celebrate Mother's Day. This second Sunday in May was set aside for us to thank our mothers for raising us, for giving us a sense of security and independence, and for offering us their unconditional love. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all mothers, who know that there is perhaps no more important, more difficult, and ultimately more rewarding undertaking than raising a child.

I was very fortunate to have been raised by a loving mother in a stable and caring home. As we approach Mother's Day, however, I can't help but be reminded of the over 500,000 children in the foster care system in this country who await permanent homes. Although in recent years we have made great strides in improving the child welfare system, through legislation such as the Adoption and Safe Families Act, there is no substitute for loving parents and a permanent home. For thousands of children who are still waiting, adoption offers the hope to finally find a "forever family". I would like to remember the children who still wait to celebrate Mother's Day in a permanent home, as well as those families whom adoption has brought together.

Mr. Speaker, children are awaiting adoptive parents not only in this country, but in nations all over the world. For years, American families have reached across cultural and national boundaries to embrace children through international adoption. My own family was forever changed and enriched by the adoption of our two children from Korea. It is difficult for me to express how deeply grateful I am to have Kathryn and Scott in my life. This Mother's Day, it is my greatest hope that every family and every child still waiting will also have the opportunity to experience the joy of adoption.

FUNDING FOR THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our nation's farmers and therefore, in support of Mr. LATHAM's amendment. On March 24th, over a full month ago, we passed a supplemental appropriations bill which included \$110 million to support \$1.1 billion for loans that farmers and ranchers need to finance this season's work in the fields and pastures. These farmers needed that money a month ago; they are now nearing desperation.

In my district alone, the eighth district of North Carolina, there are several million dol-

lars worth of loan applications that have been turned in to the local FSA offices. These farmers are struggling to get their finances in order because they are relying on what appears to be an unreliable source—the Federal Government. This is more than a matter of delay in many cases, this is a matter of continuing to be a farmer, or finally giving up and throwing in the towel on the livelihood they know and love.

In addition to the farmers who are depending on these loans to put a crop in the field this year, I also have poultry and dairy farmers who are going to miss a season of revenue due to the loan situation. Many of my poultry farmers have been in the process of transitioning from raising turkeys to raising chickens and have lost their chicken house contractors because the builders have moved on to sites where they are sure to receive prompt payment. Again, that leaves those chicken farmers without chicken houses and therefore, without revenue. A full season of no revenue will affect these farmers for more than just one season.

To make matters worse, even when we do finally pass this legislation, we have caused a loss of faith from traditional lenders. Banks are now turning down farmers simply because they don't want to deal with farm applications. This is further limiting farmers because of Congress' inability to pass appropriations and provide a loan program that is reliable.

I will close by saying what we all already know, we have a critical situation right now in farm country. Congress has within its power the ability to alleviate some of the financial distress that agriculturists are feeling. Do the right thing today, pass this amendment and let's get to work on restoring faith in our system.

TRIBUTE TO TEACHERS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Teacher Appreciation week by expressing my appreciation for the valuable work of America's teachers and to ask my colleagues to support two pieces of legislation I have introduced to get the government off the backs, and out of the pockets, of America's teachers. Yesterday I introduced legislation to prohibit the expenditure of federal funds for national teacher testing or certification. A national teacher test would force all teachers to be trained in accordance with federal standards, thus dramatically increasing the Department of Education's control over the teaching profession.

I have also introduced the Teacher Tax Cut Act (HR 937) which provides every teacher in America with a \$1,000 tax credit. The Teacher Tax Cut Act thus increases teachers' salaries without raising federal expenditures. It lets America's teachers know that the American people and the Congress respect their work. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, by raising teacher take-home pay, the Teacher Tax Cut Act encourages high-quality people to enter, and remain in, the teaching profession.

Mr. Speaker, these two bills send a strong signal to America's teachers that we in Congress are determined to encourage good people to enter and remain in the teaching profession and that we want teachers to be treated

as professionals, not as Education Department functionaries. I urge my colleagues to support my legislation to prohibit the use of federal funds for national teacher testing and to give America's teachers a \$1,000 tax credit.

THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF SAINT
MARIES HONORS LOCAL LAW EN-
FORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate with the Saint Maries Optimist Club as they recognize the lives and labors of our local law enforcement community.

Mr. Speaker, It has been said: "Encouragers need to be encouraged!" I can think of no greater group today to applaud than our men and women who wear blue everyday to protect our communities and promote peace on a daily basis.

In July 1965, former Optimist International President, Carl Howen, recognizing the need to bridge the gap between police officers and the community, initiated the "Respect For Law" program and tonight, the Saint Maries Optimist Club continues to honor those who serve us in law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, as you well know, it has been reported that every 40 seconds a child is reported missing. According to a study by the U.S. Justice Department, 359,000 are kidnapped every year. These statistics are staggering and although numbers can be misleading we must no longer tolerate adults abducting or abandoning our adolescents! This is just one of the countless stressors that our law enforcement officers and officials have to deal with on a daily basis. The "Respect For Law" educates parents and communities of the pitfalls that plague our society (i.e. drugs, theft, arson, violence, battery, rape and murder).

On a positive note, crime in St. Mary's County has decreased 15% since 1998, and much of the credit can be attributed to Lt. Doug Slacum of the Maryland State Police (Leonardtown barracks) and St. Mary's County Sheriff, Richard Voorhaar. I would like to recognize Mr. Tom Slaughter, "Respect for Law" chairman and Rich Fry, President of St. Maries Optimist Club and their colleagues whom annually applaud the service and sacrifice of St. Mary's finest! My friend, Ms. Mary Whetstone of Mechanicsville has played a pivotal role as the Lt. Governor for zone 5 and I am pleased by the efforts of our law enforcement team of the Sheriff's Department, State Police and our prosecutors. For the record, the six law enforcement agencies represented this evening are the Maryland State Police, Department of Natural Resources, Sheriff's Department, Department of Corrections, NAS Police Department and St. Mary's College Department of Public Safety.

At this moment, I would like to mention and pay tribute to Deputy Keith Fretwell of the St. Mary's Sheriff's Department who recently passed away in his prime of a brain tumor. I attended Deputy Fretwell's funeral and his commitment to St. Mary's County will be the benchmark for all recruits to follow in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and the remainder of my colleagues to reflect with admiration and

appreciation of those who serve and have served in the respective districts of which we are so fortunate to represent in Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHOOL
QUALITY COUNTS ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to make the academic performance of all students the top priority of federal education programs.

This legislation would achieve that goal by taking four clear steps: strengthening accountability for student achievement; raising standards for teachers; rewarding successful schools and teachers; and providing better information to parents.

For far too long, the educational system in this country has operated under a policy of "acceptable losses." Too many children have simply been written off. They leave school—in many cases with a diploma—only to find out that they have not received the high-quality education that they need and to which every child in this country ought to be entitled. We must increase the opportunities for success.

We can do better. In fact, there are successful schools all over the country, in every type of community, that are living proof that all children have the ability to achieve beyond our wildest expectations, no matter what their economic or social background.

For example, according to data released recently by the Kentucky Association of School Councils, some of the schools achieving the highest scores on state exams in 1998 were high-poverty schools. In fact: five of the twenty elementary schools with the highest reading scores in the state were high-poverty schools; six of the twenty elementary schools with the highest mathematics scores in the state were high poverty; and thirteen of the twenty elementary schools with the highest writing scores in the state were high poverty schools. In all of these cases, high poverty schools outperformed much more affluent schools in order to reach the top twenty.

The success in Kentucky is not isolated. There are schools in every part of the country doing the same thing everyday. Our job, in this Congress, is to help all parents and educators in every community apply these lessons and achieve, for their children, the same success that these Kentucky schools and other successful schools are achieving.

The American public is leading the way on this issue. Our citizens are currently engaged in an inspiring, unprecedented effort to improve our public schools.

Parents and taxpayers understand that all children need a world-class education if they are going to succeed in the global economy, be productive members of our society, and participate actively as responsible citizens.

They have come to the conclusion that we, as a nation, have not asked enough of our children; that we have not set academic standards high enough; that we have not recognized the amazing things that our children can, in fact, achieve.

In California we are seeing great enthusiasm for education reform at the local level.

Parents are demanding better schools, and they are willing to invest the time and money needed to get them.

At almost an unprecedented rate, education bond issues—that must be passed by a two-thirds vote—are passing in California because people have decided that they want to reinvest in the public schools.

We are seeing similar things here at the federal level in support for increased education funding.

This is a pivotal time in education policy. We have an unprecedented opportunity to work with parents, educators, and communities in their drive to fundamentally improve the quality of education for all children. The right way for Congress to help in this effort is to provide the necessary resources and set clear and rigorous standards for accountability.

Now is the right time for Congress to act. This year we will be taking up the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, something we do once only every five or so years.

We come to this reauthorization at a point where the federal government has spent roughly \$120 billion over the last three decades on funding for the largest federal education program—the official title of which is "Helping Disadvantaged Children Meet High Standards," but which is more widely known as "Title I"—with uneven results.

To be clear, there have been notable achievements. The achievement gap between low-income students and their more advantaged peers narrowed significantly from 1970 until the mid-1980's. Independent studies suggest the federal effort on Title I and other educational equity initiatives have played a key part in this success.

Closing the achievement gap was a central goal of the title I program when it was enacted in 1965 and its accomplishments in this regard have been under-rated.

But in recent years the nationwide trend in narrowing the achievement gap has stalled—and in a few cases, we have even lost ground.

And yet the federal government has continued to send almost \$8 billion a year in Title I funds to states and schools with few questions asked and no real demand for higher student achievement.

As we look to reauthorize the Title I program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act for another five years, and invest somewhere in the neighborhood of \$50 billion or more in the program, we need to make a choice.

We can either learn from states like Kentucky, Texas, and North Carolina, and ask that all states, in return for billions in federal subsidies, set clear goals for student achievement and then hold them accountable for making progress toward those goals. Or we can continue writing checks and sending the message that we are happy with the status quo.

We are entitled to ask the same questions and expect the same commitment and accountability as a financial partner would in providing capital for a loan.

We don't want to micromanage your enterprise. States and localities have the primary responsibility for the day-to-day operation of schools.

But we can, and should, ask that:

(1) States lay out clear and measurable goals for the academic achievement of all students, including their goals for closing gaps in

achievement between student subgroups, such as between economically disadvantaged students and their peers;

(2) Children have access to the resources they need to meet these goals, especially high-quality instruction. The single most important factor in student achievement is a qualified teacher. Teachers need better training and stronger support, particularly in the early years of their careers. Aides have a role to play, but they must support, not replace, the classroom teacher;

(3) Schools and teachers that show results should be financially rewarded for their success in improving student achievement. Particular attention must be paid to high-poverty schools in which students are showing academic gains; and,

(4) Parents should be given better and clearer information about how their child is doing in school. And parents and other taxpayers deserve public report cards on the quality of their neighborhood schools and how they rank with others in their state.

By taking these steps, my bill will recommit federal education programs to their core goal—ensuring that all students have the opportunity to achieve, regardless of racial, ethnic, or economic background.

Here is how the bill would work specifically:

I. REPORT CARDS—INFORMATION TO PARENTS AND THE PUBLIC

Individual Report Cards: The bill requires Title I schools to issue report cards to all parents of Title I kids on the academic progress of their individual children, as well as their school, the school district, and the state overall. The report cards would be tied to the standards and the assessments used to evaluate the Title I program, and as such would complement report card grades on classwork.

Statewide Report Cards: The bill also requires public dissemination of information on the performance of all Title I schools and districts. The reports must emphasize disaggregation of data (e.g., by race, by economic status) to ensure better scrutiny on the progress of all at-risk groups.

II. TEACHER QUALITY

Parent Right-to-Know: The bill requires school to provide information to parents of all Title I kids with regard to the qualifications of their child's teacher(s). It would require active notification in those cases in which teachers are not fully qualified (including emergency-certified).

Qualifications of Title I Instructional Staff: The bill requires all Title I instructors to be qualified teachers (pass subject area tests or have an academic major and at least a B average in the subjects in which they are teaching). It would allow programs two years to ensure all Title I instructors are qualified.

The bill would allow schools to use funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to create financial incentives to lure qualified teachers to teach in high-poverty schools and provide training to "emergency certified" teachers and teacher aides who are good candidates for full certification.

III. STRENGTHEN ACCOUNTABILITY

The bill would establish a more stringent definition of what constitutes "adequate yearly progress" for Title I programs. It would take into account the progress of each program in raising the performance of all students and set as a goal the closing of the gap between mi-

norities and non-minorities and between more and less affluent students. It would require the federal Department of Education to re-review state plans under these new criteria and to solicit revisions from states whose systems do not conform.

IV. REWARDS FOR SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS

The bill would require states to set aside funds to financially reward schools and teachers whose students make significant academic progress. High-poverty Title I schools, and the teachers within them, that make significant progress would get special consideration.

Over the coming weeks, I also plan to explore additional options to complement this legislation, particularly for providing financial incentives to teachers who choose to serve in high-need schools.

It is time for Congress to stop sitting on the sidelines watching schools and students underachieve. We have an obligation to students, their parents and their teachers to do better.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PAUL E. TSONGAS FELLOWSHIP ACT

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the following in the RECORD.

Today, I have the privilege of reintroducing legislation that honors the legacy of Paul E. Tsongas, one of the outstanding leaders of our time from Massachusetts. I must commend a good friend of mine and former colleague, Joe P. Kennedy II, for sponsoring this legislation in the 105th Congress. In the 106th Congress, I commit myself to ensuring the passage of the Paul E. Tsongas Fellowship Act to serve as a lasting memorial to this great man.

Always a visionary, Paul Tsongas dedicated himself to strengthening our nation's economy through technological innovation and protecting the environment for future generations. As the inheritor of Tsongas' seat in the House of Representatives, I can think of no more fitting tribute to his legacy than to establish in his name doctoral fellowships for the study of the global energy and environmental challenges of the 21st century.

Many in Congress remember Paul Tsongas as an often solitary voice of caution, warning about saddling our children and our children's children with a mountain of debt. But his vision did not begin and end with budget deficits.

In announcing his candidacy for the Presidency in 1992, he outlined a much broader conception of intergenerational responsibility, saying "Just as we reach back to our ancestors for our fundamental values, so we, as guardians of that legacy, must reach ahead to our children and their children * * * That sense of sacredness, must begin with a reverence for this earth. This land, this water, this air, this planet—this is our legacy to our young."

Paul spent much of his career in public service making this vision of resource conservation a reality. He not only restored a run-down neighborhood park in our hometown of

Lowell, Massachusetts, but he also established the first urban park in our city. He also led efforts to preserve the historic lands and water of Walden Woods and helped to create the Cape Cod Commission, which is dedicated to protecting our open space.

Paul's concern for the environment did not end in Massachusetts, however. He was a national leader in securing the enactment of the Alaska Lands Act of 1980, a law that essentially doubled the size of our National Park and Wildlife Refuge Systems.

Tsongas understood the value of investing in human resources, as well. He often articulated the need to foster scientific achievement and innovation, which he saw as critical to keeping our nation's economy strong.

Our nation needs a pool of scientists and engineers with the intellect of Einstein and the public spirit and vision of Paul Tsongas to surmount the environmental and energy challenges posed by the 21st century.

Towards that end, the Paul E. Tsongas Fellowship Act would allow aspiring physicists, chemists, mathematicians, and computer scientists to enhance their skills through graduate education so they may become the pioneers of tomorrow. Furthermore, I am convinced that the fellowships in Tsongas' name will elicit a strong sense of intergenerational responsibility among the recipients.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Tsongas serves as a great inspiration to individuals who will dedicate their lives to advancing technology and environmental protection. A wise investment in our country's future, the Paul E. Tsongas Fellowship Act honors the memory of one of the finest persons ever to serve this institution.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST WEEK IN MAY AS NATIONAL ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Arson Awareness Week and to encourage all Americans to join in the crusade against arson. Each year hundreds of lives are lost and billions of dollars of property are damaged by arsonists. In 1997 alone, arsonists killed an estimated 500 Americans and inflicted direct property damage totaling more than two billion dollars. One of every four fires—some 500,000 that occur in the United States each year—result from arson. Arson is the second leading cause of death by fire in the United States, topped only by smoking. Unfortunately, the pain and horror of most arson occurrences are felt in residential communities. Each year, more than 90 percent of all civilian deaths and suspicious structural fires typically occur in homes. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, an especially sobering fact of arson-related incidents is that firefighters lost their lives fighting these intentionally-set fires.

There are steps each of us can take to prevent arson. First, owners of facant buildings should secure them to prevent vandals from setting fires for excitement. Second, parents of young children who exhibit a propensity to play with fire can call their local fire departments for a referral to a trained juvenile fire starter intervention program that will assist the

child. Third, business and institutional property managers can call their local fire marshal for advice on how to arson-proof their buildings. This is especially important for church leaders who have in recent years seen their places of worship come under attack by arsonists.

In my home State of Delaware our State Fire Marshall's office provides the resources to investigate fires, as well as maintaining an excellent Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program that helps hundreds of Delaware families each year deal with this very troubling problem. In 1997, the last for which full data is available, those 20 years of age and under accounted for 50 percent of all arson fires in the United States. Of that total, 39.9 percent were committed by youths under the age of 15.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of urgency that I encourage all Americans to be aware and concerned with the burdensome cost that arson inflicts on our society. As Delaware's Congressman and a Member of the Congressional Fire Service Caucus, I strongly urge everyone to contact their local fire officials to learn more about what they can do to extinguish the arsonists' match.

TRIBUTE TO THE KEENE SENTINEL, NEW HAMPSHIRE'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The Keene Sentinel. 1999 marks the bicentennial of The Sentinel, the oldest newspaper in New Hampshire, and the fifth oldest paper in the nation to be published continuously under the same name.

Under the guiding hand of publisher John Prentiss, the first edition of the New Hampshire Sentinel was issued in Keene on March 23, 1799. After 89 years as a weekly paper, The Sentinel began daily publication in 1890, and became a seven-day publication with the launch of a Sunday edition in 1996.

With the exception of 30 years in the 1800s, The Sentinel has been owned and operated by only two families: John Prentiss and his descendants, and then the Ewing family, which acquired the newspaper in 1954. The paper has enjoyed local and independent ownership throughout its 200 years.

Mr. Speaker, The Keene Sentinel, based in Cheshire County, serves the many communities of the Monadnock Region in southwestern New Hampshire. During the last two centuries, The Sentinel has chronicled the cultural, economic and social history of the region.

When John Prentiss first began publishing the paper in 1799, he had just one assistant. As Keene and the towns in the surrounding area have grown, the newspaper has expanded to meet the needs of the community. Today, with a circulation of 15,000, The Sentinel employs more than 100 people.

The Keene Sentinel has become a force in the community, advocating for open government, land use planning, and environmentally sensitive economic development in the Monadnock Region.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the institutional history of The Sentinel as well as the service the

paper has provided to the community during the past 200 years.

KENTUCKY NURSES WEEK

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of Kentuckians who have truly been called to serve others. Each day, thousands of children and adults walk into countless clinics, hospitals and care facilities to receive care and nurses comfort to those who are most in need. This week, I am pleased to join Kentuckians across the Commonwealth to celebrate "Kentucky Nurses Week."

Beginning today and lasting until May 12th, we will celebrate and honor the work that nurses do for each one of us. I am certain that each member of this body has had an experience with a nurse they can remember. From the school nurses who helped us clean off that scraped knee to the trauma room nurse ready during times of enormous distress, we can all appreciate the work the nurses do for our communities. With the hard work and compassion of nurses, we are able to receive the quality health care we deserve and expect for ourselves and our loved ones.

So today and for the next week, we in Kentucky will take an extra moment to offer a kind word or a special thank you to our nurses. The days are long, the work not always glamorous, but each day we are profoundly affected by the work of nurses, and I for one say thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REFORM THE \$1500 REHAB CAP

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 made some long-overdue savings in Medicare and has resulted in extending the life of the Part A Trust Fund from about 2001 to 2015. As budget policy, it has been a success.

There are some health policy problems, however.

In the BBA, we capped most outpatient rehabilitation services at \$1500 per patient per year for physical and speech-language therapy, and for occupational therapy. This was good budget policy, in that it provided an immediate limit to a sector that was growing at totally unacceptable rates that seemed to have little to do with the true need for rehabilitation services. It is terrible health policy, however, because in fact there are individuals who desperately need more than \$1500 in therapy.

I am introducing The Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Equity Act today to provide exceptions from the \$1500 cap for those who clearly need extra services. It will also require that we move to a diagnostic payment system that makes good health policy sense. Under my proposal, the \$1500 dollar limitations on services will be replaced by a patient classification system effective January 1, 2002.

While the BBA policy needs to be modified, some limitations on rehabilitation services were clearly necessary. Between 1990 and 1996 Medicare expenditures for outpatient rehabilitation therapy rose 18 percent annually, totaling \$962 million in 1996. During that time, outpatient rehabilitation spending shifted substantially away from hospitals and toward rehabilitation agencies and comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities (CORFs). Payments to agencies and CORFs rose at an average annual rate of 23 percent and 35 percent, respectively.

Clearly, Congress had to act—and using a meat-ax approach—we did. It is time to revisit this issue and substitute some decent health policy for blunt budget policy. The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission recently examined the potential impact of the coverage limits and found that some patients were more likely to exceed the dollar limits than others. The Commission found that hip fracture patients had the highest median payments and stroke patients incurred the next highest payments. While Medicare spent, on average, about \$700 per outpatient rehabilitation patient in 1996, half of all stroke patients exceeded the \$1500 physical and speech therapy limit. In contrast, less than 20 percent of patients with back disorders exceeded the physical and speech therapy limit. In 1996 about one-third of patients treated in non-hospital settings (rehabilitation agencies and CORFs) incurred payments in excess of \$1500 for outpatient physical and speech therapy or \$1500 for occupational therapy. Half of the patients affected by the limits exceeded them by \$1,000 or more.

My legislation will minimize the inequity and disruption of the BBA limits without substantially affecting the program savings. It allows for a system of exceptions identical to those proposed in legislation by Senator GRASSLEY. It then requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and implement a new coverage and payment policy of outpatient physical and speech-language therapy services and outpatient occupational therapy services. Instead of uniform, but arbitrary, dollar limitations, the new policy would be based on classification of individuals by diagnostic category and severity of diagnosis, in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

The Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Equity Act also requires that the revised coverage policy of setting durational limits on outpatient physical and speech language therapy and occupational therapy services by diagnostic category be implemented in a budget-neutral manner. This change in payment is related to overall utilization, it will not change the use of fee schedules or affect the payment rates for providers of these services. The payment methodology will be designed to be budget neutral in relation to the exceptions policy created by this legislation. Current law provisions to adjust the annual coverage limits on outpatient rehabilitation therapy services by the medical economic index (MEI), beginning in 2002, are retained.

The Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Equity Act recognizes that the Department of Health and Human Services' Health Care Financing Administration currently lacks the data necessary to implement a coverage policy based on a patient classification system on January 1, 2000. It further recognizes that assuring services for Medicare beneficiaries in the year

2000 is HCFA's number one priority. For these reasons, a phased—and longer than desired—transition to a patient classification coverage policy is necessary.

I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join me in support of the Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Equity Act of 1999. Together we can ensure that implementation of the BBA dollar limits on outpatient rehabilitation services will not disproportionately affect our most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries.

TRIBUTE TO BILL "BULL"
DAVIDSON

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Bill Davidson, affectionally known as "Bull" in Stuttgart, Arkansas on Saturday, May 2. Everyone who follows Arkansas State University football is familiar with this personable and talented man but I'd like to take this opportunity to enlighten my colleagues about this gentleman who will always be regarded as one of the greatest coaches ASU has ever had.

Bill was originally from Manila, AR but had lived for many years in Jonesboro, AR, home of Arkansas State University. His involvement with ASU began in 1953 when he was a center-linebacker on the football team and continued when named the offensive coordinator in 1963 for then head coach Bennie Ellender. In addition to being the offensive coordinator, Bill also served as the offensive line coach. He was one of the primary reasons ASU when undefeated in 1970 and were named National Champs for their division. When Coach Ellender left for Tulane University in 1971, Coach Davidson was placed at the helm. The first few years of Bill's tenure were somewhat lean, but the 1973 team finished 8-3 and portended future success. This success was realized in 1975 with an undefeated season and 16 players from that team signing pro contracts. It is considered by many ASU fans as the greatest ASU football team in the school's history. Unfortunately for ASU, in 1979 Bill gave up the head coaching reins primarily due to a severe problem back which had plagued him for some time. He then became an associate athletic director until his retirement in 1990. Bill was twice named Southland Conference Coach of the Year and was inducted into the Arkansas State University Hall of Honor in 1984.

I know there are college head coaches that have had more on field success than Coach Davidson, though his 51-31-1 record during his tenure is very respectable, however, I doubt any would surpass his ability to motivate and inspire his players. This was achieved in a number of ways and that is the mark of a great football coach, not just being proficient with X's and O's but discerning the team's personality and adapting their style of coaching to it.

It would also be difficult to find a coach who was more beloved by his players. Often ending a tough practice with all the players gathered around him, Bill would tell a joke or two and send everyone to the showers with a smile on their faces. His stories about other

players he played with or coached were also in great demand and guaranteed to break-up any listener. It was this wit and humor that enabled Coach Davidson to be a very effective recruiter of top high school football players throughout the country.

The people of Northeast Arkansas and ASU in particular will miss "Bull" Davidson but his legacy will be the young men in whom he instilled many of life's valuable lessons: physical and mental toughness, perseverance, dedication, and perhaps the most important of all, not making excuses for any failure that might befall them.

Bill is survived by his wife Donna and his daughter Sharon to whom I send my most sincere condolences.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 833) to amend title II of the United States Code, and for further purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 833 provides fair and reasonable bankruptcy reform to a system that is badly in need of repair. Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code was established to help honest, debt burdened individuals gain a fresh start. In 1982, when economic times were tough, less than 400,000 individuals used this portion of the Code, which forgives all existing debts.

Oddly, in today's economy in which real per capita annual disposable income is growing, unemployment rates are low, and the market is strong, Chapter 7 filings are at a record high with over 1.4 million people asking to be discharged from about \$50 billion in debt. Currently it is estimated that over 70% of bankruptcy filers use Chapter 7. Last year, 1.4 million personal bankruptcies were filed, an increase of 94.7 percent over 1990. By contrast business filings have remained steady over the last two decades. As my House colleague Congressman RICK BOUCHER aptly said, "bankruptcy was never meant to be used as a financial planning tool, but it is becoming a first stop rather than a last resort" to those who have the ability to pay a portion of their debts, but choose to ignore their responsibilities.

Clearly, the Congress has a responsibility to address this issue. Our nation simply cannot afford widespread abuse in our bankruptcy system. Consumers pay an estimated \$500 dollars per year in additional "hidden taxes" by companies trying to make up for the cost of bankruptcy losses. For this reason, I have joined the fight in promoting federal legislation that actively seeks to reform the Code and target those who abuse the system at the expense of others.

The Bankruptcy Reform Act, which passed yesterday with overwhelming bipartisan support will force those who should file under Chapter 13, and pay a portion of their debt, to meet their responsibilities. It insists that a debtor demonstrate that full bankruptcy relief under Chapter 7 is warranted. Those who do

not meet this needs-based test will be subject to a formula based on the debtor's income and obligations. The bill also ensures that debtors know all their financial options before they file bankruptcy. Often, debtors are the prey of entities that push debtors into bankruptcy without an explanation. This initiative will crack down on these practices. The bill also includes a House passed amendment that will require greater disclosure to debtors by credit card companies and other creditors about the types of fees and payments schedules that consumers may incur. By balancing the needs of creditors and debtors, this bill achieves meaningful bankruptcy reform.

NATIONAL TEACHER
APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Teacher Appreciation Week, and I want to honor the teachers of the Eight Congressional District of Massachusetts. Almost 5,000 teachers in over 176 schools educate approximately 86,000 students in the 8th district alone.

Many of today's schools are in disrepair. They are bulging at the seams. Students do not have chairs to sit on, let alone textbooks from which to learn. Despite limited resources, teachers persistently surpass these obstacles and devise new ways to stimulate our children to achieve.

So many teachers go the extra mile to ensure that their students are learning. They provide a variety of additional services, from assisting a student after school hours with their homework to giving up their Saturday to coach basketball. Teachers are more than just educators. They serve as mentors, managers, counselors, confidants and friends. Although they are not always rewarded or even acknowledged for their daily selfless acts, teachers continue to give of themselves in order to instruct our children.

In Cambridge, Massachusetts, several teachers have exemplified outstanding dedication to their jobs: Joseph Sullivan, who was bestowed with the honor of being elected to the Massachusetts Teacher Association board; Michele Owaross, who just recently led a group of 10th and 11th graders on a trip to China to study the society and culture of another country; Lucinda Leveille who brought six students to Russia recently and was honored for her attempt to promote international awareness by the Russian Government; and Jamalh Prince, Chelsea's indoor track coach who was named "Coach of the Year" by *The Boston Globe*.

Likewise, in Chelsea, Massachusetts, Adele Lubarsky has been teaching at the Sokolowski school in Chelsea since 1972. In those 27 years, Ms. Lubarsky has certainly kept active. As a 3rd grade Spanish bilingual elementary school teacher, she has set high standards to guarantee that her students will achieve now and in the future. Ms. Lubarsky also serves as a "mentor teacher" whereby she models lessons for other teachers and assists newcomers. Due to her dedication, she was awarded the 1996 "Outstanding Teacher of

the Year" award from Chelsea's school system.

Mr. Speaker, there are far too many teachers to mention everyone by name, however I'd like to take a moment to thank all the teachers in Belmont, Boston, Somerville, Cambridge, Chelsea, and Watertown for tirelessly giving of themselves to educate our future leaders.

Tomorrow, I will visit the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. school and the King Open school in Cambridge, and then I will attend a ground breaking at the Boston Latin school. Since becoming a Member, I have visited schools all over my district. However I am always amazed at the warm greeting I receive from students, and from teachers. For them, it does not matter who the visitor is, but rather that someone cares and recognizes the hard work they do.

Mr. Speaker, while we discuss education priorities this year, I hope each Member of Congress will reflect upon the valuable commodity each and every teacher in his or her district represents, and work to include rewards for teachers as a part of the education agenda. I know I will.

A COURAGEOUS DRUG FIGHTER AND HIS MEN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today's Miami Herald recounts the battle by the Colombia National Police (CNP) in a real war on drugs in that troubled nation. In attacking a major cocaine complex in Colombia, the anti-drug police (DANTI) under the leadership of General Jose Serrano and Colonel Leonardo Gallego took hostile fire, yet they managed to destroy a complex capable of producing tons and tons of deadly drugs, and seized a ton of cocaine and large quantities of precursor chemicals. The lab complex was capable of producing 8 tons of cocaine per month.

The DANTI used aged Huey helicopters without the proper Forward Looking Infra Red (FLIR) equipment that could have foretold the trouble that they would face on the ground from the right wing paramilitary run cocaine complex. Despite the lack of adequate helicopters and what the police really need in defensive equipment, they still prevailed. We are indeed fortunate to have allies like this in our common battle against illicit drugs in our hemisphere.

Just last Friday, along with my colleagues in the House, Representatives BURTON, MICA and DELAURO and Senator DODD, I traveled to the Sikorsky plant in Connecticut to attend the ceremony giving General Serrano what he and his anti-drug police need to fight a real war on drugs. The log book for six of the world renowned and effective Sikorsky Blackhawk utility helicopters were turned over to General Serrano and Colonel Gallego, the head of DANTI. These Blackhawk choppers will give these brave, courageous men what they need and should have had years ago.

One can only wonder what results we might have seen from the CNP if we had provided these Blackhawks sooner rather than later. I ask that the Miami Herald account of yesterday's operations in Colombia be inserted at this point in the RECORD, and I ask my col-

leagues to note what good and courageous men do in a real war on drugs.

[From the Miami Herald, May 5, 1999]

COLOMBIAN POLICE FIGHT OFF GUNFIRE TO
DESTROY COKE LABS

(By Tim Johnson)

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA—Fighting off gunfire from paramilitary forces, an anti-narcotics strike force on Wednesday raided what police described as one of the most sophisticated cocaine-processing complexes in Colombia's history.

Police said they destroyed three cocaine-processing laboratories capable of producing eight tons of cocaine a month.

"This is impressive. In my professional life, I have seen a lot of laboratories. But this is beyond imagination," said National Police Chief Rosso Jose Serrano, soaked in sweat after leading 300 officers on the jungle raid.

Serrano said the laboratories, discovered in a wooded area in the Magdalena River Valley near the town of Puerto Boyaca, were protected by rightist paramilitary forces.

Paramilitary forces have long been rumored to be involved in Colombia's huge drug trade, but their direct link to such a major processing site provides starting evidence of how deeply they are enmeshed.

The discovery further complicates Colombia's dismal security situation and underscores the difficulties of fighting the cocaine trade. The 15,000-member Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—bitter enemies of the paramilitary forces—also derive hundreds of millions of dollars a year from protecting coca crops and laboratories, mostly in the eastern plains.

Backed by 10 artillery-equipped helicopters, 300 members of an anti-narcotics force swooped down on the complex around dawn, police said.

"In the precise moment we arrived, they were in the middle of processing cocaine. We couldn't tell how many people were there, but there was an exchange of gunfire," police Col. Ramon Pelaez said.

Workers fled the scene as helicopters landed a little less than a mile from the laboratories, Serrano said. No arrests were made.

The laboratories, some up to four stories high, were covered by thick forest, Serrano said. Sleeping facilities indicated at least 200 people were employed at the site.

Serrano said the stench of ether—used to process the drug—hung over the complex.

Police said they found 150 tons of chemicals, a ton of pure cocaine, generators capable of providing power to a town of 5,000 people, gas ovens to process the cocaine and documents that provided valuable clues.

"We made an estimate that the structure is worth \$5 million," Serrano said. "It impressed me because I've seen a lot. But these were very well camouflaged. You passed over in a helicopter and you couldn't see them."

Serrano said the site included a sophisticated quality-control facility.

He said the laboratories, each one protected by control towers, were spread over more than seven square miles.

Serrano said he believed the laboratories were run by paramilitaries with remnants of the dismantled Cali and Medellin cartels, which at their height were the largest criminal organizations in the world. Colombia produces about 80 percent of the world's cocaine.

The site appeared to rival two other huge complexes destroyed by police in the past.

In March 1984, authorities were stunned by a massive jungle complex known as Tranquilandia, with a network of 19 laboratories. Police found 13.8 tons of cocaine at the facility, worth more than \$1 billion in

street sales. They later calculated that the complex could produce 300 tons of refined cocaine a year.

In early 1997, authorities found more than eight tons of cocaine at a processing facility in eastern Meta state that became known as Villa Coca.

That complex was also virtually an entire village, with 22 crude buildings, an all-weather airstrip, a control tower and 455 tons of chemicals used in refining cocaine.

In other news, the head of the National anti-Narcotics Office, Ruben Olarte Reyes, was forced from office by President Andres Pastrana amid charges that his brother had laundered money for drug traffickers.

An angry Olarte contended that he was being railroaded out of office and that his brother had rented a house without knowing that its owner was sought by authorities as a suspected drug dealer.

BOSTON'S TEACHING HOSPITALS

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article from today's New York Times which details the financial difficulties facing Boston's teaching hospitals. Many of the Boston teaching hospitals, which are located in my district, are experiencing serious Medicare cuts as a result of the Balanced Budget Act as well as from continuous cuts from managed care payments. These cuts threaten the important mission that our teaching hospitals provide—training physicians, caring for the sickest patients and providing care for the indigent.

I would ask my colleagues to read this important article and to take these points in mind as we debate the future of the Medicare program.

[From the New York Times, May 6, 1999]

TEACHING HOSPITALS SAY MEDICARE CUTS
HAVE THEM BLEEDING RED INK

(By Carey Goldberg)

BOSTON—Normally, the great teaching hospitals of this medical Mecca carry an air of white-coated, best-in-the-world arrogance, the kind that comes of collecting Nobels, of snaring more federal money for medical research than hospitals anywhere else, of attracting patients from the four corners of the earth.

But not lately. Lately, their chief executives carry an air of pleading and alarm. They tend to cross the edges of their palms in an X—with one line symbolizing rising costs and the other dropping payments, especially Medicare payments—and say they simply cannot go on losing money this way and remain the academic cream of American medicine.

Dr. Mitchell T. Rabkin, chief executive emeritus of Beth Israel Hospital: "'Every-one's in deep yogurt.'"

Jeffrey Otten, president of Brigham and Women's Hospital: "Most of the hospitals are losing money at a rate between a half-million and a million dollars a week," though their beds are mostly full.

Dr. Samuel O. Thier, president of the group which owns Massachusetts General Hospital: "We've got a problem, and you've got to nip it in the bud, or else you're going to kill off some of the premier institutions in the country."

The teaching hospitals here and elsewhere have never been fully immune from the turbulent change sweeping American health

care—from the expansion of managed care to spiraling drug prices to the fierce fights for survival and shotgun marriages between hospitals with empty beds and flabby management.

But they are contending that suddenly, in recent weeks, a federal cutback in Medicare spending has begun putting such a financial squeeze on them that it threatens their ability to fulfill their special missions: to handle the sickest patients, to act as incubators for new cures, to treat poor people and to train budding doctors.

The budget hemorrhaging has hit at scattered teaching hospitals across the country, from San Francisco to Philadelphia. New York's clusters of teaching hospitals are among the biggest and hardest hit, the Greater New York Hospital Association says. It predicts that Medicare cuts will cost the state's hospitals \$5 billion through 2002 and force the closure of money-losing departments and whole hospitals.

Here in Boston, with its unusual concentration of academic medicine and its teaching hospitals affiliated with the medical schools of Harvard, Tufts and Boston universities, the cuts are already taking a toll in hundreds of eliminated jobs and pockets of miserable morale.

Five of Boston's top eight private employers are teaching hospitals, Mayor Thomas M. Menino notes. And if five-year Medicare cuts totaling an estimated \$1.7 billion for Massachusetts hospitals continue, Menino says, "We'll have to lay off thousands of people, and that's a big hit on the city of Boston."

Often, analysts say, hospital cutbacks, closings and mergers make good economic sense, and some dislocation and pain are only to be expected. Some critics say the hospitals are partly to fault, that for all their glittery research and credentials, they have not always been efficiently managed.

"A lot of teaching hospitals have engaged in what might be called self-sanctification—'We're the greatest hospitals in the world and no one can do it better or for less'—and that may or not be true," said Alan Sager, a health-care finance expert at the Boston University School of Public Health.

But hospital chiefs argue that they have virtually no fat left to cut, and are warning that their financial problems could mean that the smartest edge of American medicine would get dumbed down.

With that message, they have been lobbying Congress in recent weeks to reconsider the cuts that they say have turned their financial straits from tough to intolerable.

"Five years from now, the American people will wake up and find their clinical research is second rate because the big teaching hospitals are reeling financially," warned Dr. David G. Nathan, president of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute here.

In a half-dozen interviews around the Boston medical-industrial complex known as the Longwood Medical Center and Academic Area and elsewhere, hospital executives who normally compete and squabble all espoused one central idea: Teaching hospitals are special, and that specialness costs money.

Take the example of treating heart-disease patients, said Dr. Michael F. Collins, president and chief executive officer of Caritas Christi Health Care System, a seven-hospital group affiliated with Tufts.

In 1988, Collins said, it was still experimental for doctors to open blocked arteries by passing tiny balloons through them; now, they have a whole bouquet of expensive new options for those patients, including spring-like devices called stents that cost \$900 to \$1,850 each; tiny rotobladders that can cost up to \$1,500, and costly drugs to supplement the reaming that cost nearly \$1,400 a patient.

"A lot of our scientists are doing research on which are the best catheters and which

are the best stents," Collins said. "And because they're giving the papers on the drug, they're using the drug the day it's approved to be used. Right now it's costing us about \$50,000 a month and we're not getting a nickel for it, because our case rates are fixed."

Hospital chiefs and doctors also argue that a teaching hospital and its affiliated university are a delicate ecosystem whose production of critical research is at risk.

"The grand institutions in Boston that are venerated are characterized by a wildflower approach to invention and the generation of new knowledge," said Dr. James Reinertsen, the chief executive of Caregroup, which owns Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. "We don't run our institutions like agribusiness, a massively efficient operation where we direct research and harvest it. It's unplanned to a great extent, and that chaotic fermenting environment is part of what makes the academic health centers what they are."

Federal financing for research is plentiful of late, hospital heads acknowledge. But they point out that the government expects hospitals to subsidize 10 or 15 percent of that research, and they must also provide important support for researchers still too junior to win grants.

A similar argument for slack in the system comes with teaching. Teaching hospitals are pressing their faculties to take on greater loads of patients to bring in more money, said Dr. Daniel D. Federman, dean for medical education of Harvard Medical School. A doctor under pressure to spend time in a billable way, Federman said, has less time to spend teaching.

"Good teaching stops to ask the question 'Why?—Why is this patient anemic?'—and explore the science," Federman said. "That gets squeezed now."

"If you don't ask 'Why?,' nothing moves forward," he added.

The Boston teaching hospitals generally deny that the money squeeze is affecting patients' quality of care, students' quality of education or research. But they say that if the current losses swell as expected, deterioration in all three will inevitably follow.

The Boston hospitals' plight may be partly their fault for competing so hard with each other, driving down prices, some analysts say. Though some hospitals have merged in recent years, Boston is still seen as having an oversupply of beds, and virtually all hospitals are teaching hospitals here.

Whatever the causes, said Stuart Altman, professor of national health policy at Brandeis University and past chairman for 12 years of the committee that advised the government on Medicare prices, "the concern is very real."

"What's happened to them is that all of the cards have fallen the wrong way at the same time," Altman said. "I believe their screams of woe are legitimate."

Among the cards that fell wrong, begin with managed care. Massachusetts has an unusually large quotient of patients in managed-care plans. Managed-care companies, themselves strapped, have gotten increasingly tough about how much they will pay.

Boston had also gone through a spate of fat-trimming hospital mergers, closings and cost cutting in recent years. Add to the troubles some complaints that affect all hospitals: expenses to prepare their computers for 2000, problems getting insurance companies and the government to pay up, new efforts to defend against charges of billing fraud.

But the back-breaking straw, hospital chiefs say, came with Medicare cuts, enacted under the 1997 balanced-budget law, that will slash more each year through 2002. The Association of American Medical Colleges estimates that by then the losses for teaching

hospitals could reach \$14.7 billion, and major teaching hospitals will lose something about \$150 million each. Nearly 100 teaching hospitals are expected to be running in the red by then, the association said last month.

For years, teaching hospitals have been more dependent than any others on Medicare. Unlike some other payers, Medicare has consistently compensated them for their special missions—training, sicker patients, indigent care—by paying them extra.

For reasons yet to be determined, Altman and others say the Medicare cuts seem to be taking an even greater toll on the teaching hospitals than had been expected. Much has changed since the 1996 numbers on which the cuts were based, hospital chiefs say; and the cuts particularly singled out teaching hospitals, whose profit margins used to look fat.

Frightening the hospitals still further, President Clinton's next budget proposes even more Medicare cuts.

Not everyone sympathizes, though. Complaints from hospitals that financial pinching hurts have become familiar refrains. Critics say the Boston hospitals are whining for more money when the only real fix is broad health-care reform.

Some propose that the rational solution is to analyze which aspects of the teaching hospitals' work society is willing to pay for, and then abandon the Byzantine old Medicare cross-subsidies and pay for them straight out, perhaps through a new tax.

Others question the numbers.

Whenever hospitals face cuts, said Alan Sager of Boston University, "they claim it will be teaching and research and free care of the uninsured that are cut first."

If the hospitals want more money, Sager argued, they should allow independent auditors to check their books rather than asking Congress to rely on a "scream test."

For many doctors at the teaching hospitals, the screaming is preventive medicine, meant to save their institutions from becoming ordinary.

Medical care is an applied science, said Dr. Allan Ropper, chief of neurology at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and strong teaching hospitals, with their cadres of doctors willing to spend often-unreimbursed time on teaching and research, are essential to helping move it forward.

"There's no getting away from a patient and their illness," Ropper said, "but if all you do is fix the watch, nobody ever builds a better watch. It's a very subtle thing, but precisely because it's so subtle, it's very easy to disrupt."

A TRIBUTE TO MARCY VACURA SAUNDERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marcy Vacura Saunders, the first woman to serve as Labor Commissioner in the State of California. Ms. Saunders' much deserved appointment to this position is an important milestone for working people and to Californians, and a tribute to her remarkable career and lifelong commitment to organized labor.

Ms. Saunders began her professional life as a flight attendant, and achieved the esteemed rank of Acting Chairperson of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants. She led a successful National Boycott of Conscience

against TWA's Carl Icahn. In 1987, Ms. Saunders joined the Building and Trades Council of San Mateo County. In 1993, she became the first and only woman in the United States to be elected Business Manager of a building trades council.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Saunders' tireless and unwavering efforts on behalf of the Council membership have assured the gainful employment of countless Californians and improved the quality of life of many Bay Area families. In 1994, under Ms. Saunders' leadership, the Building and Trades Council stimulated a stagnant economy in the City of East Palo Alto through the formation of the East Palo Alto Building & Trades Alliance. In 1996, she helped to obtain resolutions from 12 cities and the County of San Mateo supporting California's prevailing wage laws.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Saunders has demonstrated a tireless commitment to our community through her extraordinary volunteer service to organizations such as the United Way, the San Mateo County Convention & Visitors Bureau, the San Mateo County Exposition & Fair Association Board, the San Mateo County Commission on the Status of Women, the Redwood City Library Foundation, the San Mateo County/Redwood City Chamber of Commerce, the Soroptimist International, the San Mateo County Economic Vitality Partnership, the Shelter Network, LEADERSHIP San Mateo/Foster City/Burlingame/Hillsborough, START (San Mateo Recruitment and Training), and the Private Industry Council.

Ms. Saunders has been recognized for her selfless service as the recipient of the Soroptimist International's Women Helping Women Award, the Woman Of Economic and Social Development Award, the San Mateo County Labor Council C.O.P.E. Award, the United Way Labor Leadership Outstanding Volunteer Award, and the Mary Moshey Outstanding Community Volunteer Award. In 1994, Ms. Saunders was inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame as a tribute to her extraordinary achievements.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Marcy Vacura Saunderson's exemplary professional and personal accomplishments, Governor Gray Davis selected her as the Golden State's top advocate for working people. I commend and pledge my continued support to a most remarkable woman, whom I am honored to call my friend, and whom San Mateo County is proud to call its own—California State Labor Commissioner, Marcy Vacura Saunders.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I speak in honor of our nation's teachers, especially in appreciation for the teachers of our children in Guam. In addition to being our children's instructors, they are also our children's counselors, mentors, and friends.

Teachers run in my family's blood. My father was a teacher, and so is my mother. My wife and I are teachers, and my daughter is also a teacher.

It is a vocation with such truthful and honorable intent that it attracts a diverse following. We have teachers who are idealists and strive to continually engaging young minds in mental, social and cultural challenges to teachers who are realists secure in their knowledge that for our nation to progress, our children must be provided the best books and resources possible.

Teachers are a hardy lot. They experience setbacks such as budget cuts, increasing class sizes, decrepit school buildings and outdated textbooks, yet they persevere.

In a way, all of us are teachers. In our daily lives we are constantly showing our children or our colleagues how to accomplish certain tasks or how to view certain issues. But it takes a special person to make teaching their life's vocation. You must have a buoyant spirit, a gentle touch and an infinite amount of patience.

I would like to take this opportunity to especially congratulate one of these exemplary individuals on Guam, Ms. Barbara Gilman. She is Guam's 1999 Teacher of the Year and provides her excellent skills to the students of John F. Kennedy High School as their Physical Education instructor. It is not enough that Ms. Gilman has been featured in publications and the media, she has also won numerous awards on Guam such as the 1998 Outstanding Pacific Educator and a Resolution from the 24th Guam Legislature. Ms. Gilman's experiences are diverse. She is not only a current member of Phi Delta Kappa, the Guam Track and Field Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, she is also involved in staff development leadership activities such as the current chair of the Fifth Guam Teacher Forum, a coordinator and presenter at the 1998 Women in Sports Day, and the 1995-1996 chair of the Governance Committee in Goals 2000. Ms. Gilman is an accomplished teacher and community leader. With 30 years of quality teaching experience under her belt, it is small wonder that she is being honored this year as Guam's Teacher of the Year.

I had a meeting with Ms. Gilman and she expressed to me the concerns teachers from all over the nation have expressed during their conference here in Washington in April. Among their concerns are students' equal access to education resources and funding, the improvement of teaching conditions through reduced class sizes and increasing access to equipment and communications, the encouragement of teacher development and leadership through the creation of teacher forums and mentoring programs, and the promotion of public understanding of involvement in educational issues such as school safety and certification.

The concerns listed by the Teachers of the Year are already addressed by President Clinton's plans to improve our nation's educational system. With the collaboration of Congress and under the leadership of Secretary Richard Riley, one of our nation's foremost educators, the U.S. Department of Education has implemented the first phase of its Class Size Reduction Initiative, a policy that sets out to hire 100,000 new teachers over the next seven years.

In light of the recent rash of school violence, the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative grant program is timely. The program would fund 50 communities for up to three years to

link existing and new services and activities into a comprehensive community-wide approach for violence prevention and child development.

The teachers and children on Guam will certainly benefit from these programs, and I will work hard to ensure that Congress will continue to support these programs.

Again, to America's teachers, I congratulate you on this special occasion. To our Guam teachers, you deserve our sincerest gratitude for your leadership and guidance in our island's schools. To Ms. Barbara Gilman, thank you for your dedication to our island's children and for exemplifying the values and talents of a true teacher and mentor.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHEEPSHEAD BAY CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. WEINER. I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the First Baptist Church of Sheepshead Bay on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary.

The members of the First Baptist Church of Sheepshead Bay have long been known for their commitment to community service and to enhancing the quality of life for all New York City residents.

This is not only a festive happening, it is a chance for all of us to celebrate and pay tribute to a group of individuals who have dedicated their lives to spreading the word of God and to providing spiritual comfort to their friends and neighbors.

Knowing that the men of the Sheepshead Bay Race Track and their families needed a place to worship, Mother Maria J. Fisher held prayer meetings either in her parlor or in the front rooms of charitable community residents. The First Baptist Church of Sheepshead Bay, which was formally incorporated by the State of New York in 1901, was organized on May 21, 1899 by Mother Fisher and the Reverend George O. Dixon of Alexandria, Virginia. Members who attended the Church's organizational session included: Messrs. Joseph Braxton, Tom Greene, William Jackson and Mesdames Edna Adams, Jessie Bogart, Bertha Greene, Anne Johnson, Ida Shaw, Susie Tucker, and Mary Woods. Members who were not already Christians were converted and baptized in the Concord Baptist Church of Brooklyn, New York.

Upon their return to Sheepshead Bay, they joined forces with Mother Fisher to create the First Mission. The site of the Mission was on the corner of Avenue X and East 15th Streets. An old ice box was used for the Pulpit and the members donated lamps and chairs for the Church to use. When it was difficult to meet at the Church, members would convene at the home of Mother Fisher, who lived at 2362 East 15th Street.

Mrs. Lena McMillian served as the Mission's first organist while Mesdames Sarah Lowe, Alice Robinson, Fannie Winston, Bertha Greene, Fannie Brown and William Forehand raised their voices to the Lord in the Mission's first choir. While serving as the Church's first Sunday School Superintendent, Mrs. Fannie

Winston started the tradition of providing area youngsters with the moral precepts that they would need to grow into law-abiding adults.

The members of the First Baptist Church of Sheepshead Bay have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those with whom they come into contact. Through their dedicated efforts, they have each helped to improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations to the First Baptist Church of Sheepshead Bay on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CONGRATULATES JOHN STEMLER III, EWING KIWANIS POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Stemler III of Ewing Township, who is being honored by the Ewing Kiwanis Club as the Police Officer of the Year on Friday, May 7, 1999.

This award is bestowed upon him by his peers in recognition of his constant willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty.

In February of 1994, he began his employment with the Ewing Police Department as a Communication Operator. After graduating from the Trenton Police Academy Basic Training Course, he was sworn in on August 16, 1994.

After being sworn into office, Officer Stemler was assigned to the Patrol Bureau where he rose to become a Field Training Officer. Officer Stemler is also a member of the Police Department Tactical Response Team. He has excelled with many letters of commendation for his outstanding work as a police officer.

Officer Stemler is a graduate of the Ewing Public School system and a lifelong resident of Ewing Township.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Stemler is a great example for Central New Jersey. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION PACKAGE

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today to help combat the growing problem of youth violence in America. I began this effort last year in response to the needs identified following shooting at Thurston High School, in my hometown of Springfield, Oregon.

This legislation is designed to prevent youths from turning to violence by providing adequate crisis intervention and support services and to limit opportunities for troubled kids to obtain firearms. Politicians talk a lot about helping kids, but when it comes to putting money on the table, programs that invest in our children continue to go underfunded. We

must do better, or we will continue to see tragedies like those in Littleton, Springfield, Jonesboro, Edinboro, West Paducah, and Pearl. My package will boost funding for prevention and intervention programs that have a proven track record for helping at-risk kids and families in crisis.

Following the Thurston shootings, community leaders, educators, law enforcement and medical professionals as well as Thurston students and their families worked to develop an action plan identifying several grant programs that address specific needs in our communities. However, to develop new initiatives using these grants, or to expand existing programs, an increase in overall funding is essential. This package would provide this much needed funding for services to foster strong and healthy children, families and communities.

The causes of youth violence are extremely complex and there is no panacea. This package doesn't include everything communities may need, but it certainly addresses some of the key concerns our community has identified.

Youth Violence Prevention Act:

Increases funding for early childhood intervention programs such as Head Start.

Increases funding for juvenile justice delinquency prevention programs including court schools.

Increases funding for child abuse prevention programs focusing on community-based family preservation and crisis intervention programs.

Expands the National Guard's successful Youth Challenge program for troubled high school dropouts.

Provides incentive grants for states to implement a 72-hour hold for juveniles caught with a firearm on school grounds.

Authorizes expansion of the instant criminal background check system so a person who sells a firearm but is not a licensed dealer can check to see if a prospective purchaser is eligible to purchase a firearm.

Provides for a tax credit of up to \$250 for the purchase of safe storage devices for firearms.

Requires manufacturers to provide trigger locks for all purchases of new firearms.

Requires safe storage of firearms.

MY SERVICE TO AMERICA

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary conducts the "Voice of Democracy" broadcast script writing contest. This year's contest theme was "My Service to America". It is my pleasure to announce today that Bria Knorr, from Moorhead, Minnesota, is one of fifty-four national scholarship winners. Ms. Knorr reminds us that the spirit of service to our country remains strong among our nation's youth, and that individuals can make a difference. At this point, I'd like to enter Ms. Knorr's essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

MY SERVICE TO AMERICA

(By Bria Knorr)

3,536,341 square miles, 2,807 miles from sea to shining sea, and populated by 270 million

people. It's America and it's big. So large, in fact, that many people find it incomprehensible to think they could serve a country of such vast dimensions. It causes a person to wonder whether or not they can make a difference in a community of so many. However, if we page backwards through the history of our country, we find countless examples of single individuals changing America forever through their dedicated service.

One such man, traveling across the country as a doctor for Native Americans and settlers moving west was John Chapman. He is more commonly associated with the trail of apple trees he left where ever he went. To this day we hear of slightly legendized tales of the heroic self-sacrificial acts of a man committed to helping settle this great nation. Not only was he serving America in the eighteenth century, but also the many generations who would come to love his apple trees and his legends.

Another guide, traveling south and north rather than east and west, embodied the idea of advocating a principle through the liberation of peoples. Under the cover of darkness Harriet Tubman repeatedly risked her life to bring slaves out of servitude and into freedom. Her development of the underground railroad improved the lives of hundreds of runaway slaves.

The powerful motivator and leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Junior, chose to serve his country by speaking out against the hypocritical idea that all men were created equal but should not be treated that way. Through peaceful protest, this passionate man drew the attention of the country to the injustice of segregation. His service did not end when his life did, but goes on through the idea of equality he brought to the United States.

Single individuals can and have made a difference throughout the course of our history. But these greats are few and far between. Most of us never have the opportunity to render our services on such a scale. Are we worthless to our country? How can we serve this nation, this body of people?

I'd been regulating pumps for six hours and now it was in the dead of night; the purring of the pumps and the swish of water being mopped down the drain droned on monotonously as it had all night. When my family and I had gotten here, this couple had been manning their pumps 'round the clock for four days just to keep the rising flood waters from filling their basement. Their cistern would fill and need to be pumped out every fifteen minutes and water was running into the room through cracks in the cement floor. I was tired and uncomfortable and the air was cold. One more hour and my shift would be over. My thoughts drifted upstairs to the exhausted couple who were getting the first real sleep tonight that they'd had in days. I thought that tonight I might have been home in my warm bed. Instead, I was in a clammy basement, fighting off sleep to flip a switch every fifteen minutes and mop up water that would cover the floor just as soon as you finished pushing the last batch down the drain. I thought of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior, of Harriet Tubman, of John Chapman. I wasn't aiding anyone to freedom. I wasn't risking my life for an ideal, I wasn't improving the United States on a grand scale. But maybe this was grand for these people whose home I was protecting. I was doing something grand for some small part of the country. Perhaps that is what defines my service to America. For what is one foot in the 5,280 that make up a mile? Except that it wouldn't be a mile without it . . ."

RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY FOR THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the first annual Memorial Day for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community. This special day has been established to remember the many who have lost their lives due to killings, beatings, and suicides that have resulted from the homophobic attitude prevalent in our society and throughout history.

Every year, on the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, the world commemorates Yom Hashoah or the Day of Remembrance for the Holocaust. Although several museums throughout the United States and Europe include exhibits recalling the homosexual experience during the Nazi era, most Yom Hashoah services fail to mention that part of Hitler's reign of terror was the systematic attempt to eliminate homosexuals from Germany. It is estimated that, under his plan, tens of thousands of homosexuals were arrested and thousands were confined to death camps along with others he deemed "undesirable." Today's solemn remembrance is part of an effort to remove the veil of silence about this tragic history of persecution and killing, underscore the seemingly endless chain of hate crimes, and provide education aimed at eradicating intolerance and violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons.

I salute Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, the Church of the Holy Apostles, the International Association of Lesbian and Gay Children of Holocaust Survivors and the many other religious and community organizations that have joined in coalition to cosponsor today's solemn commemoration of the many lives lost as a result of a national reaction to homophobia. May their lives serve as reminders of the horrors of prejudicial acts of this kind. Let us honor their memory by committing ourselves to ending bigotry toward all people regardless of who they are or who they love.

TRIBUTE TO PETER MARONE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 7, 1999, the Ocean County, NJ, Democratic Party will pay tribute to Peter A. Marone on the occasion of his retirement as Assistant Supervisor and Investigations Coordinator of the Ocean County Board of Elections. Mr. Marone has served in this post since 1979.

Peter Marone has been a leader in political, civic and community affairs in Ocean County for as long as most area residents can remember. He was a member of the Point Pleasant Borough Governing Body for three decades (the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's), including a term as mayor from 1979–1982, and two periods of service as a Councilman, from 1974–78 and 1989–91. He also was a mem-

ber of the Point Pleasant Planning Board from 1979–82, and he served as Acting Administrator of the Borough from 1979–82. In 1976, he was appointed by former New Jersey Governor Brendan Byrne to the Open Access Public Beaches Study Commission. He has been a loyal and active member of the Ocean County Democratic Committee, serving as Treasurer and Sergeant-at-Arms from 1985–1999. He also currently serves as a New Jersey State Committeeman.

Peter Marone's service to his community and our country goes back decades. A New Jersey native, Mr. Marone served in the Korean War from 1948–52, and is a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans. He is a member of the Chosin Few (Korea–1950) Exclusive Fraternity, and has been decorated with the Japan Occupation Ribbon and the Korean Campaign Ribbon with five bronze stars. A past Senior Vice Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, he is a member of VFW Post 4715, and American Legion Post 196. He is also a member of the Loyal Order of Moose.

Peter and Doris Marone have been married 42 years, and they have three children. A communicant of St. Martha's Roman Catholic Church in Point Pleasant, Peter enjoys a number of activities besides politics—but he enjoys nothing more than his seven grandchildren.

As his friends and colleagues in the Ocean County Democrats pay tribute to Peter Marone, I want to add my voice to all those wishing him well and thanking him for so many years of steadfast service, solid leadership and true dedication to his town, county, state and nation.

CONSTITUENT COMMENTS ON CHANNEL ONE

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, one of my primary concerns, as a member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, is the education of our children. In this regard, we are always looking for new creative ways to improve our educational system. More and more, the private sector is providing teachers and schools with these creative ways to help our children learn.

I am pleased to commend the informative feedback given by one of my constituents as a result of his first hand observation of the Channel One experience in Manchester, TN. Gary Dyer is the Director of Accountability and Technology of the Manchester City Schools. His letter to Mr. Jeff Ballabon, Executive V.P. for Public Affairs for the Channel One Network, is as follows:

DEAR MR. BALLABON: It is my pleasure to write to you concerning this school district's experience with Channel One. We have been a part of the Channel One family at Westwood Junior High School since 1991. During this time, our experience with the Channel One Network has been very positive. As Director of Accountability/Technology, I have had the opportunity to be in the school on numerous occasions during the Channel One broadcast. I have personally observed that the students are very attentive during this broadcast and that the teachers have

used the broadcast material to supplement and enrich their instruction over these years. I have not heard of one negative comment about Channel One from students, teachers, or parents. In addition to providing televisions for most of our classrooms, Channel One has provided hours of current, relevant, and timely information. Channel One is an excellent program, and the Manchester City School District is pleased to be a member of the Channel One family.

Sincerely,

GARY W. DYER
DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTABILITY/
TECHNOLOGY.

READING TOGETHER USA AND READING TOGETHER ADULT TUTORS PROGRAMS IN NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, as the former North Carolina Superintendent of Schools and the Second District's Congressman, I rise today to call the attention of the Congress to the Reading Together USA Program and its extension by the proposed Program Reading Together Adult Tutors in North Carolina.

Reading Together USA is a peer tutoring reading program launched to improve the reading fluency and comprehension skills of second grade students with the help of fifth grade tutors. The program was collaboratively developed by University of North Carolina—Greensboro, Guilford County Schools, and the National Council of Jewish Women Institute for Education and Innovation at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Materials used are developed by the reading research literature, an institutional framework that has proved to be a well developed support system.

Highly acclaimed by students and tutors, parents and educators, Reading Together USA is a systematic and cost effective program to improve reading and comprehension skills of youngsters. The program received governmental funding in the amount of \$750,000 both in 1998 and 1999. Reading Together USA consists of nine training sessions for the fifth grade tutors who work with the students in thirty tutorial sessions. The students and tutors meet twice a week for 35 to 45 minute sessions. Furthermore, to determine the effectiveness of a session, the tutors meet their students twice a week to plan and prepare for the next session.

The response to Reading Together USA has been very positive as students have gained positive reading experience at a level that helps them to develop fluency and reading comprehension. Their tutors have also developed leadership, organization and human relation skills.

Because of enormous success of the program and to meet the growing demand for tutors the extension of Reading Together USA by Reading Together for Adult Tutors has been proposed. This program builds on Reading Together USA but features adult tutors targeting especially parents tutoring students at home and volunteers working with youngsters in schools in after school programs. The estimated cost of the two programs is \$2 million annually.

Study after study has demonstrated that sound reading skills are essential to a student's academic achievement. Students who learn to read well gain the ability to excel in other subjects and enhance their overall educational performance. Reading is a particular important ingredient for success in the Information Age and Congress must support innovative efforts to improve reading.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the great achievements of Reading Together USA and strongly support its proposed extension Reading Together Adult Tutors. Education holds the key to our nation's future. Education leads to progress. One of the most important responsibilities we have as a society is to provide quality education for all of our children that is crucial to succeed in a competitive global environment.

I encourage my colleagues to join students and tutors, parents and educators to support both Reading Together USA and Reading Together Adult Tutors and to allocate the necessary fund for the Fiscal Year 2000.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S TEACHERS

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the thousands of men and women who help our children learn during National Teacher Appreciation Week.

As a former high school teacher, who is married to a special ed teacher, I know both the joys and challenges teachers face every day.

I remember the sense of excitement my students shared with me when we watched Neil Armstrong step onto the moon in 1969. I will never forget the gleam in their eyes and their new-found enthusiasm about space and science.

I also know about the challenges. My wife, Susan, faces children with not only physical and developmental disabilities, but also emotional problems and mental illness. But, special ed teachers aren't the only educators who face emotional and behavioral problems.

Unfortunately, many of our children suffer from physical and emotional abuse, or live in homes wrought with substance abuse and violence. Teachers, alone, cannot solve all of society's ills. We, as a broader community, must help our teachers reinforce the lessons taught in school by getting involved with their education.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of parents and grandparents everywhere, I'd like to thank our nation's teachers for helping the next generation succeed.

MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION WELCOMES THE INTERNATIONAL REGATTA

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, I am submitting the following statement that welcomes an international regatta of spectacular sailing ships that will visit the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the city of Boston on July 11-16 in the year 2000. We anticipate a fantastic event and look forward to welcoming the world to Massachusetts and Boston.

SAIL BOSTON 2000

(July 11-16)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston officially welcome you to join with us in celebrating the New Millennium with a magnificent gathering of Tall Ships from all over the world from July 11-16 in the Year 2000.

The entire Massachusetts House Delegation in the United States Congress, Governor Paul Cellucci, both houses of the Massachusetts Legislature, and the Mayor of Boston, Tom Menino, are delighted to welcome the World's Tall Ships to Boston and to accept the American Sail Training Association, and International Sail Training Association invitation to serve as the Official Race Port for the Millennium Transatlantic Regatta Sailing from Boston to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and on to Amsterdam.

On July 11-16, in the Year 2000, the City of Boston and port cities and towns in Cape Cod and along the coast of Southeastern Massachusetts will host an international regatta of sailing ships to culminate in a Parade of Sail led by the U.S.S. Constitution, the oldest commissioned war ship in the United States Navy.

In 1992, when Boston hosted the most majestic and most successful Tall Ship event in the United States, over 150 sailing ships, and representative warships from over thirty-five nations graced the port of Boston with grand, international good will. Thousands of crew members mixed with over 7 million visitors from all over the world over a six day period, celebrating Boston's unique maritime history and cultural diversity.

From all accounts, Sail Boston 2000 will surpass the success of its predecessor in 1992. We have, to date, secured commitments from over eighty Sailing Ships and continue to work in conjunction with the United States Government and the international sailing community to once again share our magnificent harbor with the world.

FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS ACT

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the, First Time Homebuyers Act, which will make the American Dream of owning a home a reality for thousands of renters and low income families. Today renters often pay as much for rent as many homeowners pay for a monthly mortgage payment. It is not surprising that a recent Fannie Mae National

Housing Survey found that 60% rank homeownership as their top priority in life.

To many Americans, homeownership means financial, psychological and familial security. This is especially true for minorities, younger Americans and those with lower incomes. Homeownership means a stronger economy, after neighborhoods and a better quality of life. Mr. Speaker, given such an optimistic view of homeownership, why do so many individuals continue to rent? According to the Fannie Mae survey, renters cite the expense of a down payment as the major obstacle in their ability to afford a home.

Several years ago, I visited a home builder in York, PA, located in my Congressional District, who developed a unique and innovative arrangement in which moderately priced single-family homes are constructed for purchase with no down payment. A local financial institution finances 80 percent of the loan, while the builder the remaining 20 percent as a second mortgage. This creative financing plan makes the purchase of a home affordable for financially responsible, hard-working people who want to buy a home, but can not afford the down payment.

However, the Tax Code penalizes builders who finance the down payment on behalf of the purchasers. Currently, the Tax Code limits a builder's ability to finance second mortgages because it assumes that the buyers are paying the entire balance of their tax obligations in the year the property is purchased. The law also requires builders to pay taxes on the entire amount of the of the income received from a mortgage in the year the purchase is made. For a builder, it becomes almost impossible to pay these taxes, not having cash on hand to do so until received at a future date. In other words, the Tax Code prohibits a builder from using the installment method to calculate their tax liability. This situation places a builder in a financial bind and jeopardizes the future of this and similar housing programs.

The First Time Homebuyers Act will enable a builder to use the installment method to calculate their tax liability under certain specific circumstances. This bill applies to any one family, owner-occupied unit. The purchasers must be a first time homebuyer who qualifies for 100 percent of the loan. Further, the legislation directs that a second mortgage on the property be no more than 20 percent of the sale price and applies only to single-family homes costing no more than 75 percent of the median home price for newly constructed one-family residential real property in a given area.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation which is specifically geared to helping those who need the most assistance buying a new home. With your support the First Time Homebuyers Act, can make the American Dream an American reality.

HONORING JACK C. HAYS HIGH SCHOOL REBEL BAND

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Jack C. Hays School Rebel Band of Buda, Texas, recently earned the distinct honor of being selected for

the 1999 "Sudler Flag of Honor" award from the John Philip Sousa Foundation. This award is the highest recognition of excellence in concert performance that a high school band can receive. During the 17 years the award has been in existence, only 39 bands from the entire United States and Canada have been selected for the Flag of Honor award. Conductor Gerald Babbitt and his Rebel band deserve our praise and recognition on the occasion of receiving this prestigious award.

The John Philip Sousa Foundation designed this award to identify and recognize high school concert band programs of very special excellence at the international level. To be eligible for nomination, a band must have maintained excellence over a period of many years in several areas including concert, marching, small ensemble and soloists. The director must have been the conductor of the band for at least the previous seven consecutive years including the year of the award.

Each recipient receives a four-by-six foot "Flag of Honor" which becomes the property of the band. The flag is designed in red, white and blue and bears the logo of the John Philip Sousa Foundation. The conductor receives a personal plaque and each student in the band receives a personalized diploma.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to have such an outstanding high school band in the 14th Congressional District. I am delighted to extend my hearty congratulations to them. Their hard work and dedication is an inspiration to us all.

STATEMENT ON THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I begin with the following quote: "Without the assistance of the Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well."—Abraham Lincoln as he began his inaugural journey from Illinois to Washington, D.C., February 11, 1861.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the history of our Nation, leaders have turned to prayer for guidance and inspiration. Our Founding Fathers built this country on the principle that its citizens had a God-given right to freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Since that time, America has been a beacon for millions in search of religious freedom.

The first Thursday of May of each year is set aside as the National Day of Prayer. This day serves to recognize the important role of prayer in our nation's past, present and future.

We recognize today, Thursday, May 6 as the National Day of Prayer. Because of the recent events here at home and abroad, I believe this day has a special significance this year.

The recent events in Yugoslavia and Colorado have sharply reminded us that life is fragile and sometimes fleeting. While our nation is troubled by the senseless death and destruction that surrounds the war in Europe and the shooting in Littleton, we can take comfort in

the fact that our nation is also actively working to repair and heal itself.

As a new member of Congress, I have been thrust into the middle of the many policy debates that shape our nation. Often times there are tough choices to be made, and I am comforted by the fact that I have the ability and the freedom to turn to prayer as a source of guidance.

I hope that we as a nation will make time everyday for a period of prayer and reflection.

PLEDGING SUPPORT FOR THE TRUTH IN ROCK ACT

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation authored by my friend and colleague, Mr. KUCINICH of Ohio. The Truth in Rock Act would protect rock and roll's early heroes from the victimization of imitators by changing the trademark laws that allow the imposters to get away with it.

Under current trademark law, the original members of performing groups cannot use the names that made them famous without risking copyright infringement. But the original artists can be replaced by imposter performers who make recordings and sell concert tickets under their names.

You can buy a concert ticket to see the Drifters or the Coasters perform this summer. You'll be surprised to see on stage performers who are not the original Drifters or Coasters. You won't be listening to the memorable voices of those legendary artists; you'll be listening to their imitators.

The law allows the imposters to perform as the Drifters or the Coasters. Under that same law, the original members of the Drifters and the Coasters cannot mention their past affiliation with these bands.

This is a widespread practice that takes advantage of recording artists and consumers. The Truth in Rock Act corrects this inequity by permitting original recording artists to seek damages from the imposters. More importantly, it gives the original members of rock bands the right to advertise their ties to the groups they founded.

Tomorrow night I'll be joining a group of legendary recording artists who have been victimized by the trademark laws. These musicians are working hard to raise awareness on this issue and I'm proud to join them. They deserve the support of this Congress.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the territory of Minnesota and the counties of Dakota, Washington and Ramsey, the St. Paul Pioneer Press, the Minnesota Historical Society and Gibbs Farm in Falcon Heights. Each of these institutions have contributed to the culture and societal foundation of our great state!

The Saint Paul Pioneer Press has been a reliable source of information and communication for St. Paul and the surrounding communities. I commend them on their objectivity and thorough coverage of important events throughout Minnesota and the world and for spawning many rival newspapers, especially the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

The Gibbs Farm serves as a reminder of the origins of Minnesota. The original fabric of the Gibbs Farm, now in an urban setting, continues to teach and entertain our citizens with weekly events, and acts as a window into history. This is an unique and valuable resource for many citizens in the urban area.

The Minnesota Historical Society has become an icon in Minnesota; a treasure of information and preservation advocacy about who we are and where we have come from Exhibit symbolize important events of our past, and educate us on the importance of the future. Several exhibits planned for the fall will be centered around the sesquicentennial celebrations.

Even as a territory, Minnesotas' first counties took shape before the formation of our state. The lines that were drawn established more than boundaries. The community spirit we feel today was forged in the early years of our existence and these first counties—Ramsey, Dakota, and Washington—reflect our leaders heritage and geographic governance, then and now.

As a former teacher, I understand the importance of learning from history. The origins of our great state are important to our citizens today, and these institutions have played an important role in shaping and crafting the state. Physical reminders and symbolic entities encapsulate the heart and soul and the essence of what it is to be a Minnesota. As we employ the inspiration and lessons from our past, may we put them to such a good use as our antecedents.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD an article from the April 25th edition of the St. Paul Pioneer Press highlighting this historical landmark.

150TH ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATE HERITAGE, SPUR OPTIMISTIC DISCUSSIONS OF FUTURE

(By Heather Johnson)

Twin Cities native Leah Otto was intrigued that St. Paul's designation as territorial capital 150 years ago in 1849 helped spur a boom that more than tripled the city's population in five years—from 1,358 in 1850 to 4,716 in 1855.

That tidbit was among the facts she gleaned while doing research for the city's sesquicentennial.

Such trivia is what Otto, assistant director of marketing and promotions for St. Paul, hopes will be shared throughout the year as the city celebrates its history as the capital of, first, the Minnesota Territory and, since 1858, the state of Minnesota.

Since that initial burst of growth, she said, the city has kept thriving, a sign residents continue to feel St. Paul's pull.

St. Paul isn't alone in pausing this year to reflect on accomplishments and goals with explorations of the past, assessments of the present and optimistic discussions about the future. 1999 also marks the 150th anniversary of the organization of the Minnesota Territory and Washington, Ramsey and Dakota counties, as well as the Minnesota Historical Society, Gibbs Farm in Falcon Heights and the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

"There's a lot to commemorate," said Priscilla Farnham, executive director of the

Ramsey County Historical Society, speaking of the Gibbs historic site and the other sesquicentennial celebrators.

While they all share a common thread—growing together—each has had a distinct role in Minnesota history. The sesquicentennial is the perfect time, say celebration organizers, to educate people about those roles.

"It gives us an opportunity or an excuse to look back on the past," said Brian Horrigan, curator for "Tales of the Territory Minnesota 1849-1958," an exhibit that will open this fall at the historical society's Minnesota History Center. "It's important for people to understand the connection between the present and the past."

One goal is to dispel common misconceptions about the state's heritage, he said.

"I think people think in polar terms, that here were white settlers and Indians, when in fact there was a mix of people here," Horrigan said.

Also, he said, not all Minnesotans see the 150th anniversary of the Minnesota Territory as worthy of celebration.

"It was like an earthquake or a tidal wave—it was catastrophic for the Indians," he said of the population boom in the mid-1800s.

Recognizing such perspectives is part of a new way of viewing history, Horrigan said. It recognizes that "Minnesota" existed before it had its name, he said.

We're trying to bring Minnesota more in line with this new Western history, looking at the history of settlement not as history of triumphant conquering of the land. This is a much more complex story," he said.

While paying tribute to the territory, the society also is celebrating its creation, which preceded the state it serves by nine years.

Gibbs Farm this year is attempting something similar as it focuses on the Dakota Indians.

"Most people don't have a clue what sort of society they had," Farnham said. "It was a very fine culture. They had the very highest standards of workmanship. They were very efficient gardeners . . . I think it's just we plain don't know, and that's part of what I see our role is in commemorating the 150th anniversary."

Gibbs Farm, established by Jane BeDow Gibbs and her husband, Herman Gibbs, is open May 1 through Oct. 31 and features special events each weekend.

"One of the things we are going to be doing this summer is breaking ground to build a replica of the original sod house, which was built in 1849," Franham said. An interpretation of Jane Gibbs' association with the Dakota Indians will also be added, she said and the creation of a Dakota bark lodge will demonstrate Dakota heritage.

St. Paul and the three East Metro counties are also showcasing their heritage.

"We're celebrating our distinguished past and our promising future," said St. Paul's Otto. "We're celebrating what we have. We're celebrating what brings personality and charm to St. Paul."

That includes hosting, along with the Pioneer Press, 150 Pioneer Parties throughout the city. Events will span the whole year and include the city and surrounding area.

The Pioneer Press' role shows its continuing commitment to the community, said Marti Buscaglia, Pioneer Press vice president for market development.

"We have had a relationship with the community for 150 years and have been very much a part of that community, both in forming it and being its voice and its mirror," Buscaglia said. "As we go forward, it's important for us to continue that relationship with the community and to really serve

as the local paper for St. Paul and the surrounding suburbs . . . to get to know our customers better, find out what their needs are and be able to give them what it is they want from their newspaper and from the newspaper as a corporate citizen."

At the county level, Ramsey is encouraging residents to volunteer at events.

Ramsey County is very community oriented," said Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt. "There's nothing more community oriented than celebrating your history."

Residents can learn a lot along the way, she said.

"A lot of people are surprised—It's like '150 years? Really?' 'IA' she said.

As for the future, ensuring that St. Paul and Ramsey County remain economically strong is a goal, Reinhardt said.

In Washington County, organizers are celebrating the area's opportunities as well as its past, said Washington County Commissioner Dick Stafford.

"We can drive, in a few miles, from lakes and streams to oil refineries and moderate to million-dollar homes," Stafford said. "We've got every kind of industry you can imagine and every kind of recreation you can imagine . . . You've got every ethnic background you can think of, you've got every profession you can think of. It's probably a great microcosm of America."

Dakota County's sesquicentennial is "a work in progress," said Patrice Bataglia, county commissioner and co-chair of the project. Besides celebrating, the county hopes to educate residents, she said.

"What's so important is that it's the fastest-growing county," Bataglia said, citing the thousands of people who move to the area each year. "So many people who are moving to Dakota County are looking for an identify with Dakota County."

Reinhardt believes everyone can benefit from 150th anniversary celebrations.

"You really need to look back in order to know how you got to where you are and figure out where you want to be," said the Ramsey County commissioner.

"It's a celebration of our ancestors and our history, but more important than that, it's looking at how far we've come."

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 833) to amend title 11 of the United States Code, and for further purposes:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my opposition to the passage of H.R. 833, the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1999. I will vote 'No' on final passage, not because I believe that the bankruptcy system doesn't need reformulation, but because H.R. 833 is an unbalanced piece of legislation which does not offer the flexibility to accommodate the diverse circumstances confronted by debtors and bankruptcy courts.

The American Bankruptcy system was designed to give individuals who found themselves in insurmountable debt the chance to start over again. H.R. 833 threatens the promise of a fresh start by forcing the myriad situations debtors face into a narrow, rigid formula.

The strict, Internal Revenue Service "means test" used to calculate the average monthly expenses for all debtors does not even account for regional income and cost of living differences. In my own state of Hawaii, the cost of living is high. This provision will unjustly penalize my constituents who seek bankruptcy relief because their actual, higher living costs will be ignored. H.R. 833's proponents consistently refused proposals to create a more flexible means test.

H.R. 833 strips bankruptcy judges of the power to determine that exceptional circumstances exist in certain cases and adjust monthly expense allowances to accommodate such situations. Instead of seeking to find the best course of action to help debtors become solvent, H.R. 833, as amended, allows bankruptcy trustees who transfer their clients' petitions from Chapter 7 to Chapter 13 to be paid for doing so. This is bad, lop-sided policy.

H.R. 833 rewards credit card companies' practice of pushing easy credit on debt heavy clients. They are the only winners in this debate. The policy to force more debtors from Chapter 7 bankruptcy into Chapter 13 bankruptcy benefits only those creditors whose debts are dischargeable in Chapter 7 and not under Chapter 13: Credit Card Companies. H.R. 833 makes credit card debt non-dischargeable under Chapter 13 and puts these debts in the same category as child support and alimony payments.

I believe that people should be held personally accountable for their debts. I voted Yes on the substitute bill offered by Congressman NADLER, which would have reformed bankruptcy provisions in a fair, balanced manner. I regret that Mr. NADLER's restructuring substitute did not pass. I voted to pass the amendment offered by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, Congressman HENRY HYDE and Congressman JOHN CONYERS which created a flexible method of computing a debtor's monthly living expenses by providing guidelines to account for extenuating circumstances. This bipartisan amendment balanced a creditor biased bill. The Hyde-Conyers amendment also failed.

As the bill stands, I am unable to vote for it.

HONORING SPRAGUE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you this morning to salute Sprague High School in Salem, Oregon, which has been named a 1999 "Grammy Signature School, Gold Award."

I want all my colleagues in Congress, everyone involved in the Sprague Music Department, and everyone who cares about kids and music to know how proud I am of them and of this accomplishment.

The Grammy Signature School Program is a special part of the Grammy Awards that recognize professional artists. We've all seen the Grammy Awards on television, and this Signature School Program is a special part of that prestigious recognition that singles out excellent high school music programs.

I am delighted to congratulate Sprague High School as one of sixteen schools across the

country to receive the inaugural Grammy Signature School Program award.

Salem's Sprague High School is known world-wide as a high school that is committed to fine music. Whether it is the orchestra winning world-wide awards in Europe, the choir taking top national honors, or the band setting toes to tapping across the continent, Sprague teachers and students have worked hard together to make music that inspires.

These days, it's not easy teaching things that some people think are "extras," and music programs are often the first to land on the budget chopping blocks.

But anyone who has seen children in an orchestra practice, or heard the voices of a high school choir warming up in harmony, or delighted to the improvised rhythms of a high school jazz ensemble, knows that music and the arts aren't "extras" at all.

Those are essential elements not only of critical thinking and intellectual discipline, but also important places of physical and emotional refuge for students who are inspired by the arts. We are all too keenly aware of the need for students to have a sense of belonging in their schools, and by honoring the arts, we honor those students who thrive in the arts, and by encouraging them our culture is enriched.

So I am proud today to stand before you to honor the parents, teachers, music directors, principal Mark Davalos, and especially the students who pour their hearts and souls into creating music that brings joy to all.

IN SUPPORT OF AN AMENDMENT
TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
BILL PROVIDING COMPENSATION TO THE
FAMILIES OF THE RON BROWN PLANE
CRASH IN CROATIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, after much soul searching, the families of the victims of the military plane carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown that crashed in Croatia on April 3, 1996, have allowed us to introduce this amendment. It would provide up to \$2 million in compensation for each of the families of the tragic accident. This amendment is not what the families requested, nor is it what I sought when I first introduced the Ron Brown Tort Equality Act on April 15, 1997. Although this amendment would close the books on the accident, it would not render complete justice to the families; would do nothing to assure that there would not be similar victims of military aircraft in the future; and would have no deterrent effect to ward off serious negligence in the future. Yet surely this amendment is what is minimally required.

The Ron Brown Tort Equality Act had nearly fifty cosponsors in the last Congress and we are on our way to that and more now. This is a notably bipartisan bill in no small part because the victims originated in 15 states and the District of Columbia. The Ron Brown Act would allow federal civilian employees or their families to sue the federal government but only for gross negligence by its officers or employees and only for compensatory damages.

Because there will be few instances where gross negligence can be shown, this is a small change in our law. There also were non-federal employees on that fated plane for whom no compensation is possible today. Astonishingly, federal law does not allow compensation when private citizens are killed or injured overseas. Yet, private citizens can sue under the Act for the same injuries when they occur in this country. The Ron Brown Act would allow individuals who do not work for the federal government, or their families, to sue the United States for negligent or wrongful acts or omissions that occur in a foreign country.

This tragic accident yielded great sorrow and mourning by the nation and members of this body. The mourning period is over, colleagues. It is time now to compensate the families.

NEW DIRECTION FOR OUR
NATION'S HEALTH CARE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, "The crisis in American health care is real and getting worse." Those words appeared in an editorial today in *The Washington Post*, written by two distinguished scholars, former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and John C. Baldwin, vice president for health affairs at Dartmouth College.

I hope my colleagues will take a few minutes to read about the state of health care in our nation. Dr. Koop and Dr. Baldwin pointedly stress that universal access to health care must become a national commitment and will require a national investment. As important, they argue against the idea that health care should be treated as a commodity, saying that "(w)e must rid ourselves of the delusion that it is a business, like any other business."

At a time when 16 percent of Americans have no health insurance, health care costs are skyrocketing, and medical decisions are made by HMO executives beholden to shareholders, bold solutions are needed. As Dr. Koop and Dr. Baldwin state, "(o)ur problem is a failure of distribution, a failure to extend care to all of those who need it and a failure to recognize the importance of applying scientific rigor to the problems of broad-based health care delivery. If state-of-the-art American medicine were offered to our citizens in a comprehensive way, our levels of public health would be unexcelled."

They also recognize that we can not continue on our current path, to spend more than any industrialized nation in the world while providing less. Correctly, they conclude that "the movement over the past few years to turn health care into a 'business' through health maintenance organizations and other stratagems has not worked to the satisfaction of most Americans." Indeed, it is time for a new direction.

The crisis in American health care is real and getting worse. A record 16 percent of Americans now have no health insurance—a grave situation that will not be solved by conventional business models. Indeed, the movement over the past few years to turn health care into a "business" through health mainte-

nance organizations and other stratagems has not worked to the satisfaction of most Americans.

Frustrated, legislators across the political spectrum pursue the notion that legislative tinkering will solve the problems. But since the derailment of President Clinton's health reform plan in his first term—and particularly since the elections of 1994—the country has slipped or been lulled into a false sense of confidence that the real and worsening crisis in American health care can somehow be solved by implementation of "reforms" based on such euphemistic concepts as "gatekeepers," "pathways," "preexisting conditions," "risk pools" and other impediments to access—all disguised as tools of efficient management.

To be sure, health care costs have risen too rapidly in the past 20 years. Highly paid providers and administrators and exceedingly profitable health care corporations have played a role, though their contributions to rising costs have been less important than the effects of an aging population and the continual introduction of new technologies. But we must not abrogate our responsibility to make difficult choices in the vain hope that a "free market," profit-based system somehow will solve the problem for us without our doing anything.

If health care were a business, it would be a strange one indeed—one in which many sectors of the "market" could never be profitable. People with AIDS, most children with congenital, chronic or catastrophic illness, poor people, old people and most truly sick people could never pay enough to make caring for them profitable.

Over the past few years, nevertheless, we have often heard that "health care is like any other product; you buy what you can afford." Most proponents of this idea quickly add that of course "basic" health care should be provided. But what does this mean? Suppose two children, one in an uninsured family and one in a well-insured one, both developed leukemia, a treatable and often curable illness. What is the basic level of care each child is entitled to?

HMO executives properly emphasize that their responsibility is to shareholders. That responsibility is defined in terms of profit and stock price. The volume and market-share considerations in this "business" require aggressive pricing. Sustained profits, in turn, require aggressive cost-cutting. This results, inevitably, in restriction of access and withholding of care.

Both these things may well be necessary to improve efficiency and cut costs. But do we really want to relegate such decisions to analysts within the health care industry, or should we assert the public interest in these crucial ethical, societal and medical issues?

We nod our heads when we are told that the percentage of our GNP spent on health care is "too high" and that inefficiency, the "fat" in the system, results in its providing less effective care than is available in other industrialized nations that spend a lesser percentage. But this argument is specious. The American biomedical research endeavor, supported in the main by the taxpayers, had led the world for more than 30 years and continues to do so. Attendance at any medical scientific meeting anywhere in the world confirms this hegemony and affirms the enormous respect the rest of the world has for American medicine.

Our system is not a failure. The dramatic decline in deaths from heart disease is salient evidence for the phenomenal success of technologically advanced American medical care for those who can afford it. Our problem is a failure of distribution, a failure to extend care to all of those who need it and a failure to recognize the importance of applying scientific rigor to the problems of broad-based health care delivery. If state-of-the-art American medicine were offered to our citizens in a comprehensive way, our levels of public health would be unexcelled.

Like education (also, in important ways, not a business), the public health is a national investment and a crucial one. Could we justify a "privatized" educational system that denied access to slower learners unable to pay—i.e., the children who need help the most? When you consider that we spend more on leisure than on health care (22 percent more just on recreation, restaurant meals, tobacco and foreign travel), is the percentage of the GNP we spend on health care really so inappropriate?

The failure in distribution of health care is the product of our tacit acquiescence in the notion that health care access rightly depends on ability to pay. This idea has become, for many, a point of philosophical and ideological zeal.

It is long past time we acknowledged that broad-based access to health care will be an exceedingly expensive proposition. We must rid ourselves of the delusion that it is a business, like any other business.

The problem can be fixed. Forming a public consensus on this matter is a mighty and politically perilous challenge, requiring leadership and the courage to state that adequate health care is an appropriate goal for this country and a vital national investment. These are, indeed, treacherous waters. Can we get away from the clichés about "socialized medicine" and the hackneyed references to overly bureaucratized, centralized, inefficient postwar European health systems?

As world leaders in science, business and organizational management, we are capable of something new. We should maintain our commitment to the advancement of biomedical science for the public good and couple it with the management skills that have created our vibrant, competitive economy, and apply both in creating a national policy of investment in health.

John C. Baldwin is vice president for health affairs at Dartmouth College and dean of its medical school. C. Everett Koop is senior scholar at the Koop Institute there and a former U.S. surgeon general.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my district on Wednesday, May 5, 1999, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 108 through 115. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 108 on Approving the Journal; rollcall vote 109 on Ordering the Previous Question; rollcall vote 110 on the Hyde amendment to H.R. 833, the Bankruptcy Reform Act; rollcall vote 111 on the Moran

amendment to H.R. 833; rollcall vote 112 on the Conyers amendment to H.R. 833; rollcall vote 113 on the Watt amendment to H.R. 833; rollcall vote 114 on the Nadler substitute amendment to H.R. 833; and rollcall vote 115 on passage of H.R. 833.

Had I been present for the preceding votes, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 108, 110, 111, 112, 113, and 114. I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 109 and 115.

PRIVATIZATION: THE WRONG PRESCRIPTION FOR MEDICARE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, several Members have touted the idea that Medicare should be turned over to the private sector. Although they say that privatization will save the program, their true motivation is to irreparably damage Medicare to the point that there is nothing left to salvage. In the words of former speaker Newt Gingrich, they want Medicare to "wither on the vine."

Republicans have always intended to destroy Medicare. While they have found new ways to disguise their message over the years, their intention remains the same: get government out of health care no matter what the cost. "Privatization" is just another one of their ploys.

The truth is that the private sector cannot provide high quality health services to disabled and elderly Americans. Especially not at a lower cost.

Medicare was originally created to fill in the gap of health insurance coverage for older Americans, and later the disabled. Before Medicare, the private sector either refused to provide insurance coverage to the elderly, or made the coverage so expensive that seniors could not afford to pay the premiums. Lack of health coverage meant having to pay for health care out of their limited retirement incomes. This left many elderly poverty stricken.

Today the health coverage problem for older Americans is getting worse, not better. The fastest growing number of uninsured are people age 55–62, an even younger group than when Medicare was first established. Rather than extending coverage to this uninsurable group, Republicans insist on doing nothing, even though the President's Medicare early-buy proposal would have cost nothing.

Why should we believe that private sector insurers will put their financial interests aside and compete to provide coverage for an older, sicker population when evidence suggests that they will not? Especially as costs for the chronically ill continue to rise.

Republicans have also claimed that the private sector will save money for Medicare. This is simply not true. Over the past thirty years, Medicare's costs have mirrored those of FEHBP and the private sector, even though Medicare covers an older, sicker population. Recent evidence shows that private sector costs are now rising faster than Medicare's.

Last fall Medicare+Choice plans abandoned 400,000 Medicare beneficiaries claiming that the Medicare rates were too low to cover this population. This suggests that health plans will charge ever more than we currently pay them, not less.

Privatizing Medicare will not improve quality, either. Paul Ellwood, the "father of managed care," recently stated that the private sector is incapable of improving quality or correcting for the extreme variation in health services across the country and that government intervention is necessary and inevitable. In his words, "Market forces will never work to improve quality, nor will voluntary efforts by doctors and health plans. . . . Ultimately this thing is going to require government intervention." Why would we want to encourage more people to enroll in private health plans given the managed care abuses igniting the Patient's Bill of Rights debate?

Medicare is the primary payer for the oldest elderly, chronically ill, disabled, and ESRD patients—all very complex and expensive groups to care for. Private managed care plans, which primarily control costs by restricting access to providers and services, simply do not meet the health care needs of everyone in this population. For the most part, Medicare+Choice plans have enrolled only the healthiest beneficiaries, while avoiding those most in need of care. There is no way of knowing whether or not private health plans are able to provide quality care to the sickest population.

Medicare beneficiaries will have significant difficulties making decisions in a market-based system. This is potentially the most disastrous consequence of moving to a fully privatized Medicare program. Many Medicare beneficiaries are cognitively impaired. Thirty percent of Medicare beneficiaries currently enrolled in managed care plans have low health literacy. That is they have difficulty understanding simple health information such as appointment slips and prescription labels. Now we're discovered that health plans often fail to provide critical information to potential enrollees. How can we expect senior citizens and the disabled to participate as empowered consumers in a free-market health care system, especially without essential information?

Medicare reform cannot be based solely on private sector involvement. More than 11 million Medicare beneficiaries—30% of the population—live in areas where private health plans are not available, and because of the limited number of providers probably never will be available. A comprehensive, viable, nationally-based fee-for-service program must be maintained for people who either cannot afford to limit their access to services in private managed care plans, or who are incapable of participating in a free market environment.

Unfortunately the debate surrounding privatizing Medicare is grounded in ideology, not fact. While I understand the need to improve and expand the choices available to Medicare beneficiaries—the Medicare+Choice program was created in recognition of this—we also have an obligation to preserve the promise of guaranteed, affordable health insurance for the people who need it most. The private sector is not a panacea for our problems. Historical experience proves that alternative solutions are necessary for our elderly and disabled citizens. Before we move to an entirely new system, we should attempt to improve the existing infrastructure, one that has served elderly and disabled citizens effectively for over thirty years.

ARIZONA ANTI—DEFAMATION
LEAGUE HONORS DANIEL R. ORTEGA, JR.

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to proudly bring tribute to a fellow Arizonan who has long exemplified the meaning of leadership, community, and good citizenship. He is a well-respected leader in Arizona and Phoenix, and someone whom I'm proud to call my friend—Mr. Daniel R. Ortega, Jr.

In my home state, Danny recently received the Leader of Distinction Award from the Arizona Region of the Anti-Defamation League. This award was established to honor extraordinary individuals for their successful professional and philanthropic achievements. It recognizes people who have truly made a difference in the lives of Arizonans through their strength, courage, creativity, individuality and motivation, whether professionally or in their personal pursuits.

I can attest that Danny is one of the most revered individuals in Phoenix when it comes to community. He has been a dauntless voice, particularly for the Latino community, when no other voice was there to champion their causes. Whether he is fighting for the rights of migrant farm workers, advising elected officials on community issues, or advocating for his clients, he has guided decision-making with wisdom and moral purpose.

An attorney by profession, Danny has served on the board of directors of numerous national organizations. He sits on the boards of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, National Council of La Raza, and the Los Abogados Hispanic Bar Association. He also serves on the disciplinary Commission of the Arizona Supreme Court, and is a member of the Stewardship Board for the Roman Catholic Church of Phoenix. He is a member of the Arizona State Bar, American Trial Lawyers Association as well as the American and Maricopa County Bar Associations.

Previously, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Arizona Trial Lawyers Association, Valley of the Sun United Way, Arizona State Alumni Association and Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. He also served on the Arizona Industrial Commission, the Phoenix Aviation Advisory Board, the Maricopa County Commission on Trial Court Appointments and Arizona State Bar Peer Review Committee.

Danny is a 1974 graduate of Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. He received his Juris Doctor degree in 1977 from ASU's College of Law. Before going into private practice, he was an attorney with Community Legal Services in Phoenix. Currently, as a partner with the law offices of Ortega & Associates, P.C., he provides legal services in the area of civil litigation, personal injury law, employment law, and government and non-profit agency representation. Mr. Ortega primarily concentrates in the litigation of personal injury and employment matters.

Danny is the oldest of eight children born to Elvira and Daniel Ortega Sr., both of whom ingrained a deep sense of family and commu-

nity into their children. He has served as a volunteer in many campaign positions including field operations, fund-raising, finance and campaign chair.

Mr. Speaker, as you can surmise, Danny Ortega is an exemplary leader and a profoundly committed individual who is a true role model for the nation. He has effected change that has improved the lives of and broken down barriers for many Arizonans. Therefore, I am pleased to pay tribute to my friend Danny Ortega, and I know my colleagues will join me in thanking him and wishing him great success.

IN RECOGNITION OF VIRGINIA K.
GRIFFIN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and recognize my friend, Virginia Griffin, for her 32 years of gracious public service to the city of Cincinnati, especially to the children of Cincinnati. After 32 years as an elected member of the Cincinnati school board, Mrs. Griffin had decided to retire so she can devote more time to her family. Although her decision to step down is understandable, her departure will create a void that will be very difficult to fill.

A product of the Cincinnati public schools herself, Mrs. Griffin was first elected to the school board in 1967. She led the district through many tumultuous issues, including a contentious desegregation lawsuit shortly after her election, countless curriculum changes, and numerous levy campaigns.

In the early 1980's, she played a key role in the development of the magnet school program to promote both racial balance and innovative, high-quality educational programming. She also is rightfully proud of the district's first alternative school—the German language academy. She has been a staunch protector of the district's magnificent art collection. She led the changes to keep this historic and unique resource intact. In fact, one of her last acts as a member of the school board was to make the Cincinnati Art Club in Mount Adams the caretaker of the collection.

Her expertise in legislative and financial matters over the years made Mrs. Griffin an invaluable member of the Board, and it is in these areas that her departure will be most felt.

Mr. Speaker, Virginia Griffin represents the best of public service. She served the city, especially its schoolchildren, with dignity during her 32 years of service. She deserves our thanks for a lifetime of work well done.

CRISIS IN KOSOVO—REMARKS BY
ADM. EUGENE CARROLL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on April 21, 1999, I convened the first in a series of Congressional Teach-In sessions on the Crisis in

Kosovo. If a peaceful resolution to this conflict is to be found in the coming weeks, it is essential that we cultivate a consciousness of peace and actively search for creative solutions. We must construct a foundation for peace through negotiation and mediation, and through honest diplomacy.

Part of the dynamic of peace is a willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue, to listen to one another openly and to share our views in a constructive manner. I hope that these Teach-In sessions will contribute to this process by providing a forum for Members of Congress and the public to explore alternatives to the bombing and options for a peaceful resolution. We will hear from a variety of speakers on different sides of the Kosovo situation. I will be introducing into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD transcripts of their remarks and essays that shed light on the many dimensions of the crisis.

First is a presentation by Admiral Eugene Carroll, USN (Ret) who now serves as the Deputy Director of the Center for Defense Information (CDI). Adm. Carroll analyzes the stated objectives of the bombing of Serbia and whether the exercise of military power is capable of realizing those objectives. He also discusses the fundamental character of the Rombouillet plan that was presented to Mr. Milosevic, and the importance of Russian intervention in achieving a durable resolution to the crisis. I commend this excellent presentation to my colleagues.

PRESENTATION BY ADMIRAL EUGENE CARROLL,
USN (RET) TO CONGRESSIONAL TEACH-IN ON
KOSOVO—APRIL 21, 1999

The conventional wisdom is that war is much too important to be left to generals and admirals. As a result, in a democratic society, the question of going to war and the objectives to be sought in a war are political responsibilities. The objectives are defined in political terms. It is very important at this point that the objectives be attainable by military force. The two must match. And the objective must merit the use of this blunt, destructive, indiscriminate process we call war. The outcome, the achievements, must outweigh the damage and destruction and loss occasioned by the war.

Looking at Kosovo we find that the objectives have been a little hard to nail down. But two of them stand out. Deter and degrade the ability of Serbian forces to effect ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. And, to compel Serbian compliance with the Rambouillet plan. The first objective, the protection of the Kosovars, was never obtainable by the means employed. The air war cannot protect these abused people. It is impossible to control military and political conditions on the ground with air power alone. The power, the authority, on the ground will control the situation. There is so much evidence of this that it is simply undeniable. We have the ability to punish, we can destroy, we can kill. But to control the situation, and protect the Kosovars? No. The means of air warfare alone did not match the objective. What does the destruction of the Socialist Party headquarters in Belgrade do to mitigate the conditions of Kosovars in Kosovo?

The second objective, namely compelling compliance with the Rambouillet plans, was also unattainable by air power. Rambouillet was a demand for total capitulation by the Milosevic government. The capitulation did not just apply in Kosovo. I don't think this is entirely understood. It was far broader than that. Appendix B of the Rambouillet plan spelled out the problem this way. "NATO personnel shall enjoy together with

their vehicles, vessels, aircraft and equipment free and unrestricted passage, and unimpeded access, throughout the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including associated air space and territorial waters." So NATO is to have access to and control of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). NATO is granted the use of airports, roads, rails and ports without payment of fees. This goes on and on. NATO will exercise police power. It will have full use of the electronic spectrum in the region. It will have immunity from all FRY jurisdiction related to criminal offenses. The plan required total surrender of sovereignty by the FRY.

The terms were presented to the Milosevic government in non-negotiable form—here is the plan, you sign here or we bomb. Obviously, no government could accept such a usurpation of its sovereignty. In human terms, it would have been the end of Milosevic. If someone had designed a plan to be certain that it was going to be refused, they could not have done better than the Rambouillet plan. Thus the second objective fails until military force produces an unconditional surrender, the total collapse of the power and authority of the central government. And that cannot be achieved from the air.

NATO can clearly defeat Serbia on the ground. I don't think that was ever in doubt. But before you make the decision to proceed that way, you have to figure the time required and what will happen during that time. The bombing will go on. The Kosovars will be eliminated because we are talking about a matter of months. The cost in terms of the total destruction in the Serbian-Kosovo region is immeasurable.

We have been bombing for about a month. We've done a lot of damage. But we will go a lot further, in terms of wiping out the Serbian economy, if we push troops forward. The cost and difficulties of invading with ground forces, of going to the point of effecting an unconditional surrender by the Serbian government, simply are incalculable. This would constitute total defeat for Milosevic. But does that constitute a NATO victory?

I think it is very important that we distinguish between a Milosevic defeat and a NATO victory. Certainly the Kosovars have already lost. The Serbs have lost already. They have lost lives, property, much of their economy and this will only intensify. In terms of its own stated objectives, even with unconditional surrender, NATO loses. NATO becomes responsible for restoration of a devastated nation and this is a task which will take years and billions of dollars. And a continuing military presence because none of the fundamental problems that produced the violence in the beginning have been addressed or resolved. If anything, many of the factors have been exacerbated. We have inherited a tragedy. We are responsible for it. We cannot call that victory.

Will it bring peace to the Balkans? That's the word being bandied about Washington. We're going to pacify the Balkans and bring stability to Europe. Will it bring peace to the Balkans? No. We can stay there on guard over them with guns and tanks, but we cannot pacify the Balkans when we don't treat the fundamental issues that guide the conflict there.

The solution must ultimately be political and it must be based upon negotiations, not ultimatums. You are going to have to come to

understandings and agreements and accommodations which have merit and benefit for both sides if you hope to produce any enduring quality to the solution. NATO has to get out of the way. The United Nations must live up to its responsibilities—with American support for a change—financial and otherwise, and the OSCE must step in and play a leading role in attempting to separate the military element of NATO from the people of Serbia. NATO cannot, I believe, be the honest broker in the final resolution of this.

The last point. This is the time and opportunity to bring Russia back into the European security equation. If anyone thinks there can be peace in the Balkans, or peace in Europe indefinitely—stable, cooperative security arrangements—without Russia being part of it, they are very mistaken. Yet what we have done so far in the Balkans is to isolate Russia, to denigrate them, to humiliate them, by ignoring their interests and their concerns. I believe that Russia, under the UN Security Council, can play a leading role as a mediator in bringing about an end to violence in Serbia.

As much as I oppose the bombing as being irrelevant to solving the Balkan situation, I do not at this moment favor a moratorium on the part of NATO. I favor negotiations going forward with the understanding that when there is an unequivocal commitment on both sides—the withdrawal of Serbian forces from Kosovo and the end of bombing—then is when the cease fire would go into effect. There would have to be positive evidence and good faith on both sides to bring about the end of violence in Kosovo.

My message to you: There is no military solution in Kosovo or Serbia.