

The legislation is focused on the national needs and includes very few tribal specific authorizations. Several of the programs normally administered by the Indian Health Service headquarters would be decentralized under this legislation with more funds distributed to IHS area offices to address local priorities. The bill also includes important health care training and recruitment provisions to assist with the chronic shortage of qualified health care providers. Additionally, the bill is designed to work cooperatively with contracting and compacting provisions under the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act.

I am introducing this important legislation at the request of the national steering committee on the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. All the important component of Indian health care delivery are addressed in this bill including access to, and care for, diabetes, prenatal care, ambulatory care, alcohol and substance abuse, mental health, coronary care, and child sexual abuse. Certainly, there will be changes made to the bill as it proceeds through the legislative process, but this bill provides a solid basis for us to work from.

I commend the hard work and dedication of all the members of the national steering committee and those within the Indian Health Service who helped produce this legislation. For far too long Native Americans have put up with inferior health care. I will push for swift consideration of this bill and ask all my colleagues to join me in passing legislation to ensure that our first Americans are afforded only the best health care this nation can offer. We have the responsibility to accept nothing less.

TRIBUTE TO CLIFFORD STONE, JR.

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Clifford Stone, Jr. for his hard work serving seniors throughout Jefferson and Gilpin Counties in central Colorado. After working in the private sector as a lawyer for over 40 years, Clifford retired. But instead of retiring, Clifford chose to help senior citizens navigate their way through the sometimes confusing world of law. By running the First Judicial District Bar Association Legal Assistance Program, Clifford has helped countless seniors with many legal problems.

Clifford and the Program have been a beacon of hope throughout Gilpin and Jefferson Counties. The Program has had to handle the changing needs of seniors from legal questions involving estate planning to grandparents' rights. The Program is a non-profit organization and is available to anyone who is 55 years of age or older.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Clifford and all of the people that make the First Judicial District Bar Association Legal Assistance Program such a positive community resource. Due to Mr. Stone's dedicated service, Colorado is a better place.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 209
CONDEMNING THE USE OF CHILD
SOLDIERS AND CALLING FOR
U.S. SUPPORT FOR AN INTER-
NATIONAL AGREEMENT AGAINST
THE USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced House Concurrent Resolution 209, a bipartisan resolution which strongly condemns the outrageous use of child soldiers around the world and calls on our government to support an international effort to develop an optional protocol to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This resolution—which is currently cosponsored by over 40 of our distinguished colleagues—is based on the deeply disturbing testimony of numerous expert witnesses before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. They reported the most horrific practices including the forcible conscription of children—some as young as 7 years old—for use as combatants in armed conflicts around the world. As we speak, children are being conscripted into armies of some countries and warring factions through kidnaping and coercion, while others join out of economic necessity, the intention to avenge the loss of a family member, or for their own personal safety.

Many times, these children are forced to kill in the most sadistic and gruesome fashion, their victims often other children or even their own family or friends. By forcing children to perpetrate the most horrific crimes against their own families ensures that these child soldiers cannot desert and can never return home.

Mr. Speaker, our resolution clearly exposes the full scope of the problem of child soldiers. As it notes, experts estimate that in 1999 approximately 300,000 individuals under the age of 18 are participating in armed conflict in more than 30 countries around the world, and hundreds of thousands more are at risk of being conscripted. The practice of conscripting children has resulted in the deaths of two million minors in the last decade alone. In addition to those children who have been killed, an estimated six million have been seriously injured or permanently disabled. Let there be no mistake, Mr. Speaker, this truly global problem needs a global solution which can only be brought about by determined and concerned action of the world community.

For this purpose, the United Nations established a working group in 1994 to develop an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to address the issue of child soldiers. The United States and Somalia, a country without a functioning government, are the only two recognized countries in the world which have not ratified this Convention. Therefore, the U.S. cannot even be a party to this Optional Protocol. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which establishes very stringent and necessary protections with regard to educational, labor and developmental provisions, gives the world "child" the following meaning in Article 1: "For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier."

It is simply beyond my comprehension that the same Convention—which otherwise protects children in a comprehensive manner—makes an age exception in Article 38(3) for the most dangerous profession in the world, that of soldier: "States Parties shall refrain from recruiting any person who has not attained the age of fifteen years into their armed forces. In recruiting among those persons who have attained the age of fifteen years but who have not attained the age of eighteen years, States Parties shall endeavor to give priority to those who are oldest."

In light of the global developments I have outlined, the U.N. Working Group seeks to raise the minimum age for recruitment and participation in armed conflict from 15 to 18 years of age, but the U.S. delegation to the Working Group so far opposes this overwhelming international consensus, preventing a unanimous draft protocol.

On October 29, 1998, this international consensus resulted in the decision by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to set a minimum age requirement of 18 for United Nations peacekeeping personnel made available by member nations of the United Nations. On the occasion of the unanimous adoption of Resolution 1261 (1999) on August 25, 1999 by the U.N. Security Council condemning the use of children in armed conflict, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu, addressed the Security Council. The Special Representative urged the adoption of a global three-pronged approach to combat the use of children in armed conflict including the raising of the age limit for recruitment and participation in armed conflict from the present age of 15 to 18 years; increased international pressure against armed groups which abuse children; and addressing political, social, and economic factors which create an environment where children become soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, the international consensus is clear, and our government should not stand in the way of this consensus. Our government should not give unintentional cover to nations with deplorable human rights records by giving them an opportunity to hide behind the current U.S. position on this issue. While the U.S. accepts 17-year-old volunteers into its armed forces with parental consent, U.S. armed forces de facto already ensure that all but a negligible fraction of recruits have reached the age of 18 before being deployed in combat situations, because 17-year-old volunteers are in the "training pipeline" and do not complete their training until they are 18 years of age.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the text of H. Con. Res. 209 be inserted at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 209

Expressing condemnation of the use of children as soldiers and the belief that the United States should support and, where possible, lead efforts to establish and enforce international standards designed to end this abuse of human rights.

Whereas in 1999 approximately 300,000 individuals under the age of 18 are participating in armed conflict in more than 30 countries worldwide and hundreds of thousands more are at risk of being conscripted at any given moment;

Whereas many of these children are forcibly conscripted through kidnaping or coercion, while others join military units due to economic necessity, to avenge the loss of a

family member, or for their own personal safety;

Whereas many military commanders frequently force child soldiers to commit gruesome acts of ritual killings or torture against their enemies, including against other children;

Whereas many military commanders separate children from their families in order to foster dependence on military units and leaders, leaving children vulnerable to manipulation, deep traumatization, and in need of psychological counseling and rehabilitation;

Whereas child soldiers are exposed to hazardous conditions and risk physical injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, malnutrition, deformed backs and shoulders from carrying overweight loads, and respiratory and skin infections;

Whereas many young female soldiers face the additional psychological and physical horrors of rape and sexual abuse, being enslaved for sexual purposes by militia commanders, and forced to endure severe social stigma should they return home;

Whereas children in northern Uganda continue to be kidnaped by the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) which is supported and funded by the Government of Sudan and which has committed and continues to commit gross human rights violations in Uganda;

Whereas children in Sri Lanka have been forcibly recruited by the opposition Tamil Tigers movement and forced to kill or be killed in the armed conflict in that country;

Whereas an estimated 7,000 child soldiers have been involved in the conflict in Sierra Leone, some as young as age 10, with many being forced to commit extrajudicial executions, torture, rape, and amputations for the rebel Revolutionary United Front;

Whereas the international community is developing a consensus on how to most effectively address the problem, and toward this end, the United Nations has established a working group to negotiate an optional international agreement on child soldiers which would raise the legal age of recruitment and participation in armed conflict to age 18;

Whereas on October 29, 1998, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan set minimum age requirements for United Nations peacekeeping personnel that are made available by member nations of the United Nations;

Whereas United Nations Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping, Bernard Miyet, announced in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly that contributing governments of member nations were asked not to send civilian police and military observers under the age of 25, and that troops in national contingents should preferably be at least 21 years of age but in no case should they be younger than 18 years of age;

Whereas on August 25, 1999, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1261 (1999) condemning the use of children in armed conflicts;

Whereas in addressing the Security Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu, urged the adoption of a global three-pronged approach to combat the use of children in armed conflict: first, to raise the age limit for recruitment and participation in armed conflict from the present age of 15 to the age of 18; second, to increase international pressure on armed groups which currently abuse children; and third, to address the political, social, and economic factors which create an environment where children are induced by appeal of ideology or by socioeconomic collapse to become child soldiers; and

Whereas the United States delegation to the United Nations working group relating

to child soldiers has opposed efforts to raise the minimum age of participation in armed conflict to the age of 18 despite the support of an overwhelming majority of countries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) the Congress joins the international community in condemning the use of children as soldiers by governmental and non-governmental armed forces worldwide; and

(2) it is the sense of the Congress that—
(A) the United States should not oppose current efforts to negotiate an optional international agreement to raise the international minimum age for military service to the age of 18;

(B) the Secretary of State should address positively and expeditiously this issue in the next session of the United Nations working group relating to child soldiers before this process is abandoned by the international community; and

(C) the President and the Congress should work together to enact a law that establishes a fund for the rehabilitation and reintegration into society of child soldiers.

HUGH AND LOUISE DENTON

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in today's fast moving economy, many people think it is entirely normal to hold 10 different jobs over the course of their working life. Obviously, the people who think this way have not met Hugh and Louise Denton. Hugh and Louise met at Archer's Drug Store in LaFayette, where Hugh was working behind the soda fountain. They were married 2 years later, in 1951.

In December of this year, Hugh and Louise will reach a combined total of 100 years of hard work at Mount Vernon Mills in Trion, GA. Hugh began his career as a helper in the laboratory, and has since worked his way to the position of lab floor manager. Louise started as a turner in the glove mill, and has now become a typist. Hugh has worked for the mill for 48 years, and Louise has been there for 52.

Even the plant where Hugh and Louise work is a symbol of steady and important economic contributions. With a history dating back to 1845, Mount Vernon Mills is the oldest continuing textile operation in one site in the entire State of Georgia. In a time when jobs and families change more often than winter weather, Hugh and Louise Denton are a model of steadfast devotion to family, job and community, for all of us.

HONORING THE BAILEY COMPANY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bailey Company, an Arby's Roast Beef Restaurant franchisee in Colorado, of 62 restaurants and over 1,000 employees, for business excellence and commitment to public service. This commitment has translated into

support for Colorado's chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The Bailey Company's efforts have included several fundraising and volunteer activities for over 15 years. In 1998, the company entered into an agreement with the Colorado Rockies of the National League featuring two Rockies players on plastic soft drink cups. Selling drinks at 25 cents over the standard price, the Bailey Company collected over \$38,000 and donated the dollars directly to Big Brothers Big Sisters. This summer, they signed on with Arby's first "Charity Tour Golf Tournament." This endeavor raised over \$200,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters through tournament fees, promotional events, coupon-book sales, a Rockies game and auctions.

The Bailey Company's General Manager Geoff Bailey, and numerous employees, have made support of Big Brothers Big Sisters their mission. They have been a national corporate sponsor and are Colorado's largest corporate sponsor. In addition to raising funds, they have raised awareness of the valuable programs of Big Brothers Big Sisters, and have provided leadership through board membership and scholarships contributions.

It is for these reasons I rise today to honor the Bailey Company. I hold them up to the House as an example of the best of America's business. The Bailey family and employees exemplify the industrious spirit and community involvement that made America great.

THE MAGNIFICENT PEARLIE
EVANS

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, in December 1998 my right hand retired. My St. Louis District Director, Pearlle Evans withdrew from office life after a long and distinguished career in government service. I know Pearlle cherished her many years on my staff almost as much as I cherished her able and devoted service. I also believe Pearlle Evans has enjoyed her first year of retirement nearly as much as her co-workers and I have missed her daily presence.

Mr. Speaker, by all accounts, Pearlle Evans is an outstanding St. Louisan whose contributions to our community may be never-ending. As the occasion of the anniversary of her retirement from my office is approaching, I would like to take the opportunity to share with my colleagues the following story, which appeared in A Magazine (August 1999) about the life and times of the magnificent Pearlle Evans.

[From A Magazine, Aug. 1999]

PEARLIE—A MOVER AND SHAKER

She's a mover and shaker. Here, in St. Louis, Jefferson City, Washington D.C. Everywhere she goes. Often honored as one who continually gives back to her community, she now has 40 plus awards, certificates, and plaques that reflect 26 years of dedicated service during her tenure as district assistant to Congressman Clay of the first congressional district. She is someone who has never stopped giving. She is the magnificent Pearlle Evans. When you step in her private domain, all you see are turtles, turtles and more turtles. Ceramic turtles, plastic turtles, fluffy turtles, stuffed turtles, multicolored turtles, handmade turtles, etc. . . . turtles. I attempted to count them but each