

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4635) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the distinguished gentleman from California, Mr. FILNER. I commend my colleague for his tenacious efforts to restore benefits for Filipino veterans and for his steadfast support.

The sacrifices of all veterans during World War II deserve our recognition and respect, and this amendment addresses a group of veterans who fought alongside American soldiers in the Philippines. For almost four years, in the fight to retake the Philippine Islands from Japan, 100,000 Filipino soldiers fought alongside our armed forces. Despite the integral role Filipino soldiers played in the Allied Victory in the Pacific Theater, they were denied benefits under the 79th Congress Rescissions Act of 1946.

Mr. FILNER's amendment would attempt to address this egregious mistake by providing the necessary and deserved reparations to demonstrate the depth of our gratitude and respect for the service of these men in war. The age of the veterans and our country's late acknowledgment of their dedicated service make it imperative that these trusted veterans receive the requested emergency funding.

I support this amendment to add \$35 million to the VA-HUD Appropriations bill, H.R. 4635, so that Filipino Veterans have unrestricted access to Veterans facilities in both the Philippines and the United States, and increase the exchange rate for service-connected disability compensation. It is time we honored these servicemen and provided the benefits and compensation they deserve.

Thank you, Mr. FILNER, for your work on behalf of Filipino veterans. I urge my colleagues to support the Filner amendment.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4635) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my distinguished colleague's amendment. Mr. FILNER has shown a great sense of justice by offering this amendment which provides funds for health benefits for Filipino World War II veterans. It also increases service-connected disability benefits to those vets who are living in the United States. Both these provisions will greatly improve the lives of many Filipino veterans who loyally fought with the United States in World War II.

The early months of World War II were a dark time for the United States. Our armed forces were on the defensive everywhere—nowhere more so than in the Philippines. Food, medical supplies and ammunition ran short. With sea and air links severed, there was no hope of resupply, reinforcement or escape.

In that desperate hour, approximately 200,000 Filipino soldiers under the command of General Douglas MacArthur displayed exemplary loyalty and courage in the defense of the Philippines. They fought in every major battle, including the final defense of Bataan and Corregidor. They suffered every privation. They endured every danger. They shed their blood as readily as their American comrades in arms.

Those sacrifices continued even after U.S. forces were driven from the Philippines in 1942. Thousands of courageous Filipinos took up arms as guerillas and fought enormous odds. Their bravery earned the admiration of freedom loving people throughout the world. They provided valuable intelligence to General MacArthur's forces in the Southwest Pacific, rescued downed American airmen, and diverted powerful enemy forces from deployment elsewhere. Through three long, terrible years these Filipino guerilla soldiers kept faith with America.

Now it is time for America to keep faith with Filipino veterans. Despite their equal service, our Filipino veterans do not enjoy equal benefits with the American troops with whom they fought side by side. An estimated 60,000 to 80,000 surviving Filipino veterans are barred from the full range and extent of veterans benefits available to Americans who served

against the same enemy, in the same battles, at the same time. This violates the fundamental concept of fairness, especially for those who put their lives on the line for our country.

Because America stands for justice for all, we cannot turn our backs on these veterans who have been denied their due for so long. We owe equal treatment to all who fought under our flag. America is a great nation, and we must act now to right a great wrong. We can do so by extending recognition for incomparable bravery and loyalty. It is time to offer justice to veterans in need and redeem a debt that has gone unpaid for far too long. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN SULLIVAN

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to celebrate the contributions that Mr. Kevin Sullivan, of Chino, California, has made to his community.

Mr. Sullivan was born in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. His career has been exciting and impressive taking him from a mercantile broker's office and major export company in his native Australia to the Australian Consulate-General's office in New York to numerous European cities as a member of Jack Kramer's world professional tennis tour.

In 1961, Mr. Sullivan came to Southern California when he was appointed General Manager of Jack Kramer's Los Serranos Country Club. Under Mr. Sullivan's leadership, the South Course was initiated and built and a new clubhouse was constructed. Although Mr. Sullivan stepped down from his managerial duties in 1997, he continues to serve as Secretary of the Corporation, Director and Vice President of Special Projects, and as a Trustee of the Profit Sharing Plan.

An active member of the Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Sullivan has held the prestigious positions of Director and Second Vice President, President-Elect, and President.

The Chamber's accomplishments under Mr. Sullivan's tenure as President have been numerous and impressive: the Chamber moved its offices to the historic Grey Building, the website has been redesigned and now includes an on-line membership directory, and the Chamber has awarded over \$6,000 in student scholarships and classroom mini-grants for teachers. As a result of Mr. Sullivan's forward-thinking and leadership, Chamber membership has grown to over 600 members and attendance records at Chamber events are being broken.

In addition to his duties as President of the Chamber, Mr. Sullivan is a member of Chino

● 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.

Rotary where he has 37 years of perfect attendance. He also supports City of Hope, Boy's Republic, and the YMCA. Mr. Sullivan's commitment to community service has earned the recognition of his Rotary Club and the City of Councils of Chino and Chino Hills.

Mr. Sullivan has exemplified his theme for the year, "Friendship + Teamwork = Success," and he is deserving of the accolades of this Congress.

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Member of the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection, and as one of the two Democrats appointed to serve on the conference committee to resolve differences between S. 761, the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, and the House amendments to the bill, I wish to indicate that I concur with the extension of remarks today submitted to the RECORD by the Gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) with respect to this legislation.

I have had an opportunity to review the gentleman from Michigan's extension of remarks concerning certain insertions previously placed into the RECORD by other conferees. I agree with the Gentleman from Michigan's responses to these remarks.

There was no joint explanatory statement prepared in connection with the conference report on S. 761, and the Gentleman from Michigan quite properly notes, certain statements made in the extensions of remarks previously submitted by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) do not accurately reflect the intent or understanding of the conferees. Moreover, some of these statements are simply not correct or conflict with the plain language of the statute.

In addition to the matters discussed in the Gentleman from Michigan's statement, I would also like to mention an additional matter which I believe merits clarification.

I note that Senator ABRAHAM states that the "reference in section 101(a) of the conference agreement to 'any transaction in or affecting interstate commerce' is intended to include electronic records, signatures and agreements governed by the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and all electronic records, signatures and agreements used in financial planning, income tax preparation and investments." The scope of section 101 is actually narrower; it is limited to "transactions" involving "consumers". For example, the conferees defines transactions to include "an action or set of actions relating to the conduct of business, consumer, or commercial affairs" and consciously rejected including governmental affairs as a whole. The bill does not purport to affect all records, signatures and agreements governed in general by the federal securities laws or "used in financial planning, income tax preparation and investments".

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University to improved safety on our nations highways. This year marks a historic occasion for the institute as they celebrate their 50th year. Since its inception, the Texas Transportation Institute has conducted applied research in all modes of transportation and transferred the results to the public and private sectors, enhancing transportation safety, efficiency and sustainability, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Herbert H. Richardson and the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI).

Looking back on the history of the Institute gives us an interesting perspective on how far we've come in terms of transportation and technological advances. I was interested to note that some of the earliest safety research performed by TTI was to develop safer roadside structures, including breakaway supports and impact attenuation systems. As you are aware, one of the first real-world tests of a breakaway sign occurred in September 1965 when a driver lost control of his vehicle and skidded into an "EXIT" sign on IH-10 near Beaumont. Less than 24 hours before the accident, the local THD maintenance force had placed the TTI-designed slip base and hinge sign support in place of the old fixed one. In this accident, the driver and passenger escaped uninjured, and the vehicle sustained only minor damage. Less than a year earlier, a driver hit the same sign, then mounted on a standard base, and was killed. Today, highway safety is still an issue of major concern and I am pleased that TTI has continued to develop technological advances, such as the ADIEM crach cushion, to make our nation's roads and highways safer. Many Americans owe their lives to the development of this technology, which is now in use in nearly 40 states. You and the Institute can certainly be proud of the work.

In the 1950's, Dean of the College of Engineering, Fred Benson was quoted in the Daily Eagle as saying "The Institute intends to assemble a group of men at this college with a thorough knowledge of all types of transportation. These men . . . will provide a forum for analyzing and discussing problems [and] will outline and guide our research program and provide high level education to mature students with an interest in transportation." Given the fact that TTI employs about 570 people, is home to four National Research Clearinghouses and eight National Research Centers, and has urban laboratories in every major metropolitan area in the state, I am certain that Dr. Benson would indeed be very proud of the men and women of TTI and their many accomplishments. I extend to them my heartfelt congratulations and best wished for the next 50 years.

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SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

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Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the Nadler/Shays/Crowley/Horn amendment to increase HOPWA funding by \$18 million in the FY 2001 VA/HUD appropriations bill. This additional funding will increase the ability of the HOPWA program to meet current needs while bringing additional newly eligible communities into this effective program.

The need for housing assistance among those living with HIV/AIDS is greater now than ever. As new treatments and greater access to HIV/AIDS care through the Ryan White CARE Act allow infected individuals to live longer, new HIV infections are continuing at a steady rate. This means that the overall number of people living with HIV/AIDS has grown to its highest level ever. In addition, the new treatments that are extending so many lives involve a complicated regimen of medications, requiring certain medications to be taken at certain times, certain medications to be taken after eating, and still others on an empty stomach. This makes adherence very difficult, and nearly impossible without stable housing.

As the number of people living with HIV/AIDS increases, so do the number of cities and states qualifying for HOPWA formula grants. At the same time, the rising costs of housing across the country, particularly in urban areas where a large proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS live, make it difficult for HOPWA to maintain current services without funding increases. Despite this increased need HOPWA funding has remained relatively flat over the past 5 years. Increases in the number of eligible jurisdictions means that flat funding is in reality a funding cut for all HOPWA jurisdictions.

More than 200,000 people with HIV/AIDS are currently in need of housing assistance, and 60 percent of those living with this disease will need housing assistance at some point during their illness.

HIV prevalence with the homeless population is estimated to be 10 times greater than infection rates in the general population. In addition, homeless individuals are much less likely to have regular access to health care than the general population and are therefore less likely to be tested for HIV than are people with stable housing. One San Francisco study showed that up to 33 percent of homeless individuals who were living with HIV were unaware of being HIV positive.

HIV/AIDS community policy experts have estimated that unless HOPWA funding is substantially increased, jurisdictions will face decreased service levels and could suffer decreased funding. To avoid these reductions,

we must pass this amendment and provide HOPWA with additional funding to ensure that people living with HIV and AIDS have access to the stable housing that is necessary for their medical care.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN
O'SHAUGHNESSEY

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to honor Dr. John O'Shaughnessey. The Medical Association of Georgia has given Dr. O'Shaughnessey the 2000 Physician's Award for Community Service.

This award is presented only to physicians who rise above the expectations of their medical duties and are intensely involved with community activities. Dr. O'Shaughnessey fits this description precisely as he has donated an immense amount of time and energy to the Macon community.

Dr. O'Shaughnessey has been a dedicated member of the Macon area for many years. In addition to practicing medicine for more than thirty years, he has played an active role in several civic organizations. The Department of Family and Children's Services, the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Macon Civic Club and the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce are a few of the organizations to which he devotes his time.

The Macon community and myself are very proud of Dr. O'Shaughnessey's service and achievement.

NEW JERSEY SENATE OBJECTS TO
SCHOOL-TO-WORK

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a resolution recently passed by the New Jersey Senate. Approved on May 10, 1999, Senate Resolution No. 73 express the objection of the State Senate to the School-to-Work provisions being developed by the New Jersey Department of Education.

State Senators Joseph Kyrillos, William Gormley, Scott Garrett, and Guy Talarico achieved a significant victory for quality local education by putting the New Jersey Senate on record opposing the federal School-to-Work curriculum and its goals.

The concerns expressed in this resolution cut to the heart of education reform today: Basic academics, local control, unlimited student opportunity and sufficient quality instructional time are at the forefront of local education efforts and are threatened by School-to-Work. New Jersey is clearly concerned about a radical restructuring of its education system around federal workforce development, "applied learning" and limited student choice. Other states and Congress should take note of the New Jersey's courageous stand.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for the RECORD New Jersey Senate Resolution No. 73 and commend its content to our colleagues.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 73

Whereas, The Department of Education is developing a new chapter of administrative code to implement the core curriculum content standards and the Statewide assessment system which will fundamentally reform public education in New Jersey; and

Whereas, A number of the proposals incorporated in the core represent new graduation requirements for public schools students and since the current requirements for graduation were initially established by the Legislature under chapter 7C of Title 18a of the New Jersey Statutes, a revision of those standards of the magnitude incorporated within the proposed code and which represent a fundamental change in the educational requirements for secondary school students should undergo legislative review; and

Whereas, the new code provisions will not be formally proposed, according to the timetable set forth by the Department of Education, until August, 1999; and

Whereas, The new code provisions emphasize career education and include three phases in this area: career awareness in kindergarten through grade 4; career exploration in grades 5 through 8, with the development of individual career plans during this phase; and career preparation in grades 9 through 12, with students being required to identify a career major, from a list of fourteen majors, prior to the start of the eleventh grade; and

Whereas, The new code provisions require that eleventh and twelfth grade students, for a minimum of one day per week or the equivalent thereof, participate in a structured learning experience which is linked to the students career plan and which could include volunteer activities, community service, paid or unpaid employment opportunities, school-based enterprises, or participation in an apprenticeship program; and

Whereas, The new code provisions will make school-to-work a requirement for all students in the State, and will result in the loss of 20% of academic instructional time, putting students at a competitive disadvantage in collegiate academic programs; and

Whereas, The school-to-work component of the new code provisions will result in limiting students' choices far too early in their lives and imposing job specific skills training on the educational system at the expense of instructional time in academic subjects; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House objects to the school-to-work provisions incorporated in to the new chapter of administrative code being developed by the Department of Education to implement the core curriculum content standards and the Statewide assessment system. This House urges that school-to-work provisions be eliminated and that local boards of education be allowed to determine the necessity and nature of any career program for their own school district.

2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a duly authenticated copy of this resolution to the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education.

STATEMENT

This resolution expresses the objection of the Senate to the school-to-work provisions incorporated into the new chapter of administrative code being developed by the Department of Education to implement the core curriculum content standards and the Statewide assessment system. The resolution also urges that school-to-work provisions be eliminated and that local boards of education be permitted to determine the necessity and nature of any career program for

their own school district. According to the department's timetable, the new chapter of administrative code is not scheduled to be formally proposed until August, 1999.

The school-to-work provisions being developed by the department represent a fundamental shift in the way the children of New Jersey will be educated. The school-to-work provisions emphasize career education and include three phases: career awareness in kindergarten through grade 4; career exploration in grades 5 through 8, with the development of individual career plans during this phase; and career preparation in grades 9 through 12, with students being required to identify a career major, from a list of fourteen majors, prior to the start of the eleventh grade. Eleventh and twelfth grade students would be required to participate in a structured learning experience which could include volunteer activities, community service, paid or unpaid employment opportunities, school-based enterprises, or participation in an apprenticeship program. The structured learning experience would be linked to the student's career plan and would be required of every student for a minimum of one day per week or the equivalent thereof, resulting in a 20% loss of academic instructional time. The school-to-work proposal would limit students' choices too early in their lives and impose job specific skills training on the educational system at the expense of instructional time in academic subjects.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I was attending my daughter's high school graduation and missed the following recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted, "no" on rollcall vote 292, "no" on rollcall vote 293, "no" on rollcall vote 294, "yes" on rollcall vote 295, "yes" on rollcall vote 296, "yes" on rollcall vote 297.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, last week, I was detained in my district and missed rollcall votes No. 258-269. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all but rollcall vote No. 267. On rollcall vote No. 267, I would have voted "nay".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during the following vote. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On June 15, 2000, rollcall vote 279, on the Nethercutt amendment to keep in place the

fund limitation proposed to be loosened by the Dicks amendment which would subsequently require the Forest Service and BLM to complete a regulatory flexibility analysis as required by law for the Interior Columbia Basin Project, I would have voted yea.

POCONO LIONS CELEBRATE 50
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the Pocono Lions Club in Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania. The Lions are celebrating their 50th anniversary at a dinner on June 24, and their record of service is truly deserving of honor and recognition by the House of Representatives.

In the fall of 1949, a group of Pocono-area men met at Johnny's Inn in Pocono Summit to discuss the possibility of forming a Lions Club dedicated to serving some of the needs of the community. Bill Lewis and John Desanto, who became the Pocono club's first president, were the original group leaders. Bill Lewis is the lone surviving charter member and remains very active in the Lion's activities to this day.

The Pocono Lions are a group of community-minded people who pool their talents in behalf of local, national and international needs. Their members are mostly retired businesspeople who enjoy the social aspects of the club while also returning something to the community that has been home to them and their families for many years.

Their largest fundraiser is their annual auction, held on the fourth Saturday in August, although they hold several other events throughout the year to contribute to the community. They like to say that they make money and then give it away. Some of their recent donations include \$3,500 to the Pocono Regional Police, \$5,000 in scholarships for local high school students and \$500 to the Salvation Army for its building fund.

The Pocono Lions will be inducting four new members at their 50th Anniversary Charter Night, who will be joining the current membership of about 45 in their active fulfillment of the Lions motto: "We Serve."

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the fine work that the Pocono Lions do for their community, the nation and the world, and I send my best wishes on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF AMERICAN
GOLD STAR PARENTS ANNUITY
ACT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from New York, Representative McNULTY, and my colleagues from California, Mr. FILNER and Mr. ROHRBACHER, to introduce the American Gold Star Parents Annuity Act of 2000.

This legislation would create a new annuity of \$125 per month for all current and future Gold Star Parents. Gold Star Parents are those individuals who have lost a child, who was an active duty member of the Armed Forces, to either enemy fire in a recognized conflict or to an act of terrorism.

The annuity is for each set of parents, to be divided equally if they are not longer married, should one parent be deceased, the surviving parent would receive the full amount of the annuity. The income from this annuity will be completely tax free.

Receipt of this annuity is contingent on the parents being awarded a Gold Star, for which eligibility is determined by the Secretary of Defense. The bulk of the recipients will be members of the American Gold Star Mothers.

The American Gold Star Mothers is an organization that had its beginnings in World War I. During that conflict, a blue star was used to represent a person serving in the United States' Armed Forces. As American casualties mounted in 1917, silver stars were used to represent those who had been wounded, and Gold Stars were used for those who had died in the service of their country.

On June 4, 1928, a group of twenty-five mothers residing in the Washington, DC vicinity, met to provide plans for the founding of a national organization. The American Gold Star Mothers was officially incorporated on January 5, 1929.

Membership was initially open only to mothers who had lost a son or daughter in World War I, but was later opened to those who had lost a child in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf conflict.

These additions have parallel congressional modifications to the U.S. Code to permit the Secretary of Defense to award gold star pins to the parents of deceased veterans of those conflicts as well as those who lost children in terrorist attacks on U.S. Armed Forces.

Since its founding, the American Gold Star Mothers has played a vital role in the healing process for those who had lost a child. Through bringing together individuals that share a common tragedy, this organization has helped all of its members realize that they are not alone in their grief.

Furthermore, the Gold Star Mothers have also performed the important service of assisting veterans of the last century's military conflicts and their descendants with the presentation of claims before the Veterans' administration. They also perform thousands of hours of volunteer service in VA hospitals, offering assistance and conflict to hospitalized veterans and their families.

Mr. Speaker, our nation has always sought to look after the surviving spouse and children of a service-member who has been killed in action. Often overlooked however, are the parents of the deceased service-member. This is unfortunate since the parents are usually the two people who have had the greatest role in shaping that person, and have had the greatest impact on his or her life. Yet beyond heartfelt condolences, the parents receive very little from the Government that their child chose to patriotically serve as a member of the Armed Forces.

While nobody would claim that the Government does not have some obligation to the widowed spouse and the killed soldier's children, very few have argued on the behalf of the parents who lose their children to war.

Only those parents who relied on their child as a primary means of support currently receive any benefit when their child is killed in the line of duty.

This legislation seeks to change this reality. It offers a small annuity to any parent, mother or father, regardless of need, as a sign of appreciation for the ultimate sacrifice made by their child in the defense of freedom and liberty.

§ 1126. Gold star lapel button: eligibility and distribution

(a) A lapel button, to be known as the gold star lapel button, shall be designed, as approved by the Secretary of Defense, to identify widows, parents, and next of kin of members of the armed forces—

(1) who lost their lives during World War I, World War II, or during any subsequent period of armed hostilities in which the United States was engaged before July 1, 1958;

(2) who lost or lose their lives after June 30, 1958—

(A) while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;

(B) while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or

(C) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party against an opposing armed force; or

(3) who lost or lose their lives after March 28, 1973, as a result of—

(A) an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States, recognized as such an attack by the Secretary of Defense; or

(B) military operations while serving outside the United States (including the commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States) as part of a peacekeeping force.

(b) Under regulations to be prescribe by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary concerned, upon application to him, shall furnish one gold star lapel button without cost to the widow and to each parent and next of kin of a member who lost or loses his or her life under any circumstances prescribed in subsection (a).

(c) Not more than one gold star lapel button may be furnished to any one individual except that, when a gold star lapel button furnished under this section has been lost, destroyed, or rendered unfit for use without fault or neglect on the part of the person to whom it was furnished, the button may be replaced upon application and payment of an amount sufficient to cover the cost of manufacture and distribution.

(d) In this section:

(1) The term "widow" includes widower.

(2) The term "parents" includes mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis.

(3) The term "next of kin" includes only children, brothers, sisters, half brothers, and half sisters.

(4) The term "children" includes stepchildren and children through adoption.

(5) The term "World War I" includes the period from April 6, 1917, to March 3, 1921.

(6) The term "World War II" includes the period from September 8, 1939, to July 25, 1947, at 12 o'clock noon.

(7) The term "military operations" includes those operations involving members of the armed forces assisting in United States Government sponsored training of military personnel of a foreign nation.

(8) The term "peacekeeping force" includes those personnel assigned to a force engaged

in a peacekeeping operation authorized by the United Nations Security Council.

H.R. —

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gold Star Parents Annuity Act."

SEC. 2. SPECIAL PENSION FOR GOLD STAR PARENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

"SUBCHAPTER V—SPECIAL PENSION FOR GOLD STAR PARENTS

§ 1571. Gold Star parents

"(a) The Secretary shall pay monthly to each person who has received a Gold Star lapel pin under section 1126 of title 10 as a parent of a person who died in a manner described in subsection (a) of that section a special pension in an amount determined under subsection (b).

"(b) The amount of special pension payable under this section with respect to the death of any person shall be \$125 per month. In any case in which there is more than one parent eligible for special pension under this section with respect to the death of a person, the Secretary shall divide the payment equally among those eligible parents.

"(c) The receipt of special pension shall not deprive any person of any other pension or other benefit, right, or privilege to which such person is or may hereafter be entitled under any existing or subsequent law. Special pension shall be paid in addition to all other payments under laws of the United States.

HELP WANTED—NIGHT WATCHMAN

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record the attached editorial written by Oliver North and published in the Washington Times.

[From the Washington Times, June 18, 2000]
(By Oliver North)

Prince Albert is on his "progress and prosperity tour" asking Americans "are you better off than you were eight years ago?" If "better off" includes America's national security, the answer is: You have to be kidding. The day the vice president began to "re-introduce himself to the American people," shell-shocked Clinton-Gore administration officials dodged questions about how they lost more of America's dwindling supply of nuclear secrets.

After a monthlong cover-up, it was finally admitted on June 12 that computer hard drives from the Los Alamos National Laboratory's "X Division"—where nuclear weapons are designed—have been missing from a vault at the lab since "some time in May." This is the latest embarrassment for Los Alamos, which is still reeling from a string of security lapses, including the arrest of Taiwanese-American scientist Wen Ho Lee on 59 counts of mishandling nuclear secrets. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, a potential running mate for Internet Al, claims "there is no evidence of espionage" and "the missing computer files may be related to the evacuation of the facility during the recent forest fires." Get the word: "missing"—as in, "My home work is 'missing.' Maybe the dog ate it."

The "missing" multi-gigabyte computer drives contain detailed, highly secret, nuclear weapons data used by the super-sensitive Nuclear Emergency Search Team (NEST)—an interagency contingent of military and civilian specialists who respond to nuclear accidents and nuclear-related terrorist threats. The data on the hard drives includes all the information necessary to disarm all nuclear weapons worldwide. This is, of course, the same kind of data needed to arm or build a nuclear device. That is what's "missing."

Security lapses are nothing new for this regime. In the wake of the administration's latest fiasco, Rep. Porter Goss, Florida Republican, chairman of the House Select Intelligence Committee, told me that "when it comes to security, the Clinton-Gore administration manifests a culture of disdain." He is right and it is an attitude that pervades not just our nuclear weapons labs but the whole administration.

In 1994, more than a year after taking office, more than 100 high-level White House staff members still had no security clearances because they never bothered to complete the paperwork for requisite background investigations. They were granted access to highly classified information anyway.

By 1996, White House security was so lax that shortly before fleeing the country, Democratic Party fund-raiser Charlie Trie smuggled a foreign businessman into the White House using false identification. When the General Accounting Office reported that from January 1993 until June 1996 there were no procedures to control access to Sensitive Compartmental Information (a level of classification higher than Top Secret) within the Executive Office of the President, White House officials promised to "fix the problem." They did not.

At the State Department, foreign spies stand in line to rip off America's secrets. In 1998, an unidentified individual posing as a reporter walked out of the Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's office suite with a stack of classified documents. Last year, the FBI caught a Russian Intelligence Service spy wearing headphones outside the State Department headquarters and discovered a device planted in a secure conference room inside the building. This January, a laptop computer containing top secret information vanished from the department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Mrs. Albright said she was "outraged."

Last year, FBI agent Michael Vatis told Congress that computer hackers broke into the Pentagon's classified computer systems and downloaded "vast quantities of data" containing "sensitive information about essential defense matters." The FBI suspected the Russian intelligence service. What did the Clinton-Gore administration do? They asked the Russians to help. Like O.J., the Russians are still looking for those who really did it.

But even when the perpetrators of massive security violations are caught, it hardly matters. According to the CIA's inspector general, John Deutch, the Clinton-Gore CIA director from 1995-1996, routinely "placed national security information at risk" by processing a "large volume of highly classified information" on his unprotected home computer. After covering up the breach (and failing to notify the FBI as required by law) for more than 18 months, Mr. Deutch had his security clearances revoked and was given a letter of reprimand.

The abysmal seven-year national security record of the Clinton-Gore administration should come as no surprise—nor should their predictable spin: First comes the plea not to "make a partisan issue" out of what is at best gross incompetence and at worst dan-

gerous malfeasance. Then comes the accusation there has always been espionage (remember the "everyone does it" defense from Monicagate?). Finally the counterallegations: "It is all the fault of the Reagan and Bush administrations."

Don't be surprised to hear Bill's and Al's pals tell you that if Presidents Reagan and Bush hadn't planted so many trees, the Clinton-Gore administration wouldn't have had to do a "controlled burn" of several thousand acres and 205 houses, thus forcing the evacuation of the Los Alamos lab. If that doesn't wash, they can argue there is nothing on these missing hard drives that the Communist Chinese didn't already get.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 4635) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Collins/Linder amendment. This amendment would prohibit EPA from using any funds in the bill to designate "ozone non-attainment areas" under the more stringent National Ambient Air Quality Standards issued by EPA in 1997 which were ruled unconstitutional by the D.C. Superior Court. The amendment will simply postpone the designation of new non-attainment areas using the 1997 standards, until the Supreme Court decides once and for all if the standards are legally enforceable. If we fail to pass this important amendment a similar problem that we are facing in Michigan could occur in other states.

And now I would like to highlight how we in Michigan are grappling with this similar problem. The proposal by the EPA to reinstate the 1-hour ozone standard—after the 8-hour rule was declared unconstitutional—based on monitoring data collected in 1997 is flawed. Using that data counties such as Saginaw, Allegan, Genesee, Bay and Midland would be designated nonattainment areas even though all of these counties are currently measuring acceptable attainment levels.

Let me say that there isn't a person or organization in this room who doesn't want clean air, clean water, and a safe environmental legacy to leave to our children and grandchildren.

As a legislator, I have consistently worked toward achieving a cleaner environment, and as a nation we have made great gains in the past two decades to clean polluted rivers, to ensure that toxic emissions are reduced, and expedite the clean-up of hazardous waste sites across the country.

The Environmental Protection Agency has played a major role in spearheading these efforts and we should fully recognize the important role they play in maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

Their mission, "to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment" is one of the most important that is carried out by any federal agency.

Unfortunately, the proposed rule EPA has under discussion—is of the type that unnecessarily causes friction between the business community and environmental groups. It causes friction where none should exist. And just as damaging—I think the ruling undermines the credibility of the EPA.

For me, this fails the litmus test of common sense and is therefore unreasonable. If an area is clean now, then they should be treated accordingly.

The whole idea behind any enforcement mechanism is to ensure compliance. If compliance is met then there shouldn't be a problem—the EPA ruling is putting the cart before the horse—and it is placing bureaucratic gymnastics above the economic and environmental well being of our community.

Keeping the Attainment status is important for the viability of our local economy. A non-attainment status will have far reaching negative effects for our economic base, including putting into jeopardy \$24 million in much needed transportation projects, making our area unattractive to new business and stifle economic development.

And for what—to penalize a community because their air is well within compliance in the first place?

The EPA needs to meet us halfway so that the problem can be resolved. It is that simple.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN INTERPRETATIVE CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3084 which authorizes funds for the establishment of a new interpretative center in Springfield, IL honoring President Abraham Lincoln. As we celebrate the life and contributions of this great man, I would like to point out that no commemoration is complete without mentioning southern Indiana's part in the Abraham Lincoln story.

Many people do not realize President Lincoln spent 14 years of his life on a small farm in Lincoln City, Indiana. It was at his boyhood home in southern Indiana where he helped his father work the land, cultivated his love of reading, and developed a curious and inquisitive nature. Sadly, he also lost his mother there, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, when he was just nine years old. The time he spent in Indiana during his formative years undoubtedly contributed to the development of President Lincoln's extraordinary character—from an honest, hardworking boy to one of our country's finest leaders.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Indiana are proud of this heritage. I encourage all Americans wishing to learn more about this American hero to visit Lincoln City, Indiana and the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial located just off the Lincoln Heritage Trail.

TRIBUTE TO LINDSEY ROBERTS,
JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you and recognize the accomplishments and success of one of Mississippi's finest civil servants. For many years, Lindsey Roberts, Jr., has worked diligently to ensure the continued growth and development of Mississippi for future generations.

Since 1988, Roberts has served the people of Montgomery County as a member and past president of the Board of Supervisors. During the past year, Roberts has been instrumental in bringing more than \$2.5 million in grant funds to Montgomery County for road and other infrastructure improvements.

Roberts has brought a tremendous amount of recognition to Montgomery County through his election as president of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) Minority Caucus and as the recipient of the 1999 MAS Presidential Award.

In addition, for his outstanding efforts to obtain grant funding for Montgomery County and the recognition he has brought to the community through his involvement on the state and national levels, he was presented with the Government Award for the year 2000.

Mr. Speaker, Lindsey Roberts, Jr., should be an inspiration to us all. His tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed by the people of Montgomery County. He is sure to be a positive force within the state of Mississippi for many years to come.

HONORING THE CITY OF CEDARTOWN

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the City of Cedartown, Georgia, for hosting the Cedartown Pre-Peachtree Training Camp for some of the world's greatest wheelchair athletes during the week of Monday, June 26th through Saturday, July 1st.

Cedartown, located in Polk County is in the heart of the 7th Congressional District, and is a beautiful, rural and historic community west of Atlanta.

Building on the success as a host community during the 1996 Summer Olympics, Cedartown is now hosting more than 20 world-class wheelchair athletes from around the world, including the United States, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Thailand, Australia, Mexico, Switzerland, and South Africa, for a week of training and special events in preparation for the Peachtree Road Race on July 4th.

The Peachtree Road Race is held in Atlanta every Fourth of July, and is the world's largest 10K race, with more than 50,000 participants. The race includes a wheelchair event.

More than 75 Cedartown volunteers are providing accommodations, transportation, and food for the athletes during the week. I am

proud to represent Cedartown and its citizens as they continue to make their mark on the world.

A TRIBUTE TO MIGRANT HEAD START CENTER WORKERS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, migrant farm workers often come to the United States under severe circumstances and hardship, looking for work in this great country. Unfortunately, services and programs for migrant workers are often unavailable. I rise to pay tribute to three people who devoted their lives to helping migrant farm workers become self-sufficient in their new lives here in America. And on Sunday, June 25, 2000, Francisca Huizar, Aida Ortiz and Fernando Fecundo will be honored and memorialized in a tree planting ceremony at the Migrant Head Start Center in Omer, Michigan.

In Michigan's Fifth District we are fortunate, not only to have a Migrant Head Start Center, but also to have staff workers that are dedicated to the success and well being of those who use their services. Though Francisca, Aida and Fernando have all passed away, their hard work and devotion to helping the migrant community remains as an example to us all.

Each one of the individuals being honored this Sunday has contributed to the success of the center in various ways. Fernando, who moved to Bay City with his family in 1961, gave special time and attention to the migrant farm worker population in the region. Francisca, who also worked as a counselor at Bay City Public High Schools, focused on helping workers with education and health services. And Aida, a former state education coordinator, was involved in infant/toddler classrooms and staff training. Both Aida and Fernando not only taught and helped others advance their education, but they also modeled this aspiration by continuing to work toward college degrees.

At a time of unprecedented prosperity and success in our country, the disadvantaged sometimes get left behind. I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that because of people like Aida, Fernando and Francisca, the migrant community in Arenac County is not being left behind. These three people contributed their lives to the Migrant Head Start Center and to those in need who came there for help.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these three outstanding individuals who play critical roles in the well being of migrant farm workers in Michigan's Fifth District. They will be missed, but their legacy will remain.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO BENEFIT ZUNI AND ACOMA NATIVE AMERICANS

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two bills to provide further assistance

to Native Americans in my state of New Mexico. The legislation is simple and corrects deficiencies in current laws and regulations that apply to these two Pueblos. The two bills will further the case for self-sufficiency and for tribal self determination for our New Mexico Native Americans.

The Acoma Pueblo comprises some 380,000 acres located 56 miles of Albuquerque. The first bill deals with the sub-surface mineral rights of Acoma Pueblo trust lands. The Acoma Pueblo, like many Native American tribes, has sought to restore its reservation to its historic boundaries. Over 6,000 Pueblo members live on and around the Acoma Mesa which was originally referred to as the "Sky City". It is thought to be one of the oldest continually inhabited sites in the United States, first report by Fray Marcos de Niza in 1539 and then visited by Francisco de Coronado's army in 1540.

In 1988, the Pueblo purchased a large ranch that adjoined their reservation and subsequently the Secretary of the Interior took over 100,000 surface acres into trust and it became a permanent part of the reservation. This additional land is necessary as the Pueblo grows and prospers because of new economic activity.

When they purchased the ranch the sub-surface mineral rights were not part of land transfer. This is not an uncommon occurrence in the West where only the surface estate is sold from owner to owner. Much of this practice goes back to the settling of the West when the federal government awarded checkerboard pieces of land to railroads in return for their building lines across the nation. The railroads then sold the land off to finance their companies activities but kept the subsurface mineral estate.

Under this legislation, the current owner of the subsurface estate would enter into an exchange agreement with the Bureau of Land management for equal valued federal lands and rights. In return the BLM would receive the subsurface rights which would be placed into trust by the Secretary of the Interior for the benefit of the Acoma Pueblo unifying both the surface and subsurface estate.

This legislation amounts to a win-win for all of the stakeholders involved. First, the Acoma Pueblo does not have to worry about the subsurface mineral rights holder attempting to exercise its rights. This legislation gives them the total control over their lands that they need and deserve under the trust responsibility of the United States. The current third party owner of the subsurface mineral estate is made whole without having to exercise their rights and being placed in a conflict with the Acoma Pueblo. And finally the public wins because federal lands will go into the private sector and back on the tax rolls. I hope the Congress will act quickly on this important legislation.

The second bill amounts to a technical change in previous legislation passed during the 101st Congress. The Zuni Land Conservation Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-486) was signed into law on October 31, 1990. It was passed as part of efforts to settle a lands claim case that had kept land ownership issues in limbo for years in western New Mexico. Basically the bill settled compensation issues for lands taken without authority that were before the Court of Claims.

The Zuni Pueblo, with a reservation population estimated at over 9,000, is comprised of

over 460,000 acres of land located on the western border of New Mexico almost due west of Albuquerque. Sheep production is the top agriculture activity on the reservation. Crafts produced on the reservation are known worldwide, especially their famous jewelry, fetishes, pottery, paintings and beadwork. Most of the tribal businesses are centered around the arts and crafts industry.

The legislation authorized a payment of \$25 million into a Zuni Indian Resource Development Trust Fund. The Trustee of the fund was the Secretary of the Interior. Expenditures from the fund were limited both in the amount and also what the money could be spent for. The money, including the interest on investments, was to be used to carry out a resource development plan put together by the Tribe and by the Secretary of the Interior. Some of the money was used to purchase additional land for the reservation. The legislation I introduce today will allow the Zuni's to invest their funds rather than having the BIA do it. Provisions dealing with what the funds can be used for will remain unchanged. I hope the Congress will move quickly on this legislation also.

Both bills are relatively non-controversial. Both will lead to greater self governance by the respective pueblos and I would hope that the Clinton Administration will support these efforts to assist Native Americans in controlling their own future.

HONORING THE LATE CHARLES "CHARLIE" ISAMI TANIMURA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to honor Mr. Charles "Charlie" Isami Tanimura who contributed not only to the city of Salinas, but also in the agricultural community as co-founder of Tanimura & Antle, one of the nation's largest independent produce growers. Charles Tanimura will be remembered greatly for his spirit of true innovation. On February 27, 2000, Mr. Charles Tanimura passed away at the age of 83.

Mr. Tanimura was born December 15, 1916 in San Juan Bautista, where his father had settled from Japan. One of 12 brothers and sisters, Charles saw farming as the family livelihood and later took on the farming operation with four of his brothers in the 1930's. As World War II began, many of the Tanimura family members found themselves being sent to internment camps. However, Charles had enlisted in the Army prior to the bombing. During the family's internment, the Tanimuras lost the leases on the land they were farming, however shortly after they were able to rebuild their operation to include thousands of prime agricultural acres.

Friends described Tanimura as an, "unassuming individual who preferred to stay out of the limelight". Known as a member of the Japanese-American Citizens League, Tanimura will be remembered as generous in helping with the Buddhist Temple's annual festival in July.

As noted by many individuals in the community, "Just to be a Tanimura is to be famous." To be a Tanimura is to have left a valued contribution on society. Charles Tanimura exem-

plifies the spirit of resilience in his fight to persevere in the face of great obstacles. Mr. Speaker, it is with these words that I ask you and our colleagues to join me in honoring this example of a man. Mr. Charles Tanimura is survived by his loving wife, Fumiko; his three children, Gary Tanimura, Keith Tanimura and Bonnie Yokomata; his four brothers, George, John, Tom and Robert Tanimura; three sisters, Alice Sato, Betty Furushko and Rose Yuki; two grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO ARM TAIWAN

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record the attached editorial written by Phil Kent and published in The Augusta Chronicle.

[From the Augusta Chronicle, June 12, 2000]

CONGRESS NEEDS TO ARM TAIWAN

(By Phil Kent)

The story broke in the Taiwan press on May 25: The Communist Chinese military started live-fire artillery exercises for six days near the closest outpost maintained by the free Chinese, who recently inaugurated a new president who adheres to pro-free enterprise, anti-Communist policies.

What does the Clinton administration do? Next to nothing.

That same week, an unnamed top Clinton official with the National Security Council even said it was a mistake for the United States to issue a visa to new President Chen Chui-bian's predecessor so he could attend a reunion at his U.S. alma mater. Just before that insulting declaration, the Clinton administration decided against selling four Aegis destroyers to Taiwan. (It did, however, approve the sale of long-ranger radar designed to detect missile launches.)

Yet if the anti-Communist island can't defend itself, radar doesn't do much except perhaps tell them to duck. What Taiwan's tough-but-small military needs are missiles of their own to scare off the mainland from any attack.

According to a recent classified Pentagon report leaked to the Washington Post, Taiwan is far more vulnerable to invasion from the Communist Beijing government than was previously known. The island's military technology has fallen behind Beijing's, particularly in the area of defending itself from air and missile attack.

Since the May 20 inauguration of Chen, and his appointment of a hard-line anti-Communist from the previous ruling party as defense minister, the Red Chinese military has been rattling its saber even more frequently. Yet President Clinton is still reluctant to sell military equipment to the island.

This reluctance, and the administration's pro-Beijing slant, is thankfully drawing the attention of Congress, which is naturally concerned that the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act is being ignored. That legislation requires that all arms-sale decisions must be based solely on Taiwan's defense needs.

In light of the Pentagon report and current Chinese military provocations, those defense needs have never been greater.

A bipartisan block in Congress has drawn up new legislation, the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act. Among other things, this

legislation would order the executive branch to explain whenever it rejects, postpones or changes a military request from Taiwan.

This bill was introduced because key lawmakers of both parties value the island as a loyal ally and key trading partner. Taiwan deserves entry into the World Trade Organization, as does Mainland China, especially since Taiwan is free, open, and democratic.

How can Americans who live in a country that is the self-proclaimed "leader of the free world" ever abandon a free country to dictatorship? At the very least, the people's representatives in the legislative branch of our government can hold the executive branch to account when it comes to defensive armaments in Taiwan.

SENATOR PAT THOMAS—DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN LEGISLATOR, GREAT FLORIDIAN, AND GREAT AMERICAN

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, today I pay tribute to Florida State Senator Pat Thomas. Pat was a genial, small-town, citizen legislator with a big heart and a folksy touch, who served in the Florida Legislature for nearly 30 years. Sen. Thomas passed away yesterday, after a bout with cancer. He was 66.

Senator Thomas leaves a legacy of integrity, loyalty, and good cheer. He was emblematic of an era when big-hearted, back-slapping country politicians were the rule rather than the exception.

He was remembered by his colleague State Representative Al Lawson as an "uncommon man who had the common touch. As a hero to his community, because he grew up there poor and knew what it was to have opportunity through education."

Pat began his political career as a teenager in the Future Farmers of America and was active in student politics at the University of Florida. Thomas became a power in the Florida Democratic Party during the heyday of the "Pork Chop Gang" of the early 1960s, and served as Party Chair from 1966–70. When I served in the Florida Senate from 1982–1992, he was still a powerful force to be reckoned with. He served as Senate President in 1992 and again in 1994.

Senator Thomas was equally at home in the tobacco barns of his native Gadsden County and fish fries of the campaign trail as he was in the back rooms and power suites of the Florida Capitol.

But that is only part of Pat Thomas' legacy. He genuinely loved people and delivered the kinds of basic services that they needed—roads, sewers, and education. He kept a black and white photograph in his office showing two small children in his district getting water from a creek. He once used that photo during debate to persuade the Legislature to extend water service to parts of Gadsden County that had not been served. That's the kind of person he was, always looking out for the "little people."

History books will likely remember him for his major legislative accomplishments, what some derisively refer to as "turkeys or pork." But, his major strength as a legislator was

finessing a good deal, so it's no surprise that he himself considered local projects such as water towers and schools to be among his top achievements.

Pat Thomas worked with great diligence in serving the best interests of his constituents and the people of Florida. But, above all, he was a fine gentleman whose good nature and passion for life and public service endeared him to so many.

Mr. Speaker, few have achieved the success that Senator Pat Thomas has known in his profession. Few have achieved such universal respect and love. He was a compassionate giant who did common things, uncommonly well.

Mary McLeod Bethune was fond of saying, "service is the price that we pay for the space that God lets us occupy." Mr. Speaker, we have lost not only a great public servant, but a great Floridian and, indeed, a great American.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAINES FALLS FREE LIBRARY

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a small group of citizens dedicated to the maintenance of an important public institution in the Twenty-Second Congressional District of New York. One hundred years ago, a small group of residents from Haines Falls and Twilight Park began an effort to establish a small public library to serve their residents. Their mission was simple: "to maintain a circulating library and reading room for public use of residents of Haines Falls and vicinity."

Much has changed since this original mission statement was written. The library has seen significant growth over the years. The original gift of two hundred books, by Stephen P. Sturges in 1900, has grown to include over 10,000. A book mobile has come and gone and the library is now filling the growing demand for new technology by offering fax and internet capability.

The Haines Falls Free Library is truly a treasure. It offers a unique collection of out-of-print books, photographs and slides of the area. The numerous local family genealogies alone are priceless.

Mr. Speaker, while change is inevitable in today's fast paced society, one thing has remained exactly the same as it was one-hundred years ago—the local commitment to the Haines Falls Free Library. The dedication of Haines Falls residents to maintaining and expanding a fully functional library is extraordinary.

Indeed Mr. Speaker, the commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the Haines Falls Library is truly a cause for celebration. From its inception, this endeavor to provide a public service available to all citizens, symbolizes the altruistic spirit that has built our great nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating this very special occasion. May the next hundred years allow the residents of Haines Falls and Twilight Park to continue the

friendly and specialized services that the Haines Falls Free Library has offered for the last century.

WORLDCOM-SPRINT MERGER

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to address a couple of very recent news articles about the WorldCom-Sprint merger. I have been a supporter of the proposed merger since its announcement in October of 1999. My reasons for supporting the merger are the same now as they were then. When we wrote and passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996, we predicted many things, among them some consolidation in the telecom market. One of the major reasons for this urge to merge is to accommodate positive changes in the industry both domestically and internationally. These changes would be the direct result of greater competition and the resulting growth in the telecommunications sector.

The distinctions between local and long distance have begun to blur and almost disappear. Telecommunications companies, in order to survive and compete on a global basis need to have global size and reach. The fastest and most practical way to achieve such economies of scale is through strategic unions. The new world telecom company must provide services that will go beyond local or long distance. They must offer a wide range of services including at the very least local, long distance, high-speed Internet access, and wireless.

I believe the proposed WorldCom-Sprint merger is a textbook example of what we in Congress envisioned when we passed the Telecom Act. The combination of these two corporations would create an American company suited to compete with anybody and everybody on a global basis for the foreseeable future. Its size and offerings will create jobs, encourage technological innovations, and promote competitive pricing for consumers.

Given that, you can see why I am so concerned about the recent articles I've read in the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal stating that the European Commission is on the verge of recommending against approving the merger. While I'm not privy to the technical reviews conducted by the E.C. and don't know why they may have reached their reported conclusion, I find it disconcerting to see actual quotes attributed to "senior EU officials" before the member states have voted. I also find it troublesome to read in the papers statements made by U.S. Department of Justice officials stating that they are inclined to recommend that the merger be blocked. Does the merger review process encourage the publication of intentions, real or imagined, which could have an effect on the final outcome of the review? I doubt that it does, and I am confident that it is not productive to do so. I believe it is important that the all merger review panels have an established and fair process to which they strictly adhere. Perhaps if that can still be done, they will find that this merger brings a great deal to the economy, the telecom industry and the consumers it seeks to serve.

TRIBUTE TO ATHLETE OTIS
HARRIS JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you and recognize the outstanding sportsmanship and accomplishments of one of the top 400-meter high school runners that Mississippi has ever produced. Otis Harris Jr., has show-

cased his talents to the people in Mississippi, and is now on his way to impress the world.

Harris is a recent graduate of Hinds Agricultural High School. During his high school career, he participated in some of the nation's most prestigious track events. He won the Class 2A 100, 200, and 400 meter races as a junior and continued his success as a senior by winning the 200, and the 400 meter races. To add to his accomplishments, Harris helped his high school win three consecutive Class 2A titles. He was also named to the All-State track and field team. Harris' performances

over the years have landed him an invitation to compete in the U.S. Junior Nationals located in Denton, Texas. There, he will be competing against the best high school and college freshman runners from around the country for a spot on the National Junior Olympic world team.

Mr. Speaker, Otis Harris Jr. exemplifies the strength and determination of America's youth. His track records show that he has what it takes to excel at all of his endeavors. He is sure to represent the State of Mississippi well for a long time to come.