years, Mary is retiring and leaving her position as Chief Financial Officer of the Center.

As Mary retires and leaves the day to day work at the Madison Medical Center, she leaves an indelible mark on the entire Madison County region. For 25 years she has dedicated her professional life to improving health care affordability, accessibility and service. Her contributions have been a source of great pride and satisfaction for the Madison Medical Center and have resulted in such community-wide recognition as the Administrative Management Award for her hard work as a health care provider in Madison County.

There is no doubt that Mary, a graduate of Greenville High School, who has spent a great deal of time and energy helping others, will not simply rest on laurels now that she is retiring. Instead, I'm sure that she will spend time on both new activities and favorite pastimes. Specifically, I am referring to enjoying time with those people who mean the most to her—her husband Hershel and her children, David and Dennis. But most of all, I am certain that those individuals who will benefit the most from her retirement will be her four grandchildren: Mallory, Chelsea, David Scott and Dustin.

It's often been said that success is not measured by great wealth or material treasures. Instead, success is measured on the person you are, the life you live, and how your life influences the lives of others. If that is true, and I believe that it is, then we are all richer for knowing Mary Bess.

While Mary may be leaving the Madison Medical Center, her contributions to the organization are timeless and will endure. She leaves the Madison Medical Center far stronger, smarter and richer than it was when she joined it and that is a legacy for which she can be proud.

Mr. Speaker, on this very special occasion, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Mary on this milestone and wish her every happiness for the future.

DANGER AHEAD: SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION IS BREAKING THE PROMISE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is considering a resolution stating our commitment to maintain the promise of Social Security by guaranteeing lifetime, inflation-proof benefits to current and future beneficiaries.

I am not surprised that we feel the need to do so tonight in light of today's dangerous recommendations by the President's Social Security Commission, that we feel the need to reaffirm our commitment to Social Security on the same day that the Commission is suggesting that we break that promise.

We should assure Americans—current retirees, future retirees, persons on disability, survivors and dependents—that we will not abandon them, cut their benefits, raise their retirement age, change benefit formulas, reduce COLAS, or take any other step that jeopardizes their financial security.

We should assure Americans that we will reject the recommendations of the President's Social Security Commission.

We all know that this Commission was handpicked to include only those who favor privatization and individual accounts. It does not include representatives of seniors'groups, women's groups, or consumer groups. It held closed-door sessions in subcommittee meetings'' designed to circumvent government in the sunshine requirements. But even this Commission agrees that you cannot have privatization without cutting benefits.

Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to meet with members of the Commission at an event sponsored by the Women's Caucus. At that meeting, we were told that the Commission's recommendations would not guarantee current benefits to all current and future retirees. We were told that only those 55 years or older would be guaranteed current benefits. For everyone else, benefit levels could be lower.

In fact, the Commission's recommendations would lower Social Security benefits for future beneficiaries by between 30 percent to 48 percent. Who would be hurt? Persons with disabilities, children, low-wage workers, persons of color and women.

As we know, Social Security is of special importance to women, who are 60% of all recipients. Without Social Security, over half of older women would live in poverty. Women understand that value of Social Security, we know that we must protect it now and in the future.

Therefore, we should listen to what women's groups have to say about the Commission's recommendations issued today.

Martha Burk, chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations, says that ''The President's Social Security Commission proposes major cuts in guaranteed benefits that will not be made up by the stock market gains from individual accounts.''

Heidi Hartmann, head of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, says that the recommendations ''risk the future economic security of younger workers, particularly women.

They are joined in opposing these recommendations by groups like the Older Women's League, the National Organization for Women, the American Association of University Women, and Business and Professional Women, USA.

In light of the widespread public opposition to privatization, I am not surprised that the Republican leadership is bringing up a resolution that distances this body from the Commission's recommendations.

I only hope that we will do more than voice our commitment to the future of social Security. I hope that we will put privatization proposals to rest for good.

BIPARTISAN TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the diligent efforts of Chairman THOMAS, my colleagues and their staff members in drafting and sponsoring H.R. 3005, the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2001.

H.R. 3005 is being referred to as the most environmentally and labor responsive legislation regarding Trade Promotion Authority (Fast Track) to be sponsored by the U.S. Congress. However, I share the concerns raised by many of my constituents that H.R. 3005's labor and environmental standards do not go far enough to ensure a level playing field in our proposed trade agreements.

H.R. 3005 refers to environmental and labor provisions as negotiating objectives. Our trade history reveals that during the past 25 years including labor rights, and now environmental rights, as ''negotiating objectives'' do not guarantee that these provisions will actually be included in any proposed trade agreements. The geopolitical and trade landscape has changed, of the 142 members comprising the World Trade Organization (WTO), 100 are classified as developing nations and 30 are referred to as lesser-developed nations. Why is this important? It is important because with China's accession into the WTO, the 130 nations will become more forceful in promoting their trade agendas, and an opportunity for a more favorable trade agreement becomes apparent if a nation lowers its environmental and labor standards. Many nations' standards are sub-standard at best.

As drafted, the overall negotiating objective of H.R. 3005 is to promote respect for worker rights. My constituents report that the worker rights provisions do not guarantee that ''core'' labor standards are included in the corpus of prospective trade agreements. By core labor standards, I refer to the International Labor Organization's 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work: freedom of association, the right to organize and for collective bargaining, and the rights to be free from child labor, forced labor and employment discrimination, which many people throughout the world are confronted with.

My constituents are troubled that H.R. 3005 does not require a signatory to an agreement to improve or even to maintain that its domestic laws comport with the standards of the International Labor Organization, in practice an incentive is created for lowering them. Among H.R. 3005's principle objectives is a provision entitled labor and the environment, which calls for the signatories to trade agreements to enforce their own environment and labor laws. The United States, as a leader in the global trade community must set the example by raising the labor and environmental standards of its trading partners. In the end, it will be the United States who is called upon to provide the resources to clean-up environmental disasters.

Through their first-hand accounts, my constituents report that workers in many nations that we seek to enter into bi-lateral and multilateral trade agreements are subjected to exploitation, harassment and worse for exercising their rights to collective bargaining, and are forced to work under abusive conditions. For example, in our own hemisphere more than 33% of the complaints filed with the International Labor Organization's Committee on Free Association originate in the Andean region. I understand that new labor laws in Bolivia, Ecuador, Columbia and Peru undermine the right to collective bargaining, and there are scores of reports from NGO's regarding unconscionable violations of the most fundamental rights for workers and their union representatives. The AFL–CIO reports that since January 2001, more than 93 union members in Columbia have been murdered, while the perpetrators have gone unpunished.

How the United States engages in trade negotiations and its practices are crucial not only for our future, but for our democratic process. How our nation conducts itself is scrutinized world-wide, in essence, we must set the right example. Events at the recent World Trade Organization negotiations in Doha, Qatar have made this fact even more apparent. The WTO is seeking to adopt a worldwide ''Investor-State Clause'' in the next round of discussions. This clause was written into Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for the purpose of protecting businesses from expropriation by foreign governments. What it has been used for, however, is completely different from its originally stated purpose.

Cases such as Methanex v. United States and its progeny are dispositive of harmful effect of the unbridled power of ill thought out provisions of trade legislation. Methane, the producer of MTBE an additive used to make gasoline burn cleaner, was leaking from a storage tank and into the water supply in California. Governor Davis acted promptly, and after further testing banned MTBE. Methanex, a Canadian Corporation, brought an action against California/United States in July 1999, not in our courts, but pursuant to NAFTA's Chapter 11 foreign investor clause. According to William Greider's October 15th article in The Nation, ''under this provision a foreign investor can sue a national government if their company's property assets, including the intangible property of expected profits, are damaged by laws or regulations of virtually any kind.'' Greider further reveals that Methanex, through its Washington D.C. powerhouse law firm, used tribunal established through NAFTA, where the proceeding are secret (unless the parties agree to public disclosure).

Greider goes on, ''As nervous Members of Congress inquire into what they unwittingly created back in 1993, critics explain the implications: 'Multinational investors can randomly second-guess the legitimacy of environmental laws or any other public-welfare or economic regulation, including agency decisions, and even jury verdicts. . . . the open ended test is whether the regulation illegitimately injured a company's investments and can be construed as tantamount to expropriation, though no assets were physically taken.' ''

This Chapter 11 case and many others like it are now pending and/or being heard before these arbitral panels. Methanex is seeking 970 million dollars. This is an outrage and an assault on our legal system. To add insult to injury, the drafter of the provision, now in private practice, readily admits that it was an intended consequence of NAFTA, rather an unintended consequence as most people believed it to be.

All cases finalized thus far have been either judged in favor of the business interest or settled out of court. The end result is a direct subversion of the right of people to protect from polluters the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the food they eat. In effect, this clause allows the democratic processes we hold so dear to be subverted.

Mr. Speaker, we must seek out ways to make trade compatible with conservation of the environment and by adhering to core labor and environmental standards that are both incorporated into the body of a trade agreement and enforceable.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. CAREY RAMIREZ

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Carey Ramirez, one of the many true heroes who emerged from the devastation of September 11th.

Mr. Ramirez, a 25-year-old hospice nurse employed by the Hospice of New York and working out of the Margaret Tietz Center for Nursing Care Inpatient Hospice Unit, was on a bus, traveling to his NYU Nursing Education program at the time of the attack on the World Trade Center.

Seeing the smoke and flame, Mr. Ramirez urgently requested the bus driver to stop to allow him to investigate the situation. He was dressed in his nursing whites and carrying a stethoscope, and was anxious—like so many health care and rescue personnel—to help people in Lower Manhattan.

Mr, Ramirez, without hesitation or thought of his own well-being, found himself at the South Tower, identified himself to authorities and proceeded to look for individuals to assist. He was at 4 World Trade Center when the South Tower collapsed. With his own life in danger, he found and rescued two women, one of whom was blind.

Carey's heroic effort was captured by CNN and People magazine, and was also featured in U2's music video ''Walk On''. He was seen assisting both women—his arm locked with the arm of the blind woman, the other woman clinging to his backpack. All were covered with ash.

There were many such heroes on that terrible day. But what has impressed me about this young man is his continued unassuming demeanor and belief that he is not a hero—just a New Yorker who put other New Yorkers' well-being ahead of his own.

In my judgement, Carey Ramirez is a hero and I am pleased and honored to recognize him today.

TAKE THE FIELD REBUILDS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELDS IN NYC

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on November 8 the House adopted the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriation Conference Report. This bill included an allocation of $500,000 for Take the Field, a tremendously worthwhile and effective program aimed at rebuilding the outdoor athletic fields of all New York City's public high schools.

I would like to thank the distinguished Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. YOUNG, my distinguished colleague from Wisconsin, Mr. OBEY, my distinguished colleague from New York, Mr. WALSH, the Chairman of the Veterans Affairs, HUD and Independent Agencies Subcommittee, and also the Ranking Minority Member, from West Virginia, Mr. MOLLOHAN, for their efforts in making this allocation possible.

I would also like to commend three extraordinary business and community leaders, Preston Robert Tisch, Richard Kahan and Tony Kiser, who founded this public/private partnership and have worked selflessly and relentlessly to promote its success. Thanks to their efforts, Take the Field is already off to a promising start. Seven outdoor athletic facilities—at least one in each borough—have already been rebuilt.

Take the Field is committed to rebuilding 52 of 60 outdoor facilities over a four-year period. The average cost of each field reconstruction project is $2 million, bringing the total cost just over $100 million. The $500,000 allocation that this bill provides will actually provide $2 million for Take the Field, thanks to the City of New York, which has provided this tremendous undertaking with a three to one challenge grant.

In the next few years, Take the Field can reverse more than a quarter of a century of neglect and deterioration of our public school athletic fields and provide students with access to a broad range of athletic activities that can improve their health, motivate their desire for academic excellence and keep them away from drugs and violence. The allocation contained in this bill will help accomplish this.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT DOUGLAS BAUM

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today, as our Nation's armed forces make America proud by fighting the war on terrorism, I wanted to recognize the parents of a young man who gave his life for our country during the war in Vietnam. Clayton and Eleanor Baum live in my district, in La Mesa, California. Their son, Sergeant Douglas Baum, was killed on November 18, 1967, in the central highlands of South Vietnam, Dak To.

Sgt. Baum was 20 years old and, according to author Edward F. Murray, founder and president of the Medal of Honor Historical Society, was one of the most popular members of the Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade, Alpha Company 503. As a soldier, Sgt. Baum had earned the Army Commendation Medal, the Bronze Star, the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. Sgt. Baum was due for rotation and had begun to send his belongings to his parents when he was killed defending the lives of those in his squad.

After Sgt. Baum's death, members of the 173rd Airborne contacted Clayton and Eleanor to let them know how much Douglas meant to them, praising his bravery and leadership. People like Sgt. Darrell Cline, who has stayed in contact with the Baums and arranged for them to attend several of the national events for the 173rd, and Tom Means, a member of Sgt. Baum's squad who searched 25 years to meet Clayton and Eleanor just to tell them how much he thought of their son.

Those who attacked us on September 11th have severely underestimated the resolve of today's forces who carry on the legacy of soldiers like Sgt. Douglas Baum. America's military follows a proud tradition of service and dedication. Like those that came before them