

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO INGRID BOGGESS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to the life and memory of Ingrid Boggess who recently passed away in Pueblo, Colorado on December 3, 2001. Ingrid was fighting pancreatic cancer, and as we mourn her loss, I would like to recognize the dedication displayed and contributions made by Ingrid to her community.

Ingrid was born in Czechoslovakia and dreamed of coming to the United States early in life. While living in Germany, she learned English and worked as a translator for the German government in the late 1950's. Her dream was realized when Ingrid became a naturalized citizen in 1964 and moved to the community of Pueblo. Ingrid soon found work, married her husband Jack, and dedicated her free time and energy to the community. Among her interests were promoting education, public health, and the arts.

Ingrid was a member of and served as President of the Pueblo Symphony and the Symphony Guild. Her commitment to helping others was evident in her service to the National Assistance League, Assistance League of Pueblo, Parkview Hospital Foundation Board and the Pueblo Community College Foundation. She also dedicated her time and efforts to the preservation of our history and arts through the Pueblo County Historical Society, the Rosemount Museum Auxiliary, and the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center.

Mr. Speaker, I have mentioned just a few of Ingrid's many contributions to the community of Pueblo. She was a dedicated servant who dreamed of coming to this nation and living the American dream. She not only lived that dream but dedicated her life to helping others reach their aspirations. Her husband, two children survive her. My heart and my condolences go out to Ingrid's family and friends during this time of loss and healing.

### TRIBUTE TO SAND FORK ELEMENTARY

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sand Fork Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Sand Fork Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Sand Fork Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Sand Fork Elementary.

### DENOUNCE TERROR IN ANY FORM

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn terrorism in all forms. We continue to be shocked and saddened by the September 11 attacks, and the gruesome attacks that have been taking place in Israel this month. Wednesday night, at least 10 Israelis were killed and more than 30 were injured during a roadside bombing and shooting attack against a bus. It was among the bloodiest incidents in nearly 15 months of violence in the Middle East. If there is going to be hope for peace in the region, these acts of hate and terror must stop. Israel cannot be expected to negotiate with those that allow for such atrocities to occur.

I was also angered and saddened yesterday to learn that two leaders of the Jewish Defense League were assembling bombs to use in planned attacks against one of L.A.'s largest mosques and the local offices of a House member (Mr. ISSA).

The two men, Irving David Rubin and Earl Leslie Krugel, have been charged with conspiracy to manufacture and detonate bombs targeting Arab and Muslim buildings in the Los Angeles area, as well as the San Clemente offices the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

As a Jewish Member of Congress, I was particularly outraged by the news of those vicious plans. I want all of my colleagues and the entire American public to know that those individuals are seen by Jews as any other terrorist would be seen. They have no right to attempt to carry out murder in the name of religion and they do not represent the values or the beliefs of the Jewish community.

Now, more than any time, it is important for this nation to embrace its diversity and for all of us to denounce discrimination, terror, and hate in any form.

### CHRIS PIENING, A BUILDER OF TRANS-ATLANTIC RELATIONS

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with regret that we report that last weekend our friend Chris Piening died after a long struggle with amyloidosis.

Chris worked for years as the staff engine, behind the European side of what is not called the Transatlantic Legislative Dialogue—the interparliamentary dialogue between the United States Congress and the European Parliament. That dialogue just had its 53d meeting, and is a critical part of the burgeoning interaction between the two largest economic and political entities in the Western world.

Chris was born in New York in 1945: he was an exceptional human being. His good humor, capacity for hard work, and diplomatic skills were regularly tested but never found lacking. He always exhibited an extraordinary zest for life that touched all those he came in contact with.

Chris was a scholar as well as a legislative official. During a leave at the University of Washington he wrote *Global Europe: the European Union in World Affairs* (Lynne Rienner: Boulder, Co., 1997), considered an authoritative account of the EU's actions abroad. He worked in recent years as the head of the European Parliament's information office in London.

Mr. Speaker, on our own behalf, and on behalf of the Members, former Members, and staff associated with the Congress-EP exchange, we extend our condolences to Chris's wife, Marion, his children, Jenny and Claude, and his colleagues and friends at the European Parliament.

For the information of our colleagues, we set out below a tribute relating to Chris's life and work issued by the Secretary General of the European Parliament.

STRASBOURG,  
*December 12, 2001.*

#### NOTICE TO STAFF

DEAR COLLEAGUES: It is with the deepest sadness that I have to inform you of the death of our colleague, Chris Piening, who died in London last Saturday, December 8, aged 56 after a long and painful illness. Chris leaves his wife, Marion, and two children, Jenny and Claude.

He began work in the Parliament on May 1, 1973 as a Translator in Luxembourg, becoming an official the following year. He was appointed Administrator in June 1979, Principal Administrator in December 1983 and became Head of Division in 1989. In 1985 he was assigned to Brussels where he worked for DG II, DG III and then the President's Cabinet. In February 1999 he was appointed Head of our London Information Office.

• 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.

Chris leaves an indelible impression on his very many friends amongst Members and staff. A convinced European from the first hour, he was a fine public servant with strong convictions. Demanding of others, he gave of himself. Always dedicated to his work, he inspired loyalty and affection in his colleagues, even though his habit of asking difficult questions would sometimes put his hierarchy in a spin.

But it is as a great and loyal friend that we remember him: his love of life, his kindness, his enthusiasm for everything from skiing to books or to good-natured gossip over a good meal. To this list of qualities, and to his wonderful sense of humour, I must add his extraordinary courage and fortitude, particularly over the last two years. I saw him a week before he died, frail but still with his ineradicable sense of humour and bravery.

We will all miss him deeply.

JULIAN PRIESTLEY,  
*Secretary General.*

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VINCE  
BAKER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to an icon of the Pueblo, Colorado community. Vince Baker recently passed away at the age of 88, and as his family mourns his loss, I think it is appropriate to remember Vince and pay tribute to him for his contributions to his community.

Vince owned and operated Vince Baker Motors, a car dealership located in Pueblo. He went on to become President of Modern Trailer Sales, Director of Western Acceptance Corporation, and managed a regional General Motors distributorship. Vince's success was evident in the creation of over 30 automobile agencies in Colorado and New Mexico.

Vince's true love was working and interacting with people. This became clear later in his life when Vince served as a motivational speaker and a writer. His communication skills served as motivational tools for others that were widely used throughout the automobile industry. In addition, Vince was a contributing writer for a motor magazine for over eight years.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that we remember Vince Baker. He was known for his kind heart and a gentle demeanor he displayed throughout his life. Vince Baker will be remembered and missed not only by his family but also by a grateful community.

IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION TAX  
CREDITS

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my excitement for the next phase of education reform which will empower parents to make the best educational choices for their children. The bill before us today, the

"No Child Left Behind Act," will offer some small measure of parental options in the form of supplemental services for after-school tutoring and other educational resources. These reforms are an important step toward educational choice, but the real victory for American schoolchildren will be found in the Administration's next education reform initiative—education tax credits.

Shortly after President Bush took office in January of this year, he announced an innovative plan to offer children in failing schools the option of attending a private school of their choice. The proposal would have implemented much needed competition into our education system today and would have benefited all schoolchildren, public and private alike. Unfortunately, the President's proposal is not a part of the bill before us today. I am pleased to report, however, the President has indicated his full support and leadership for parental choice through tax credits in the next session of the 107th Congress.

In the remainder of my time, I'd like to discuss some of the promising benefits and opportunities afforded children through education tax credit legislation.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the current tax system financially penalizes parents who send their children to schools other than the government-owned schools assigned to their children. A tax credit for educational expenses would allow parents to redirect their own money to pay expenses at a school that best meets the needs of their child.

Parents across the country are becoming increasingly concerned about their children's education. More than \$125 billion in federal funds have been directed toward K-12 education programs over the past 25 years, but these increases in financial investment have not been accompanied by similar gains in student achievement. American children languish far behind their international peers in math and science; the racial achievement gap on test scores is widening; and test scores on the nation's report card (the National Assessment of Educational Progress) have remained largely stagnant over the past 20 years.

Any business that received such poor profit margins in return for such large financial investments would be forced to close its doors, yet the federal government continues to funnel billions of American taxpayer dollars annually toward the government's education monopoly.

Additional money, resources and programs—with all of the attached federal regulations and mandates—will not solve the nation's education crisis. These methods have been tested and tried without positive results. Fundamental changes to the structure of our education system are needed and this can only happen by relying on the power of free markets by empowering parents with the ability to select the best school options for their children, whether it is a government-owned, private or home school.

Education tax credits are emerging as one of the most effective vehicles to encourage parental choice in education around the country. To date, six states have enacted some form of tax credit for elementary and secondary educational expenses—Arizona, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Florida and Pennsylvania. A tax credit at the federal level would enable families to save on their federal income taxes, which are typically much higher than state income taxes. Nine states do not have a

state income tax, therefore, a federal tax credit is their only option to receive educational assistance in this form. Moreover, federal education tax credits can provide a massive cash infusion toward a competitive, free-market education system in America.

Mr. Speaker, there are many different kinds of tax credits, including credits for educational expenses incurred by families and credits for individual and corporate donations to educational scholarship foundations. The details of the President's legislation are forthcoming, but I think if we look to the example of education tax credits in the states, we will observe the exciting educational opportunities for children. In Arizona, for example, the state legislature passed a \$500 tax credit for donations to scholarship foundations. The law has been effective since 1997, and since that time the number of scholarship organizations has grown from 2 to 34. Nearly \$14 million was raised during that time through the donations of 30,000 taxpayers. Arizona's tax credit could potentially raise \$75 million in scholarships annually, according to some estimates.

Another indication of the promise of tax credits is the overwhelming public support for such opportunities. A recent poll by McLaughlin and Associates, however, shows broad based support for education tax credits that cuts across party lines, ideologies, income levels, age and race. The poll found that seven out of 10 likely voters support providing \$2,000 tax credits per child for all educational expenses, including tuition. Self-described liberals gave a 70 percent approval rating for the concept. African-Americans and households earning under \$40,000 a year also show very high numbers of support (76.5 percent and 75 percent, respectively).

The corporate tax credit concept for donations to scholarship foundations or local schools had widespread approval ratings in the poll, as well. Nearly three in four Americans surveyed supported the idea, with more than 78 percent approval among blacks and 80 percent approval among Hispanics.

Education tax credit programs have withstood challenges in court, as well. Six consecutive court challenges have gone in favor of tax credit legislation. The courts have found that tax credits merely allow families to keep a greater portion of their own private money and do not involve the transfer of public funds to schools or individuals.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, education tax credits bypass the potential threat of government meddling. Many private school administrators are afraid to accept government assistance due to the threat of greater government regulation that would compromise the autonomy and integrity of the school. Vouchers are particularly susceptible to government regulation. In Milwaukee, for example, schools involved in the district's voucher program are required to permit students to "opt-out" of religious activities—in effect, watering down the curriculum of the schools. Education tax credits, however, are more insulated from government regulation than vouchers because tax credits involve private money and do not constitute "public" spending.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this time to discuss the future of education reform in America. We have all seen the effects of a government monopoly on our education system, and it isn't good. The absence of competition only benefits bureaucrats, not children.

The time has come to give parents the option of sending their children to the schools of their choice, and I look forward to working with the President to successfully passing education tax credit legislation in the coming year.

R. LAWRENCE COUGHLIN, JR.

**HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in this special order honoring our former colleague, R. Lawrence Coughlin. I want to thank Mr. GEKAS for organizing this special order.

Larry Coughlin represented a suburban Philadelphia district in the House of Representatives for 24 years. He was a gracious gentleman who represented his constituents with integrity and wisdom.

Mr. Coughlin had a remarkable background. Raised on a farm in Pennsylvania, he earned a degree in economics from Yale and an MBA from Harvard. He subsequently attended night school at Temple University to get his law degree while working during the day as a foreman in a steel plant. His academic accomplishments speak to his energy and ability.

Mr. Coughlin was also a dedicated public servant. He served in the Marines in Korea during the Korean war as an aide-de-camp to legendary Marine Lt. General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller. He served ably in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate before running for—and winning—a seat in Congress in 1968.

During his 12 terms in Congress, Representative Coughlin served on the House Judiciary Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. He was particularly active in working to increase federal housing and transportation assistance to our nation's cities. Mr. Coughlin understood that even affluent suburbs like the ones he represented depend upon central cities for their continued economic well-being. Our Nation is healthier and more prosperous as a result of his service in Congress.

Larry Coughlin was always a quite, upbeat, courteous man. It was an honor and a pleasure to serve in the House of Representatives with him. I join my colleagues in mourning his passing.

**DIETARY SUPPLEMENT TAX  
FAIRNESS ACT**

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased yesterday to be joining my colleague from Indiana, Mr. BURTON, in introducing this important legislation that will help shift the focus of our healthcare system to wellness and disease prevention. This legislation is the House companion to the Harkin-Hatch Senate bill, S. 1330.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been supportive of dietary supplements and the potential and

promise they bring to our healthcare. I always participate in actively leading the effort for progressive reforms, like we did with the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). The prime significance of this simple legislation is that the Internal Revenue Code will be modified in order to allow health insurers to create benefits that would provide some coverage for dietary supplements for insurance beneficiaries. Health insurers will not be required to provide coverage under this legislation. However, they will be now in a position to do it in a way that will provide the tax benefits to both the consumer and the insurer.

Unfortunately, the Internal Revenue Code is not consumer friendly when it comes to health wellness and prevention. And if we are ever going to take meaningful roads to promote good health, wellness, and disease prevention, the Tax Code needs to be examined and reformed. This legislation is enormously popular with consumers who continually ask their insurance companies to offer some coverage for these healthcare products. Without passage of this legislation, they will not be able to obtain this type of insurance and healthcare benefit.

The low up-front cost of this coverage and the potential long-term savings they offer by assisting our country in staying healthy longer will indeed be a meaningful step to lowering and stabilizing our health care costs. This bipartisan legislation is an important part of realizing the requests of millions of Americans who want to enhance their healthcare. I look forward to working with my colleague for prompt and swift passage of this legislation.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAUL  
LINDSTROM**

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I would like to take this opportunity and pay respect to the life and memory of Paul Lindstrom who recently passed away in Grand Junction, Colorado on November 21, 2001. Paul will always be remembered as a dedicated friend and leader to several Colorado communities. His passing is a great loss for those who knew Paul and relied on him for his strength and good nature in times of hardship and prosperity.

Paul graduated from Centennial High School in Pueblo, CO in 1934. Dreaming of flying his entire life, he moved to the West Coast to become a pilot. With his license and flight experience in hand, Paul returned to Parachute, Colorado and entered into the flying profession. Upon completing his instructor's license, Paul took his first job with Feeny Flying School at Pueblo Airport. This began a long flying career for Paul that eventually led to training aviation cadets for World War II, flying private charters, crop dusting, and even uranium prospecting in Wyoming.

Later in life, Paul went on a different career path becoming a dude rancher in New Castle, Colorado, where he developed a popular campground for the KOA chain. His service in the guest industry gave Paul much gratification in his life. He loved to work and mingle with people, and was always known as a

friend to everyone. To his family, he was known as a kind and caring patriarch who is survived by wife Bertha, three children, five grandchildren, nine step grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Lindstrom passed away in Grand Junction after a long struggle with an illness. Yet despite his battle, Paul was able to live his dream of flying and raised a large and loving family. He will be missed by the many he touched with his sense of humor and positive attitude. I extend my condolences to Paul Lindstrom's family, friends, and the communities he blessed in the State of Colorado.

**TRIBUTE TO NORMANTOWN  
ELEMENTARY**

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Normantown Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Normantown Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Normantown Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Normantown Elementary.

**QUENTIN YOUNG: "THE  
CONSCIENCE FOR THE COUNTRY"**

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues have had the privilege of getting to know Dr. Quentin Young, a revered Chicago institution known for his unremitting commitment to health care, economic and social justice. Some of us know him because of his dedication to universal health care, under the banner he coined of "Everybody in, nobody out." Some of us know him because of his leadership in protecting public health. Some of us know him because of his dedication to ending discrimination and bigotry. I also know him because he is a trusted friend and my personal physician.

Dr. Young brought his years of activism, dedication, and enthusiasm to the House last spring, when he testified at the inaugural meeting of the House Universal Health Care Task Force. I share his lifelong goal of universal health care for all and agree that he is the "conscience of the country" on this issue.

Dr. Young's remarkable spirit and career are described in a December 9, 2001 article in the Chicago Tribune. It is entitled "The Patient Doctor," and chronicles the story of a remarkable individual who fights every day to improve people's lives and our nation, and I urge my colleagues to read the entire article, but I want to provide a brief sampling of Dr. Young's extraordinary.

Young was barely launched on his medical center in the early 1950s when he became a leading advocate—and one of the few whites—in the fight to end the discriminatory attitudes and practices at Chicago-area hospitals that led to minority physicians' being denied practice privileges at all but Cook County Hospital. In 1964, he co-founded the Medical Committee for Human Rights, a group of progressive physicians who provided medical care at civil rights marches and sit-ins and riots.

That role earned Young a prestigious position in the civil rights movement: He was Martin Luther King Jr.'s doctor when King lived in Chicago in 1966. His committee affiliation also got Young subpoenaed to appear before the House Un-American Activities Committee in October 1968 to answer questions about his and the medical committee's role during the riots at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago that year—an experience friends say was a high point of Young's career because he believed he got the best of verbal sparring with committee members.

Young and the late Dr. Jorge Prieto, former head of the Chicago Board of Health, were the primary forces behind the movement to establish neighborhood medical clinics in the late '60s. Their work led to the current network of 32 medical clinics throughout Cook County that will support the new \$500 million Cook County Hospital.

Even now, nearing his 80th year, Young cannot keep still. "I am impulsively an advocate," he says.

In addition to running an internal medicine practice in his native Hyde Park—as he has done since 1952—the indefatigable doctor is medical commentator for National Public Radio on WBEZ-FM and helps direct two organizations he founded to advocate for national health care (often referred to by critics as socialized medicine): Physicians for a National Health Program and the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group.

Last summer, he and other health-care activists marched for 15 days across 137 miles of northern Illinois to drum up political support for the Bernardin Amendment to the state constitution. Named for the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, who supported universal health care, the proposed amendment would guarantee health insurance for every Illinois resident.

Despite the long odds against any national health-care reform in a closely divided Congress, Young is optimistic about national health insurance being enacted, even after the war on terrorism put many domestic issues on the back burner. "I think very emphatically that the complications of Sept. 11 create a much more urgent need for national health insurance," he says. "Our current system is imploding. Even with our straitened circumstances economically, because of the incredible administrative waste in the present system, there's still enough money there to take care of everybody."

Of course, being at the forefront of divisive social and political issues can be risky, as Young learned in 1954 when as a young doctor he took a stand on an issue that cost him his job.

On Jan. 17, 1954, 15-month-old Laura Lingo was severely scalded when a vaporizer full of

melted menthol oil overturned on top of her in her South Side home. The toddler's mother, Irene, rushed her to nearby Woodlawn Hospital, which no longer exists. Irene Lingo had little money and no hospital insurance.

After initial emergency treatment, officials at Woodlawn decided not to admit the baby because of the mother's inability to pay and sent them to Cook County Hospital. The baby died there the next day.

A coroner's inquest found Woodlawn Hospital negligent in the baby's death. Young, an attending physician at Woodlawn, was among several Chicago doctors who signed a letter published in one of the daily papers condemning the practice of hospitals' sending poor patients to Cook County. Not long after the letter was printed, Woodlawn revoked Young's privileges, putting the young physician and father out of work.

Neither that nor any other setback has slowed Young down. He has been doing his advocacy work, seeing patients in his Hyde Park office and getting his various messages out through press conferences, newspaper op-ed pieces and, until recently, his weekly radio show "Public Affairs" on WBEZ. The war on terrorism has given him new spins on his causes, such as the recent anthrax-by-mail cases, which he says underscored the need to correct serious shortcomings in the public-health system.

"We can end huge threats to human existence," says Young, a former president of the American Public Health Association, noting that public-health campaigns were able to defeat smallpox, polio and flu. "And we can help with our current problem if we make our public health infrastructure really muscular, by training more epidemiologists and computerizing our 3,000 county, city and state public health organizations."

Right or not, he will always be doing something, friends say. Dr. Ida Hellander, executive director of Physicians for a National Health Program who has worked with Young for 10 years, took a sabbatical last summer to rest and study photography in Montana. Just before leaving, she turned to her boss and mentor and asked him, partly out of frustration: "Quentin, don't you ever think about what it'd be like to live like regular people—not be so aware of all the social injustice, all the suffering, all the great struggles?"

Young didn't miss a beat: "Yes, Ida," he responded. "I call it death."

#### LETTER TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit the following correspondence for the RECORD.

DEAR SECRETARY RUMSFELD: We must consider the likelihood China is preparing a sneak attack upon the United States. The flashpoint will be Taiwan. Holding immense strategic value for the United States and Japan, as well as China, the stakes will involve more than Taiwan's 23 million people who have achieved a democratic form of government and freedom. They will involve the leadership and security of the United States.

Contrary to the belief of many analysts who think in terms of a Cold War balance of power and who would view China as a threat only as it increases its military power to a level equal to the United States, China's strategic military planning distinctly calls

for seizing the initiative when facing a superior opponent such as the United States, taking advantage of special circumstances.

China plans to take full advantage of a surprise attack like the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor. Its strategy is to conduct lightning warfare, or blitzkrieg, using ballistic missiles and information warfare to seize the initiative, letting the momentum of its attacks overwhelm its opponent. Surprise imparts immense tactical advantages, and its value should not be discounted. For six months after Pearl Harbor the Japanese ruled the Pacific.

China's ballistic missiles, which have achieved an accuracy within 50 meters, give it, contrary to a number of views, the ability to launch a surgical strike deep behind lines, attacking radar, communications, intelligence, and air and naval bases with a high degree of precision and confidence. U.S. ballistic missile defenses are non-existent except for the short-range Patriot.

China's information warfare capabilities, including capabilities against satellites or ASAT, will enable it to conduct strikes against U.S. satellites, communications, and computer networks. Its attacks on satellites may use a variety of weapons, ranging from high explosive and nuclear-generated electromagnetic pulse, to parasitic satellites, high-energy lasers and jamming and cyberwarfare against ground communication links.

China's strategy calls for dismantling the U.S. Revolution in Military Affairs, which relies heavily on satellites for intelligence, communications, navigation, and weather forecasting. China's ASAT could disable the effectiveness of U.S. forces in a sudden blow. This blow would go beyond immediate repair as satellites take years to build and launch into space.

In January 2001 the Rumsfeld Space Commission noted that, "U.S. Satellites are vulnerable to attacks in space and the government must step up efforts to protect them and the critical services they provide." In February 2001 CIA Director George Tenet noted, "Our adversaries well understand U.S. strategic dependence on access to space. Operations to disrupt, degrade, or defeat U.S. space assets will be attractive options for those seeking to counter U.S. strategic military superiority."

The CIA Director added, "China is developing ground-based laser weapons and electronic pulse weapons that can blind or destroy U.S. satellites." In July 2000 the Chinese news agency Xinhua noted, "For countries that could never win a war by using the methods of tanks and planes, attacking the U.S. space system may be an irresistible and most tempting choice." This irresistible and tempting choice would prove highly effective against U.S. forces, as verified in the U.S. Space War Games held in Colorado Springs in January 2001.

In March 2001 Air Force General Ralph Eberhart, then head of the U.S. Space Command and promoted to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, noted China is developing cyber-warfare capabilities that could put at risk the computer networks U.S. military forces increasingly rely on. His observation as Space Commander, in charge of the U.S. information warfare program, is especially pertinent.

China's strategy of nuclear deterrence plans to seize the initiative with inferior forces, believing that the threat of nuclear retaliation upon just a small number of U.S. cities will be sufficient to ensure deterrence, and prevent the United States from deep involvement with Taiwan. As recorded by Bill Gertz in his book *Betrayal*, in 1995 PLA General Xiong Guangkai told Charles Freeman, a former Assistant Secretary of Defense,

that "In the end, you care a lot more about Los Angeles than you do about Taipei."

China's war planning will take advantage of its strategic alliance with Saddam Hussein. With Saddam as an ally, China will be able to threaten the flow of oil from the Middle East, and threaten Israel. Iraqi troops have infiltrated into Jordan. To further threaten the flow of oil from the Middle East, China has formed alliances with Pakistan and Myanmar, providing itself with access to the strategic strait of Malacca, connecting the Persian Gulf to the Far East.

China is preparing for direct military confrontation with the United States on its own terms. It plans to take advantage of the element of surprise, seeking to attack U.S. satellites, intelligence, communications, and forces in a sudden blow of lightning warfare, seizing the initiative. The effectiveness of China's strategy will be heightened by the lack of U.S. ballistic missile defense and China's corresponding buildup of ballistic missiles of all types—short, intermediate and long-range.

The United States needs to ask itself if it is ready for China's attack especially in a simultaneous confrontation with Saddam Hussein. We must prepare accordingly. Urgency is required.

Very truly yours,

BOB SCHAFFER,  
Member of Congress  
from Colorado.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL VIELE

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute and recognize Russell Viele of Rifle, Colorado and thank him for his contributions to this nation. Russell began his service in the military in the 1950's, and served as a Marine in the Korean War. Upon his discharge, Russell had accumulated over eight years of service to the Marine Corps.

Russell joined the Marines on July 1, 1952 and attended basic training in San Diego. Following graduation, he went on to mechanical school in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. As a mechanical student, Russell graduated at the head of his class and was assigned back to California. It was from there that Russell left for the Korean War where he was assigned to a motor pool in Japan.

Russell's duty, while in the motor pool, was to maintain the large five-ton trucks that were crucial to troop and ration supply for combat units in the theater. He was stationed there for fourteen months, promoted three times, and left the country at the end of the war as a Sergeant. He finished his tour with the Marines in the Mohave Desert of California. Russell now makes his home in Rifle, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize and pay tribute to Russell Viele for his service to his country during the Korean War. He served selflessly in a time of great need, bringing credit to himself and this nation. Paul Russell is one reason that our country enjoys the freedom that we hold so high today.

#### RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITY EXPANSION ACT OF 2001

#### HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the "Retirement Opportunity Expansion Act of 2001," that would increase pension participation for workers without pensions, low-wage workers, and women. Joining me in this effort are Congressman CHARLES B. RANGEL, the ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and Congressman ROBERT T. MATSUI, the ranking member of the Social Security Subcommittee.

Earlier this year the House passed H.R. 10, "The Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act." I saw that bill as a beginning, a first step, to improve retirement opportunities for workers in this country. But, at that time, I emphasized the need to do more to address the many gaps and shortfalls in pension coverage.

In March 1999, the Oversight Committee of the Committee on Ways and Means held hearings on pension issues. At those hearings, Teresa Heinz, in her capacity as Chairman of the Heinz Foundation Philanthropies, testified that nearly 40 percent of women are dependent on Social Security for almost all of their retirement income because they have fewer opportunities to participate in the retirement plans provided by employers. This is but one aspect of the problems facing our country as the baby-boom generation begins to retire and younger workers lack adequate pension coverage.

I believe that steps must be taken to help employees to fund their retirement accounts, to assist small business owners to start and maintain pension plans for themselves and their employees, and to provide women with improved retirement income protections. To that end, I have included in this bill a refundable tax credit that is substantially the same as that provided for in the Democratic substitute which was introduced by Mr. NEAL in the 106th Congress.

Recently I ask the General Accounting Office (GAO) to look at the extent of pension coverage among American workers and the likely effects of increasing contribution limits in defined contribution plans, the type of pension plan that covers most pension participants. GAO identified what I believe to be disturbing trends in the degree of pension participation among lower-income and women workers. For instance, while 47 percent of all workers participate in some type of a pension plan, only 38 percent of workers earning less than \$40,000 per year participate in a pension plan. Fully 70 percent of workers earning between \$40,000 and \$74,999 participate in a plan. GAO also revealed that 56 percent of female workers do not participate in a pension plan.

The disparities in coverage are even greater when looking at defined contribution plans. In a defined contribution plan, the employee may provide all or a portion of the funds and decide how to invest the money. There is no guaranteed benefit amount or formula as there are in traditional defined benefit plans. Of all workers who earned less than \$40,000 per year, 28 percent participated in defined contribution plans. Only 32 percent of all female

workers participated in defined contribution plans. Further, GAO found that only 8% of all defined contribution plan participants would likely benefit directly from increases in statutory contribution limits. Thus, it is clear that changes in contribution limits will do little directly to promote or extend coverage to workers lacking pension coverage.

Clearly greater effort is needed to encourage and facilitate pension participation, especially among lower-income workers and women.

After considering GAO's findings and revisiting the issues raised during our consideration of H.R. 10, I am introducing a pension bill which addresses the following issues: The expansion of pension coverage for workers without pensions; the expansion of coverage for low-wage workers; the improvement of pension coverage for women; and the creation of additional incentives for small businesses to provide pension coverage for employees.

These are the very issues I emphasized in May during our deliberation of H.R. 10.

Because the findings of the GAO and the research of other groups such as the Pension Rights Center and the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) demonstrate that lower-income and female workers are much less likely to be participants in pension plans, I believe we must direct our focus to these workers who often toil at the margins of pension coverage. Specific efforts are needed to help women secure the pension benefits which all manner of their contributions have earned for them.

The Pension Rights Center, a nonprofit consumer rights organization dedicated to promoting retirement income security, has expressed its "strong support" for the Retirement Opportunity Expansion Act of 2001, noting that this legislation would "encourage the creation of new private retirement plans for those lacking such coverage, particularly low and moderate wage earners." WISER, a nonprofit organization that seeks to ensure that poverty among older women will be reduced by improving the opportunities for women to secure retirement benefits, stated that they are "extremely gratified" about the introduction of this bill. They have urged support for the bill in order to "improve the alarming retirement situation for older women . . . where millions of women are retiring into poverty, despite a lifetime of work and caregiving for their families."

Earlier initiatives provided a starting point to improve the pension system we have. It is now time to develop the pension system that we need. I would urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and ensuring its passage during the 107th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I am attaching a summary of the provisions of the "Retirement Opportunity Expansion Act of 2001."

#### THE RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITY EXPANSION ACT OF 2001 SUMMARY

##### TITLE I: EXPANSION OF PENSION COVERAGE TO WORKERS WITHOUT PENSIONS

The purpose of this section is to provide an incentive for low- and middle-income individuals to save for retirement.

Section 101: This section would provide a refundable tax credit to low and middle income workers of up to 50% of annual contributions made to a traditional, deductible IRA or an employer-sponsored pension plan (e.g., 401(k), 403(b) or 457 plans).

Eligible contributions could not exceed the maximum annual allowable contributions to

a deductible IRA. The credit would be phased out as the income of the eligible taxpayer increases. (Eligible taxpayers defined as married filing joint returns would receive the maximum credit on AGI of \$30,000 and the credit would be phased out at \$37,500; single and married filing separate returns would receive the maximum credit on AGI of \$22,500 and the credit would be phased out at \$37,500; single and married filing separate returns would receive the maximum credit on AGI of \$15,000 and the credit would be phased out at \$25,000.)

An eligible taxpayer would be required to earn at least \$5,000 during the tax year and to have attained the age of 18 by the close of the tax year and could not qualify as a dependent child of another taxpayer or be a full-time student.

**TITLE II: EXPANSION OF COVERAGE TO LOW-WAGE WORKERS**

The purpose of this section is to expand pension participation among lower-paid workers.

Section 201: This section would allow contributions of up to \$2,000 made to an IRA through payroll deduction generally to be excluded from an employee's income (and not to be reported on the employee's form W-2) if the taxpayer is otherwise eligible for a deductible IRA.

**TITLE III: IMPROVEMENT OF PENSION COVERAGE FOR WOMEN**

The purpose of these sections is primarily to expand pension benefits to women and individuals who have spent time out of the workforce to raise children or care for parents or spouses.

Section 301: This section would require pension plans to provide the option of a "joint and 3/4 survivor annuity" for participants who so elect. Under the option, a widowed spouse would receive 75 percent of the pension benefit received during the life of the other spouse.

Section 302: This section would require spousal consent on 401(k) distributions of more than 10% of the value of the account.

Section 303: This section would provide full vesting of pension benefits upon the death or disability of the plan participant.

Section 304: This section would prohibit plans from making changes in 401(k) investments or giving lump sum distributions during the 90-day period from the date the plan is notified of the preparation for a domestic relations order.

Section 305: This section would require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a study to determine the participation rate of women and other underrepresented minorities in pension plans and to make recommendations to the Congress for way to increase participation among these groups of workers.

Section 306: This section would count family and medical leave time hours of service for purposes of meeting pension participation, vesting and accrual thresholds.

**TITLE IV: INCENTIVES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES TO OFFER PENSION BENEFITS**

The purpose of this section is to encourage small businesses to offer retirement benefits to their employees.

Section 401: This section would give businesses with 100 or fewer employees a tax credit of up to 50 percent of employer contributions made to a pension plan during the first three years.

Section 402: This section would establish the Secure Money or Annuity Retirement Trusts (SMART). SMART plans are simplified, tax-favored pension plans that combine the features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans. The plans would provide participants with a minimum guaranteed benefit at retirement.

Section 403: This section would simplify the definition of "highly compensated employee."

**ATTACKS ON INDIAN PARLIAMENT**

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, very early this morning, a suicide squad of six terrorists attacked the Indian Parliament. Prime Minister Vajpayee and Members of the Cabinet and Parliament were thankfully safe. Unfortunately, seven people, including guards and workers, were killed and at least 17 people were injured at the hands of one suicide bomber and other assailants equipped with grenades and guns.

The United States has come forward and declared this raid "an outrageous act of terrorism". Not only was this an attack on India, it was a brutal attack on the largest symbol of democracy worldwide. I am shocked and appalled at this extreme act of terrorism and I express my deepest regards towards India at this time.

India is a country that has been sadly afflicted for 50 years by the loss of countless innocent citizens at the hands of cold-blooded murder by terrorists. For the past decade, India has fallen victim to terrorist attacks by groups that belong to the same terrorist network responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Since September 11th, there has been a flurry of terrorist attacks in Kashmir taking place on a daily basis. On October 1st in particular, a suicide car bomb exploded in front of the Jammu and Kashmir State Assembly while it was in session and 38 people were killed. Since this incident, a clear pattern of cross-border terrorism in Kashmir has manifested and Islamic terrorist groups are to be blamed for these terrorist activities.

The atrocious attack on the Indian Parliament falls within this familiar pattern of attacks by active terrorist forces in Kashmir. The suicide attack on democracy in Srinagar was clearly a precursor to this morning's attack on democracy in New Delhi. However, terrorist groups have crossed the line this time. This attack on diversity, vibrancy, equality, democracy and all characteristics of India's open society, goes too far.

The parallel that can be drawn between the United States and India at this time is remarkable. The U.S. and India are not only friends, but they are also two nations that serve together as pillars of commitment to democracy. The U.S. was brutally attacked by terrorists in an attempt to break down our democratic ideals and we are retaliating with a successful war effort in Afghanistan. Similarly, the attack on Indian Parliament is impetus for India's retaliation against the relentless terrorism taking place in Kashmir and now in New Delhi. These punitive actions undoubtedly will help in the global war on terrorism and the current effort to eliminate the Al-Qaeda terrorist network. The citizens of India deserve to live their lives without violence and terror. The Government of India deserves to exercise its strong democratic ideals.

**HONORING THE IDA TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotic citizens of the Ida Township Volunteer Fire Department, which has served Ida and the surrounding area for over 63 years. Mr. Speaker, these local Michigan heroes stand ready to put their lives on the line in service to their community. They are a brave, professional and dedicated group, providing a lifeline to all whose lives are in danger.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, have brought to light the important role firefighters and other first-responders play in protecting this country from numerous threats. Not only are they prepared to safeguard our communities from everyday tragedies such as fires and accidents, but they serve as the first line of response in the event of major catastrophes, including terrorism.

I am proud to represent these courageous individuals and on behalf of our local community, thank them for their service. Therefore, it is with great pride that I submit the following names of the Ida Township Volunteer Fire Department into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in recognition of their past and continued service:

Chief Ed Wertenberger, Lonnie Wertenberger, Troy Stein, Randy Stanifer, Paul Metz, Mark Mruzek, Dale Longnecker, Jim Longnecker, Kirt Horn, Rocky Oberski, Tim Mata, Scott Desbrough, Shawn Geyman, Mike Geyman, Chad Metz, Curtis Durocher, Scott Weeman, Adam Booker, Scott Ducharme, Carl Arnold, Curtis Stanifer, Jim Longnecker Sr., Tim Wertenberger, Corey Jones and Tyler Stern.

Mr. Speaker, I note that their hard work is not limited to their local community. Two days after the September 11 terrorist attacks, Curt Stanifer, Randy Stanifer, Carl Arnold, Scott Ducharme, Mark Murzke, Ed Wertenberger, Dale Longnecker, Troy Stein, Rocky Oberski and Curt Durocher traveled to New York City, to assist in the rescue and recovery efforts. They make this trip at great personal sacrifice and risk to their own lives. Accordingly, I salute them for their courageousness and commitment to serve others, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these brave individuals.

**TRIBUTE TO TROY ELEMENTARY**

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Troy Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Troy Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia, "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set

an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Troy Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Troy Elementary.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB PARKS

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an extraordinary man who has repeatedly defied the odds and has embodied the spirit of my district in Colorado. The man I am referring to is Bob Parks and the odds he defied was whether he would live or die. Bob suffers from cancer and by all accounts, he should not be with us today.

Bob has much to be grateful for these days. Over a year ago, he was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor in his lung. Relying on an oxygen bottle, Bob was given little hope for recovery. Following a turn for the worse and with no salvation in sight, Bob learned of a clinic in Tijuana, Mexico that specialized in alternative medicines. He arrived last December and fell into a coma soon after arrival. His prognosis was grim and friends and family in Durango were informed yet again that his life was in jeopardy.

Bob held on, and with hope and prayer, he has unexpectedly recovered his strength and continues to defy his illness. Residents of Durango, Colorado, recently collected funds to fly Bob home for a visit and noted, in an article in the Durango Herald, that he looks stronger than ever and his recovery is nothing short of a miracle. Bob, who is a former psychology professor at Fort Lewis College and a greeter for the Wal-Mart, believes his recovery is due in part to an optimistic attitude and prayer from his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, we hear everyday stories of survival, hardship, and recently terror. It's gratifying at this time in our nation's struggle that a story unfolds about a man unwilling to give up his most cherished gift, his life. As so many suffer in this nation and around the world, let some of these people look to Bob Parks as a model to never give up on life, no matter what the odds faced. It is an honor to tell his story to this body and Congress and I wish him the best in the coming new year.

#### REGARDING THE SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT

### HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, on November 27, 2001 I introduced the Small Business Economic Recovery Act to help struggling small businesses survive.

Countless small businesses have suffered significant economic injury since the Sep-

tember 11 terrorist attacks. Some suffered direct economic injury as a result of closed and damaged buildings. Many more have suffered from the economic fallout caused by an economy that has plunged into a recession.

Small businesses are hurting and need help. The National Bureau of Economic Research announced that the United States entered a recession in March 2001. The Gross Domestic Product fell to 1.1 percent in the third quarter, and the unemployment rate has risen to 5.7 percent.

Prompted by the widespread economic impact of the terrorist attacks on New York City and the Pentagon, on October 18, 2001 the Small Business Administration widened access to Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) for small businesses throughout the country. To qualify for these loans, small businesses must have suffered direct and substantial economic injury due to the terrorist attacks or the federal government's response to the attacks. This notion of "direct" injury will severely limit the Small Business Administration's ability to help all suffering businesses. Clearly a small business in an airport will qualify, but small businesses dependent on tourism may have a harder time proving that they were directly affected by the terrorist actions.

Even though 11,659 small businesses outside of New York City and Arlington, Virginia have requested Economic Injury Disaster Loans applications, the Small Business Administration has only granted 100 loans. Small businesses who are suffering because the attacks plunged the economy into a recession cannot prove a direct relationship to the terrorist attacks. They cannot get the Small Business Administration's emergency loans. We must make sure there are no ambiguous rules that confuse applicants or make it difficult for the Small Business Administration to grant loans to struggling businesses.

I have introduced a bill that removes any ambiguities and ensures that the Small Business Administration can help all small businesses that need assistance. The Small Business Economic Recovery Act does not require businesses to prove that they suffered a "direct" injury as a result of the terrorist attacks. It permits any small business that has suffered "substantial economic injury" to obtain Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the Small Business Administration. Normally, businesses must be in a federally designated disaster area to receive these loans. My bill temporarily waives the federal disaster area requirement. Businesses will only have to prove that they suffered substantial economic injury. It will help businesses that cannot meet obligations as they mature, and pay necessary operating expenses.

The act will authorize the Small Business Administration to provide up to \$1.5 million in disaster assistance to a suffering small business. The interest rate on the loans will not exceed 4 percent per year, and the loan terms cannot exceed 30 years. This emergency assistance program will expire on September 11, 2002.

Small businesses represent more than 99% of all employers and employ 51% of private-sector workers. We must provide immediate assistance to help this vital sector of our economy.

I urge my colleagues to help small businesses and cosponsor this important legislation.

HONORING THE CITY OF BLACKFOOT, IDAHO, ON ITS CENTENNIAL

### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a place I call home. Blackfoot, Idaho is celebrating its centennial and as a resident of Blackfoot, I'd like to share with you what makes it an all-American town.

Nestled in the Snake River Plain, Blackfoot, Idaho in Bingham County produces more potatoes than any other place in the world. The "famous" Idaho potatoes that the world enjoys come from Blackfoot and the numerous potato fields that surround it. In fact, Blackfoot offers "free taters for out of staters" at its Idaho Potato Expo Museum. It's made Blackfoot the Potato Capitol of the World by producing more than 200 million pounds of potatoes every year.

While Blackfoot is celebrating 100 years of incorporation, its history expands to the early 1800s. The first reference to Blackfoot is found in the 1818 journals of the Hudson Bay Company. In 1860, Grove City, where Blackfoot now sits, was settled to accommodate freight wagons bound for mines in central Idaho. Like many western settlements, the establishment of the Utah and Northern Railroad opened expansion and immigration. Then in 1878, the train arrived in Blackfoot on Christmas Day.

Using the Snake River to irrigate the fertile lava soil, pioneers and settlers found Blackfoot to be a prosperous agriculture community. Blackfoot became the county seat for Bingham County and at one time held the largest population in the state with 13,575 people. In 1901, Blackfoot was incorporated and now celebrates its centennial.

As many of you know, when I'm not serving in Congress, I go home to Blackfoot. I grew up there, graduated from Blackfoot High School and chose to return after completing dental school. I started my political career in Blackfoot, serving on the city council for four years.

My wife, Kathy, and I have witnessed the kind heart and gentle spirit of many who live there. It's truly a place where everyone knows your name. I salute this community that has given me so much over the years. While it may be the potatoe capitol of the world, it's a place I prefer to call home. Congratulations to Blackfoot on 100 years of excellence.

HONORING MR. GEORGE ALVIN TERRY OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George Alvin Terry of Nashville, Tennessee, on the occasion of his 75th birthday, December 19, 2001. A native Tennessean, Terry is a graduate of Columbia Military Academy and the University of Tennessee.

Mr. Terry has been a courageous leader in Tennessee for many years, as both a public servant and a community leader. A military veteran, he served as Second Lt. in the United States Army from 1945–1946.

With several years of public service, he was a member of the State House of Representatives from 1957–1959 during the 80th General Assembly. Additionally, he served in the State Senate during the 82nd, 83rd, and 84th sessions from 1961–1967. A portion of this service occurred during my father, Governor Frank G. Clement's, tenure as governor of Tennessee.

In 1972, Governor Winfield Dunn appointed Mr. Terry Director of State and Federal Surplus Property for the Department of General Services of Tennessee. His career includes services as senior Vice President on the bank board of directors at Oneida First Trust and Savings Bank, as well as, holding the position of Chairman of the Board at First Southern Savings and Loan.

A deeply committed family man, he is married to Sarah Ellen Winn, and the father of four daughters with six grandchildren and three step grandchildren. Because of his deep love of genealogy and history, he authored the book, *The Terrys of Scott County*, chronicling the history of his family.

Civic and community work has always been an integral part of Terry's life with involvement on various boards promoting important issues such as children, education, agriculture, and historic preservation. For instance, he served as President of the Oneida Kiwanis Club and on both the Karns and Mid-South Youth Camp Boards.

Further, he has enjoyed membership in the American Legion, the Tennessee Automotive Association, the National Committee for the Support of the Public Schools, and the National Committee for the support of Future Farmers. He has also participated in the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the United States Civil Defense Council, and the Scott County Historical Society.

Mr. Terry is dearly loved and respected by his peers, serving as a deacon and then elder in the Oneida Church of Christ, and later as an elder in the Madison Church of Christ. Today, he is a member of the Goodlettsville Church of Christ and a member of the Goodpasture Christian School Booster Club.

An ardent University of Tennessee (UT) fan, George Alvin Terry is to be honored and commended for outstanding service and contributions to Tennessee in a spirit of excellence and strong moral character. Today we recognize his life and legacy as he celebrates a landmark birthday.

TRIBUTE TO SHEPHERDSTOWN  
ELEMENTARY

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Shepherdstown Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Shepherdstown Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stan-

ford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia. I equally commend the students and parents of Shepherdstown Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future. Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Shepherdstown Elementary.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TAMARA  
MCFARLAND

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a very special person from Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Tamara McFarland is a local nurse who has taken on a quest to bring joy and happiness this holiday season to several local nursing homes. Her efforts have brought much credit to herself and the community of Glenwood Springs, and it is my pleasure today to recognize her contributions.

Tamara began her charitable crusade last year with a simple gift to a friend. Since then her efforts have risen from one to 140 gifts for the residents of two local nursing homes. The homes include Glen Valley Care Center of Glenwood Springs and Heritage Park Center of Carbondale. Tamara has made these contributions possible by soliciting local merchants and citizens throughout the year to donate products and money to her fund. Thanks to their generosity, the "Roaring Fork Holiday Cheer" headed by Tamara, has been able to provide presents to the senior citizens of the area. The presents are simple gifts such as hair products, clothing and trinkets, but the joy they provide is priceless.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be able to commend Tamara and thank her for her efforts to bring happiness this time of year. Her dedication and commitment to the elderly community as a nurse and gift provider has brought joy into the lives of many. Thanks for all your hard work and cheer this Christmas season. Good luck in your future endeavors and in the New Year.

CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST AT-  
TACKS ON THE INDIAN PAR-  
LIAMENT

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to denounce the cowardly and barbaric terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament building that took place in New Delhi earlier this morning.

First I want to express by deepest condolences to Prime Minister Vajpayee, the families of victims and to the people of India.

This latest attack, which comes two months after the October suicide bombing on the par-

liament building in Kashmir, strikes at the heart of India, the symbol of its democracy.

Six heavily armed terrorists, dressed in Indian military commando fatigues charged into the Parliament complex and set off a fierce gun battle in which six policemen and a Parliament staffer were killed as well as all six of the terrorists. From the amount of explosives found on the attackers, Indian authorities believe the terrorists were on a suicide mission. The attack took place minutes after both Houses of Parliament had adjourned for the day and could easily have taken the lives of numerous Members of Parliament, staff and visitors.

Three months and two days ago, terrorists used box cutters, knives and fuel-laden passenger jets to launch suicide missions against the United States. One of those airplanes, we later learned, may have been intended to hit this very Capitol building—the symbol of our democracy.

The attack against India, as with the attacks against the United States, were not aimed at bringing down buildings. They were cowardly attempts by criminal terrorist organizations to attack free and democratic societies, to intimidate their people and their government.

India has waged a long and often-lonely battle against terrorism. Today, I want to assure the people and government of India that you are not alone.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that the international community made clear that terrorism and violence as a means of political expression will not be tolerated and will not be allowed to continue. We must act together in rooting out the terrorist networks wherever they exist.

HONORING THE DEARBORN/DEAR-  
BORN HEIGHTS CHAPTER OF THE  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ON  
THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to pay tribute to the Dearborn/Dearborn Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters on their 50th Anniversary.

Recognized by the National League of Women Voters on December 19th, 1951, the Dearborn/Dearborn Heights Chapter has fulfilled and continues to fulfill its primary goal of encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government, working to increase understanding of major public issues and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

The Dearborn/Dearborn Heights Chapter has provided numerous services to the community since their inception in 1951. In 1952, they provided election-day childcare in 63 precincts, allowing parents to vote. They helped establish the Northwestern Child Guidance Clinic in 1963. Throughout the years, they have worked with ABC News on election-day exit polling. These fine women have helped pass library proposals and establish a diversity committee which works to engage local students in community discussions. Mr. Speaker, these women have served their community well.

Though they are a non-partisan group, the Dearborn/Dearborn Heights Chapter of the League of Women's Voters is extremely political, focusing their efforts on child health and welfare, juvenile justice, and campaign finance reform. A League representative sits on the Rouge River Advisory Council, as well as the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Educational Advisory Council. As spelled out in their original charter, the League's actions are always a reflection their member's priorities.

I would like to recognize the current officers of the Dearborn/Dearborn Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters: Elizabeth Linick, Janice Berry, Mary Jo Durivage, Jeni Dunn and Mary Bugeia. I thank all the fine members of this Chapter of the League for all their hard work over the past 50 years, and would ask that they keep it up. On the occasion of their 50th anniversary, I would ask all my colleagues to salute the Dearborn/Dearborn Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters.

21ST CENTURY MONTGOMERY GI  
BILL ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1291, the 21st Century Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act.

The bill includes numerous provisions to help veterans. It broadens the categories of illnesses connected to Agent Orange and the Gulf War Sickness, and it increases educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill for full-time students from \$650 per month to \$800 starting on January 1, 2002, to \$900 in FY03, and to \$985 in FY03.

Section 302 extends the Native American Veterans Housing Loan Program until 2006. The program was scheduled to expire in 2002.

Tribal lands are generally held in trust. Lands held in trust cannot be encumbered by those who use it. As a result, native people have historically had limited access to mortgages to build and repair houses.

The Native American Veterans Housing Loan Pilot Program was created by legislation authored by Senator DANIEL AKAKA in 1992. It provides direct housing loans to Native American veterans to purchase, construct, or improve dwellings on trust lands. The program helps Native American, Native Hawaiians, and Native Alaskans who were honorably released from active duty service since World War II.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1291 to recognize and compensate the service that native people have made to defend our country.

HONORING DR. ROBERT CARVER  
BONE OF LEBANON, TN, AS AN  
OUTSTANDING TENNESSEAN

**HON. BOB CLEMENT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert Carver Bone of Lebanon,

TN, as an outstanding Tennessean, who has made numerous contributions to medicine, education, and the community-at-large. I consider Dr. Bone a dear friend and confidante of many years.

Dr. Bone will be honored by Cumberland University during the Clement Leadership Reception on December 22 for numerous accomplishments—including his leadership as Chairman of the Board of Trust from 1982 through May 2001. As president of Cumberland University from 1983 through 1987 and a current member of the Board of Trust, I have personally worked closely with Dr. Bone for a significant period of time and I have seen the devotion, care, and attention, that he has lavished upon that hallowed institution.

A native of Lebanon, TN, and an early achiever, Dr. Bone graduated as valedictorian of Lebanon High School in 1954, and earned a Bachelor of Arts from Vanderbilt University in 1958, where he graduated magna cum laude. Meanwhile, he completed the mathematics program at Cumberland in 1957 and the genetics program at Harvard in 1961. He received his Doctor of Medicine from Vanderbilt in 1962, while completing internships with Stanford University Hospital in Palo Alto, California, and Presbyterian Hospital in San Francisco. His residencies in pediatrics and surgery were completed in 1967 through 1969 at Vanderbilt, and 1971 through 1975, respectively. Later, in 1985, he earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Vanderbilt's Owen School of Business Management and then received a Doctor of Letters from Cumberland in 1994.

His military experience includes service as a flight surgeon and commander of the USAF, 1974–1980; commander of the 118th Tactical Hospital, USAF, 1974–1980; and U.S. Army flight surgeon in 1997.

He has participated in numerous furthering education programs such as study overseas in 1959 with the Wellcome Library of Historic Medicine in London, the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh, and a preceptorship with Dr. G.A. Grant Peterkin in Leyden, Montpelier, Uppsala.

Dr. Bone has also completed a number of assistantships and fellowships including work as a research assistant on nuclear medicine at Vanderbilt in 1961; a World Study Tour with the Institutes of Nutrition in 65 countries from 1962–1963; mission hospital visits in Kenya, Tanzania in 1986; and a surgical oncology fellowship in 1987 at Vanderbilt. Further, he carries certifications from the American Board of Pediatrics, the American Board of Surgery, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and Advanced Trauma Life Support.

He is beloved throughout Middle Tennessee, having practiced medicine in the community of Lebanon for nearly 40 years, and having performed surgeries at numerous Nashville area hospitals. These include Vanderbilt, Baptist, St. Thomas, Donelson, University Medical Center, Nashville General Hospital, Humana Hospital McFarland, Williamson County Medical Center, and Summit Medical Center.

Every endeavor undertaken by Dr. Robert Carver Bone is met with enthusiasm and excellence. His educational influence and expertise has impacted both Vanderbilt and Cumberland over the years, as he has continually shared his experience with students pursuing the medical field, both as an instructor and

professor. In 1982, he published techniques in Surgery with the Vanderbilt Surgical Faculty, through Vanderbilt University Press.

Dr. Bone's involvement in his community is renowned. In 1985, he represented Wilson County in Tokyo, Japan, on a mission to recruit at Toyota plant to Tennessee. Also that year, he represented the National Association of Independent Business on a mission sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce, to promote the export of U.S. products to the Far East in Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan.

In 1987, Bone represented Cumberland University to establish exchange relationships at the faculty level between Cumberland and Armidale College in New South Wales, Australia. He also negotiated with the Soviets and British over freeing a Zanbari dental student from Moscow to Prague, Cairo, Nairobi, and Zanzibar.

Further, he has served as President of the Wilson County Medical Society, and as a member of the Board of Health, Public Health Department of Wilson County.

Because of Dr. Bone's outstanding contributions to the university, the community, and the state Tennessee throughout his lifetime—we honor him today.

HONORING STANLEY ROGERS ON  
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to a man who has been active in the New Haven community for nearly 50 years. Today, I am pleased to join family, friends, and colleagues in wishing Stanley Rogers the very best as he celebrates his retirement.

A lifelong New Haven resident, Stanley has served his community in a variety of ways throughout his life. For forty-two years, he worked at G&O, a manufacturing company which made automotive parts. During his tenure at G&O, Stanley became the first African-American to serve as President of the United Auto Workers in Connecticut—fighting for better wages, more comprehensive health benefits, and safer work environments for his membership. In addition to his career with G&O, Stanley also served on the Redevelopment Agency with former Mayor Richard Lee in a time when New Haven underwent one of its most sweeping economic redevelopment periods. It was also during this time that Stanley presented the first affirmative action plan for minority hiring in the building trades to the Redevelopment Agency. His actions went a long way in assuring good jobs for New Haven's minority communities.

Stanley has also been involved with the local municipal government for nearly 20 years. He was first elected to New Haven's Board of Alderman in 1981 where he served as its president Pro Tempore from 1992 to 1994 and for 3 years as the chairman of the Board's Black and Hispanic Caucus. His dedication and commitment to New Haven's 22nd Ward made a real difference in the lives of so many. After his tenure on the Board of Alderman, Stanley served three terms as the city/

town clerk—a position from which he retired earlier this year.

Stanley's involvement with the New Haven community stretches far beyond his professional and political career. His participation in a number of local civic and service organizations reflect his personal commitment to enriching the lives of our fellow citizens. The United Way, the Private Industry Council, and the Dixwell Community Development Corporation are just a few who have benefitted from his time and efforts.

I am pleased to rise today to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Stanley Rogers for his invaluable contributions to our community and my very best wishes as he enjoys his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO POLK CREEK  
ELEMENTARY

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Polk Creek Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "Exemplary" school.

Polk Creek Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools in West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Polk Creek Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education of all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Polk Creek Elementary.

HONORING TEXAS LEGISLATIVE  
BLACK CAUCUS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy of representation and positive activism that has been fostered by the Texas Legislative Black Caucus. Since its inception, this fearless and focused group of State leaders has consistently fought to ensure that the policy priorities of Texas reflect the best interests of all of our citizens. The education, economic, civil and human rights initiative have revolutionized State services and have helped ensure that all Texans are empowered to achieve the American dream.

The Caucus will host its statewide conference from March 14–16, 2001. This year's topic, "Excellence and Achievement for the Millennium," is particularly poignant. As Texas prepares to lead the Nation in the technology driven, global economy of today and tomorrow,

it is critical that its leaders devise ways to ensure that everyone is included. No organization in the State is better prepared or has a better track record of holding those in power accountable for the tools given to Texas families to improve their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the U.S. Congress join me in paying honor and tribute to the Texas Legislative Black Caucus as they continue their critical fight for all Texas families.

TRIBUTE TO PICKENS SCHOOL

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Pickens School in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Pickens School has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Pickens School for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Pickens School.

HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, we could do better than this bill. We should do better than this bill. But clearly, today, we will not do better than this bill—and so, with some reluctance, I will vote for this bill.

Over the course of this year, the House has considered several important measures, including bills to respond to the terror attacks on our country. But this could be the most important bill of the year, and maybe even of this 107th Congress—because nothing is more important for the health of our democracy than improving the fairness and inclusiveness of our elections. That is why I am cosponsoring H.R. 1170, introduced by Representative Conyers.

That comprehensive reform bill would establish uniform and nondiscriminatory requirements for Federal elections, which must be met by the 2004 general election. Under that bill, all voting machines would have to: Allow voters to verify their votes before tabulation; notify voters of over votes and under votes; provide an auditable record; and be equally accessible to voters with disabilities and special needs.

Also, under that bill provisional ballots would be permitted in all Federal elections and all voters would have to get a sample ballot and

instructions 10 days prior to election day, and would have to be notified of their voting rights under federal and state law and of the federal and state agencies to contract if they think their rights are violated.

The Conyers bill would provide for federal reimbursement to the states for meeting these requirements and a matching grant fund program that would provide advance assistance to enable states and localities for that purpose. And the bill would establish a politically balanced study Commission to examine voter registration and maintenance of voters rolls; issues of voter intimidation; accuracy of voting; establishing a federal or State election-day holiday; modified polling place hours; and whether an existing or a new Federal agency should provide continuing assistance to states. It would also examine access to ballots and polling places, including notice of voting locations and access for voters with disabilities, limited English proficiency, visual and hearing impairments, and with other special needs. The commission would develop recommendations of the best practices in voting and election administration.

These are all things that should be done—and while it does into do everything that should be done, this bill takes very important steps to improve current conditions. I opposed the rule because I wanted the bill to do more. I supported the motion to recommit for the same reason. But we should not refuse to do something even if we re not going to do all we should. So I will support the bill in the hope that it will be improved as the legislative process continues.

GETTING AMERICA'S ANTI-TERRORIST MESSAGE TO CENTRAL ASIA

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the International Relations Committee recently passed legislation to create Radio Free Afghanistan. I also commend the Administration for the steps it has taken to ensure that the United States does not lose the public relations battle as it wages the war on terrorism. It is vital that the people of Afghanistan and its neighbors know the truth about America's objectives in combating terrorism and understand how our actions benefit all of mankind.

Setting up Radio Free Afghanistan will give us a valuable tool to fight the vicious propaganda that Osama bin Laden and his supporters continue to spew forth. But Radio Free Afghanistan cannot succeed in isolation. Its broadcasts must be supplemented by stepped up and improved broadcasts to Afghanistan's neighbors—Pakistan and the Eurasian states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. As my colleagues are aware, the Taliban are actively supporting an Islamic extremist insurgency in the Fergana Valley, where the borders of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan converge. It is conceivable that the Taliban's ultimate objective is Kazakhstan, the largest country in the region, rich in oil and minerals.

Broadcasts by Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty to these countries should be increased both in air time and in quality. They

should also be broadcast in FM frequency, not short-wave, in order to reach the largest percentage of the population. In the case of Kazakhstan, I understand that these broadcasts are transmitted only in the Kazakh language, despite the fact that Russian remains the most widely used language in Kazakhstan. The only Russian-language broadcasts report on events in Russia, not in Kazakhstan. We need to broadcast in Russian to the Russian speakers in Kazakhstan.

Journalists and publishers in Kazakhstan and elsewhere are struggling to report the truth to their readers and listeners, but they are harassed and periodically shut down by the authorities. Getting newsprint on a reliable basis is also a problem. On November 27, 2001, President Nazarbayev threatened the media unless editors developed a code of conduct for journalists. The threatened clampdown came after critical articles appeared in the media concerning President Nazarbayev's son-in-law. Government agencies are sabotaging or shutting down Internet access as well. Local sources of non-government controlled news would be a valuable complement to U.S. government broadcasts. U.S. assistance, including supplying printing presses and ensuring continued access to the Internet, would be greatly welcomed by these lonely and persecuted voices of democracy and freedom.

In our broadcasts to these countries, we should bear in mind that repression and corruption are causing the people to lose hope; and if the governments that rule in the five former Soviet republics of Central Asia do not loosen their grip on their people, the people may respond to the siren call of Islamic extremists as holding out the only source of hope for change. Accordingly, even as we work with the governments of Central Asia to oust the Taliban and al-Qaeda from Afghanistan, we need also to make it very clear both to the governments and the peoples of the region that we oppose the repression and corruption that are causing so much suffering, deprivation and opportunities for Islamic extremists.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARIANO  
APRAIZ

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a representative of the American spirit and drive, Mariano Apraiz. Mariano is from Spain originally, who after living in this nation for over thirty years, will take his oath and become a citizen of the United States. The ceremony will take place in Denver, Colorado on Friday, December 14.

The reason I bring Mariano's name to bear is to tell his story and determination to become an American. Mariano came to this country to find a new way of life and experience new opportunities in the world. He found work as a miner, rancher, and eventually a position in the local school district. Now at the age of 55, Mariano has made for himself successful life in this country and I praise him for his determination and courage to live his dream.

Mr. Speaker, when asked by the Grand Junction Sentinel why he wants to gain citizenship, he simply replies, "I want to vote." I think this statement speaks volumes for the pride Mariano has in his new country. He wants to be part of the process, he wants to participate in civic responsibility, and he wants to make a difference. Mariano has grown to love this nation and in these difficult and trying times, he is a symbol of national pride and spirit.

HONORING THE BISHOP FAMILY  
AS THEY RECEIVE THE MASS  
MUTUAL 2001 FAMILY BUSINESS  
OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate an outstanding family and my good friends, the Bishops of Guilford, Connecticut as the recipients of the Mass Mutual 2001 Family Business of the Year Award. This remarkable family has been a fixture of the Guilford community for nearly 400 years and we are all proud to join with them as they celebrate this very special occasion.

Connecticut has a long and proud history in agriculture and our famous fruit orchards have become a highlighted attraction for visitors. From picking your own fruits and vegetables to learning the intricacies of the perfect apple cider, our orchards offer an unique view into one of our nation's oldest industries. The Bishop family has run Bishop Orchards since its establishment in 1871. Today, the families of brothers Albert and Gene Bishop preserve this New England treasure while expanding the business to meet the needs of today's consumers. With three hundred acres lined with apply, peach, and pear trees, the Bishops continue to work hard to ensure the success of the orchards.

Located on the shores of the Long Island Sound, Bishop Orchards captures the spirit of New England. The Bishop family, recognizing the importance of preserving its natural beauty, were one of the first of our local farmers to initiate an integrated pest management program, significantly reducing the pesticides and chemicals used in the orchards. Integrated pest management programs utilize alternative means of pest control to ensure successful crops while protecting the surrounding ecosystem from harm. While more labor intensive, setting traps for bugs and pest will ensure that the orchards and the surrounding environment will be enjoyed for generations to come.

There is more to the Bishop family than their business—they are an integral part of the Guilford community. They have long been involved in the Town of Guilford, holding a variety of positions on local town boards and demonstrating a unique commitment and dedication. Many members of the Bishop family have also participated in statewide civic and agricultural organizations. In fact, Jonathan Bishop was recently appointed to the USDA Farm Service Agency State Committee, where I am sure he will work hard to ensure the continued stability and protection of Connecticut farmers.

The Bishop family has left an indelible mark on our local community and I am proud to join the Center for Family Business and their many friends and family in congratulating the Bishop family as the 2001 Family Business of the Year.

RECOGNIZING BOB HAYES

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the spirit of America. Perhaps at no time before has the determination, drive and perseverance that make up the American spirit been more evident. All of us should take a moment to recognize the contributions that many Americans make to ensure that our country represents the highest standard of excellence.

One such American is Mr. Bob Hayes. I want to recognize him on the occasion of his induction into the Ring of Honor, sponsored by St. Phillips School and Community Center in Dallas. Bob Hayes is an American of extreme accomplishment. During the course of his remarkable life, he has helped knock down color barriers all around the world.

Mr. Hayes was an All-American track star at Florida A&M University, an Olympic gold medalist, and an indispensable part of the Dallas Cowboys football team. Just as importantly, he has mentored thousands of track athletes through the Bob Hayes Invitational Track Meet, which has been in existence since 1964.

Bob Hayes is the only person to ever win both an Olympic gold medal and a Super Bowl ring. He was billed as "The World's Fastest Human" as he sprinted to world records in the 100 and 200 yard races. He still holds the Cowboys record for career touchdown receptions.

I would also like to salute the St. Phillip's School and Community Center. Among other things, the school and center promote cultural awareness and self-esteem. They serve more than 700 young people in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Mr. Speaker, the St. Phillip's School and Mr. Bob Hayes represent the focus on excellence that sets America apart from the rest of the world. I join the residents of the Thirtieth Congressional District in saluting an American who has shown us all how to excel.

TRIBUTE TO MOUNT NEBO  
ELEMENTARY

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mount Nebo Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Mount Nebo Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Mount Nebo Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mount Nebo Elementary.

## JAMES PEAK WILDERNESS AND PROTECTION AREA ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the House passed this bill earlier this week. While it was discussed at some length on the floor, and is further explained in the report of the Resources Committee, for the benefit of all with an interest in it here is an outline of the main provisions of the bill.

In this outline, I am including the latest acreage numbers by the Forest Service, based on more precise estimates they have made while developing the official map of the lands affected by the bill. I am including these because, of course, where the acreage estimates in the bill text are different, it is the map that will control and will show exactly what the bill would do.

### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS SHORT TITLE

Section 1: provides a short title, namely James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area Act.

#### WILDERNESS

Section 2 amends two previous wilderness Acts; the effect is to (1) designate about 17,000 acres in Boulder, Clear Creek, and Gilpin Counties, Colorado, as the "James Peak Wilderness"; and (2) enlarge the Indian Peaks Wilderness by addition of three tracts that in total amount to about 3,350 acres.

#### PROTECTION AREA

Section 3 designates about 19,000 acres of national forest land as the "James Peak Protection Area". Except as provided in this section, the protection area is to be managed in accordance with the relevant management prescriptions identified in the 1997 revision of the forest plan for the Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest. The principal exceptions specified in the section include—

(1) **WITHDRAWAL.**—The entire protection area is withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, from all forms of appropriation or disposal under the public land laws as well as from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and from operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws;

(2) **TIMBER HARVEST.**—The entire protection area is closed to timber harvesting except to the extent needed for insect or disease control projects, hazardous fuel reduction or other measures for control of fire, or protection of the public health and safety;

(3) **RETENTION.**—The United States must retain all its right, title, and interest in

lands within the boundaries of the protection area, including both those held as of the date of enactment and those acquired thereafter.

(4) **SPECIAL INTEREST MANAGEMENT.**—The "special interest area" management prescriptions identified in the forest plan as applicable to certain lands are also made applicable to additional contiguous lands, as indicated on a referenced map of the protection area. Together, these lands add up to about 7,000 acres.

#### ROADS, TRAILS, AND VEHICLES

Section 3 also includes provisions specifically related to use of lands within the protection area by motorized and mechanized vehicles, including—

(1) **INVENTORY.**—Subsection 3(d)(1)(C) provides for a review and inventory of existing roads and trails in a portion of the protection area where use was officially allowed by the Forest Service on September 10, 2001. Lands subject to the "special interest area" management prescriptions are excluded from this process. The intention is that in conducting this review and inventory the Forest Service involve the public so that all interested groups and individuals are consulted and included in this process. The review and inventory are to be completed within two years after enactment of the bill, and during that period the Forest Service is authorized to connect existing roads and trails in the area subject to the review and inventory to other existing roads and trails in that area, so long as there is no net gain in the mileage of either roads or trails open to public use in that area. The purpose of this authorization is to enable the Forest Service to provide a more functional and ecologically sound but not more extensive network of transportation routes in this part of the protection area.

(2) **CLOSURE.**—Subsection 3(d)(1)(C) also authorizes closure or removal of existing roads or trails anywhere in the protection area that the Forest Service determines to be undesirable, except as specified in subsection 3(d)(2) or subsection 3(e)(3). The intention is that roads and trails closed under this authority will be removed and revegetated in a way that assures their full rehabilitation and restricts them from further use.

(3) **PROHIBITION ON NEW ROADS AND TRAILS.**—Subsection 3(d)(1)(D) prohibits establishment of new roads or trails in the protection area, subject to certain specified exceptions, including an allowance for non-permanent roads and trails that will be retained only for the period needed for temporary management purposes.

#### WATER

Subsection 3(d)(e) deals with the relationship between the protection area and water rights.

It specifies that the bill (1) does not constitute an express or implied reservation of any water or water rights with respect to lands in the protection area; (2) will not affect any existing water rights in Colorado; (3) will not limit, alter, modify, or amend any interstate compacts or equitable apportionment decrees that apportion water among and between Colorado and other states; and (4) does not constitute a precedent with respect to any future protection area designation.

The subsection also requires the Secretary of Agriculture to follow Colorado law in order to obtain any new water rights with respect to the protection area, and explicitly states (in paragraph (3)) that the bill will have no effect on existing water facilities or infrastructure, or associated water-related property, interests, and uses, in the portion of the protection area not subject to the "special interest area" management prescriptions.

With regard to the provisions related to water facilities or infrastructure, it should be noted that this part of the National Forest has been a municipal watershed for the City and County of Denver and other communities for more than eight decades, without serious adverse effects on the resources and values of these lands. Section 3(e)(3) is included to make clear that nothing in this bill will interfere with the continuation of that use. Toward that end, it specifies that the bill will not interfere with operation and maintenance of water facilities and infrastructure, including, but not limited to, the Moffat Tunnel, the Fraser River Water Collection system or the Englewood water collection system. Nothing in the bill will give the Forest Service any additional rights of oversight, regulation or acquisition in regard to any water facilities located in the protection area. As a result, access to such facilities, as well as any necessary work in connection with them—including construction or repair of roads or other uses of rights-of-way—will continue to be subject only to any conditions or restrictions that would have been applicable or could become applicable in the absence of this legislation.

#### INHOLDINGS

Section 4 addresses non-federal lands located within the protection area. It provides for acquisition of any such lands by the United States by purchase or exchange with the consent of the owner, a report to Congress concerning the status of negotiations toward that end, and for management of any such lands as part of the protection area upon their acquisition by the United States.

#### FALL RIVER TRAILHEAD

Section 5 directs the Forest Service to locate a new trailhead and appropriate attendant facilities in the Fall River basin area southeast of the James Peak Wilderness Area. The Forest Service is to consult with Clear Creek County, local communities and the interested public on the location and establishment of this trailhead. The purpose of this trailhead is to provide access to this region of the James Peak Wilderness Area while also alleviating impacts to the communities of Alice Township and St. Mary's Glacier from wilderness use and recreation.

#### LOOP TRAIL STUDY

Section 6 directs the Forest Service to undertake a study to determine whether or not it would be both feasible and desirable to establish within the protection area a loop trail for non-motorized recreational use that would connect the existing "Rogers Pass" trail and the existing "Rollins Pass" road. This study is to be done in consultation with interest parties, which the Committee intends will result in a thorough public-involvement process. It is important to note that neither this section nor the provisions for review and inventory in section 3(d)(1)(C) presume that mechanized recreation will be permitted on the existing Rogers Pass trail. Instead, ultimate decisions regarding such use and management will be made by the Forest Service consistent with the 1997 Forest Plan and the provisions of the bill.

#### OTHER PROVISIONS

Subsection 7(a) specifies that the bill's designation of wilderness will not result in the creation of buffer zones outside the boundaries of the wilderness areas.

Subsection 7(b) provides for technical assistance with respect to repair of the Rollins Pass road, if requested by one or more of the affected counties. The intention is that if the Rollins Pass road is reopened the cut-offs, bypasses and detours that have been created by motorized and mechanized vehicles will be closed so that the impacts caused by these detours are halted and the affected lands can

recover and be restored to their natural character.

WILDERNESS POTENTIAL

Subsection 8(a) makes clear that nothing in the bill will preclude or restrict the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to evaluate the suitability of lands in the protection area for future wilderness designation or to make recommendations to Congress for such designation at any time. Subsection 8(b) specifies that such evaluation of the part of the protection area subject to "special interest area" management prescriptions shall be done in connection with the first revision of the relevant forest plan after the date of enactment of the bill.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN DICK ARMEY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend and colleague DICK ARMEY, the distinguished Majority Leader. DICK and I have been kindred souls in our quest for greater fiscal restraint, lower taxes and removing the government imposed barriers that restrain the growth of our economy. He has been a leader in promoting growth through supply-side economics and advocated a fairer, flatter, and simpler tax code. These are positions that I hope those who follow him to Congress in the years to come will continue to fight for.

Both of us are educators by trade and brought the valuable experiences learned in the classroom to the Halls of Congress. I am certain that DICK was a great educator. I'm sure his quick wit and command of the subjects he taught were thoroughly appreciated by his students. I know that his command of the issues and his ability to lead are appreciated by his colleagues. I also know that I will miss fighting the good fight for a better America with my friend DICK ARMEY.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. HAROLD L. "SPIKE" YOH, RECIPIENT OF THE JOHN J. JONES AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the recent winner of the National Defense Industrial Association's John J. Jones Award for Outstanding Contributions to our National Defense, Mr. Harold L. "Spike" Yoh.

Under the leadership of Spike Yoh, Day & Zimmermann, Inc. has made and continues to make significant and exceptional contributions to our national security. Among these, Day & Zimmermann established new safety and production standards for the munitions industry, and provided vital support for our efforts during the Gulf War.

Spike Yoh's contribution to the United States extends to our economy and commu-

nity, as well. Under his guidance, Day & Zimmermann grew 1000 percent and now employs over 24,000 personnel, performing \$1.5 billion in professional services for clients in 45 states and 15 countries. Though most prominent for its engineering and plant operation services, Day & Zimmermann also oversees 25 subsidiaries providing construction management, technical personnel, security, clerical, marine transportation, maintenance, defense systems, and information services.

Through all this, Spike has maintained a standard of excellence that places Day & Zimmermann once again in a position to support our troops as we wage war on terrorism. In addition, his legacy of generosity and community service is an example to all of what our citizenship demands. During this dangerous and uncertain time, when our future depends on our continued vigilance and ability to serve, Spike Yoh stands as a leader, giving us confidence that we can skillfully weather the challenges ahead.

IN HONOR OF PROF. TIBERIUS HUMITA

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to give special recognition to a very dear friend of mine, a living icon of idealistic political activism, Professor Tiberius Humita. Born in Romania, Tiberius has always been on the cutting edge of social activism. From his days as a youth in Bucharest, to his time as a political refugee in Germany during WWII, to his support of progressive candidates back in Michigan, Tiberius has always stood out as a leader and an example of what it takes to institute positive change. In March of 1997, Tiberius wrote a brief article about his life. It was published in the American Romanian News, and tells the fascinating story of this man's courage and selflessness. There is no better way to describe this man's contribution to the world. I encourage all of you to read the story of Prof. Tiberius Humita. He is from a generation that had to fight for their freedom, and risk their lives for a greater cause. May his tale put in perspective just what it is we are doing here in the halls of the greatest Democracy the world has ever known.

PROHIBIT FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ANY ORGANIZATION ENGAGING IN ANYTHING HAVING TO DO WITH HUMAN CLONING

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation prohibiting federal funding for any organization that engages in human cloning or human cloning techniques. Moral and legal questions surrounding human cloning are among the most contentious and divisive facing America today. However, I hope we can all agree that no American should be forced to subsidize this activity.

Some believe the current prohibition on the use of federal funds for cloning and cloning research is sufficient protection for those taxpayers who object to cloning. However, this argument is flawed for two reasons. First, the current ban is not permanent and thus could be changed at will by a future Congress or administration. Second, because money is fungible, current law does not necessarily prevent federal funds from subsidizing cloning. After all, whenever a company that engages in cloning research receives federal dollars for any project, the company obviously then has more dollars available to use for cloning. Therefore, any federal funding for companies that engage in human cloning forces taxpayers to subsidize those activities. Thus, the only way to ensure that no American is forced to pay for cloning research is to eliminate all federal funding of such companies or organizations.

Thomas Jefferson said "To compel a man to furnish contributions for the promulgation of ideas he disbelieves is both sinful and tyrannical." I hope my colleagues will embrace the spirit of Jefferson and join me in ending the sinful and tyrannical practice of forcing taxpayers to subsidize a practice so many find abhorrent. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and forbid federal funds from going to any company which engages in human cloning.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LINDA MALINSKY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual from Mancos Valley, Colorado, Linda Malinsky. Throughout the years, Linda has been a model citizen of the community by selflessly donating her time and efforts to needy organizations and seniors throughout the area. I would like now to highlight several of her efforts and commend Linda on her accomplishments.

Linda is known as a person with a kind heart and gentle soul who dedicates most of her time to the Valley Inn Nursing Home. At the home, she serves as the Social Services Director, providing her energies to ensure the continuation of a high quality of life for seniors in the home and in the area. When she is not at the home, she stays fully occupied by providing her amazing voice to her local church and other groups. Her voice is well known in the area and many of her listeners relish her sound as relaxing and soothing to the mind and spirit. In her desire to further help the elderly and provide healthcare to those in need, Linda organizes the annual Alzheimer's Walk in Boyle Park. She volunteers all her time and efforts to the charity, which annually raises thousands of dollars to fight the debilitating disease.

Mr. Speaker, Linda Malinsky is a model citizen of the community and her hard work and efforts have not been overlooked. She has recently been named as the Citizen of the Year by the Mancos Valley Chamber of Commerce honoring Linda for her dedication to seniors in the area. I would like to congratulate Linda on her efforts and her recent award, wish her

happy holidays, and good luck in her future endeavors.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE RETIREMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Retirement Enhancement Act of 2001. The Retirement, Enhancement Act of 2001 consists of two bills, one amending the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and the other amending the Internal Revenue Code (IRC).

These bills are the result of my work as the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations, which last Congress and earlier this year held a number of bipartisan hearings to consider improvements to ERISA. The Subcommittee heard from a wide variety of witnesses representing pension participants, employers, and financial advisors. They presented us with a variety of proposals to improve the retirement security of American workers. The Retirement Enhancement Act seeks to take the best of these contributions, and couple them with other pension provisions that I have either advocated or supported in the past.

Joining with me as cosponsors of the Retirement Enhancement Act of 2001 are numerous members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, including Representatives MILLER, KILDEE, OWENS, PAYNE, MINK, SCOTT, WOOLSEY, RIVERS, HINOJOSA, TIERNEY, KIND, SANCHEZ, FORD, KUCINICH, HOLT, SOLIS and MCCOLLUM. They share my belief that enactment of these bills will improve workers' access to and adequacy of needed retirement benefits.

Since the enactment of ERISA, the number of Americans who participate in a pension plan has nearly doubled from 38.4 million in 1975. While this growth is considerable, it still leaves about half of the workforce without access to a pension plan through their employer. Both the General Accounting Office and Congressional Research Service have completed studies analyzing pension coverage in the United States. The studies found that approximately 53 per cent of workers, roughly 68 million people, lacked a pension plan in 1998. About 39 per cent of those without coverage worked for an employer that did not sponsor a plan, while 14 per cent lacked coverage because their company's plan did not include them.

These bills seek to eliminate the remaining weaknesses in ERISA and lay the groundwork to help those not covered by an employer pension. These bills seek to improve pension coverage and adequacy. Under these bills, employers that sponsor plans would be required to offer pension coverage to all employees who meet current minimum eligibility requirements such as completion of one year of employment. These bills also improve coverage for part-time workers who represent one of the largest groups without pension coverage. Women represent 70 percent of the part-time workforce.

With the ever-changing, workforce, it is also important that we decrease the vesting period

for workers in defined contribution plans. For workers who will have many employers during their working, lives, we need to ensure that they will earn pension benefits that will benefit them in retirement. The bill reduces pension vesting from 5 to 3 years for defined contribution plans.

The Retirement Enhancement Act seeks to expand pension availability to those workers without it. One of the innovative ways in which it would do so is to create a model small employer group pension plan into which small employers could buy in with minimal administrative responsibilities. The Departments of Labor and Treasury would work with associations or financial institutions to establish and advertise these model plans so that employers and employees would know that easy and accessible pension options exist.

The Retirement Enhancement Act includes important pension protections for women. These bills establish a 75 per cent joint and survivor annuity option that would provide surviving spouses greater benefits in retirement. It provides enhanced protection to divorced spouses' pension rights and improves spousal information rights. These bills would also allow for time taken off from work under the Family and Medical Leave Act to count toward pension participation and vesting requirements.

The Act improves ERISA's safeguards for the investment of pension plan monies. It creates an expedited prohibited transaction exemption approval process under which plans would be able to more easily and quickly provide participants with new investment products. It does so, however, without weakening participant protections. It permits employers to provide qualified investment advice, including self-interested advice provided advisors meet minimum qualifications, adequate notice is provided, employees have an independent option and also effective remedies are available to employees for breach of the advisors fiduciary duties. This will be extremely helpful to those workers in defined contribution pension plans who bear the primary responsibility for their pension plan investment decisions.

In recent months tens of thousands of participants in defined contribution plans have suffered great loss when their company stock price dramatically declined, most notably in the case of Enron. Too many participants have had their retirement savings effectively wiped out. The Retirement Enhancement Act would give pension participants enhanced rights to diversify their employer pension contributions. The bill would require all employers to notify employees of their right to diversify employer contributions and would require employers to diversify employer contributions.

The Retirement Enhancement Act of 2001 improves access to pension information and strengthens enforcement mechanisms. It would require that plan participants regularly receive statements apprising them of the status of their earned pension benefits. Pension plans would also have to provide more detailed financial information about their earnings and investments. These bills would improve the current pension auditing system by requiring accountants to conduct full scope audits and report irregularities to the Department of Labor.

The bill includes important incentives to increase meaningful access to pension plans for low and moderate wage earners. It makes refundable the new tax credit for individuals who

make pension contributions either to an IRA or 401 (k) plan and it also includes a tax credit to small businesses that would subsidize 50 per cent of their pension contributions for the first 3 years of a plan.

The bills create an alternate dispute resolution system to resolve benefit disputes. The Department of Labor, along with dispute resolution organizations, would develop an early neutral evaluation program. This would allow for participants to receive benefits in a timely manner instead of after years of litigation. The bills also strengthen ERISA's remedies to ensure that participants have meaningful access to court, and that the courts can adequately remedy violations of the law.

Finally, the Retirement Enhancement Act of 2001 requires the timely distribution of defined contribution cash-out amounts, which would have to be made within 60 days of an employee's termination. It permits employees to work longer without being required to start pension receipt by delaying the minimum distribution of benefits from age 70½ to 75. Furthermore, for workers who are involuntarily terminated, it permits them to borrow against their pension earnings in order to pay for health or job training expenses.

Mr. Speaker, it is now time for the Congress to build on what was started with the enactment of ERISA in 1974, and take additional steps to ensure retirement security for our workforce. Advances in medical technology, environmental protection, nutrition, and improved living standards give us reason to believe that Americans are going to live longer lives. Whether the quality of these lives, after retirement, is good or not, will depend upon the existence, nature, and security of each person's pension plan. Because employers are rapidly shifting to the use of employee-directed pension accounts, more and more workers will be making decisions that are critical to their future financial health. I believe that the Retirement Enhancement Act of 2001 will help make those decisions easier, and make the benefits of those decisions more secure. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the pension community to continue to improve these bills and advance their consideration.

TRIBUTE TO JANET AND  
MAXWELL HILLARY SALTER

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to two dear friends, Janet and Maxwell Hillary Salter. Janet and Max are being honored on January 17, 2002 by the University of Judaism (UJ) in Los Angeles for their tremendous commitment to Jewish, business and civic activities. We have known Janet and Max for more than three decades and can not imagine two more deserving recipients for this prestigious honor.

The evening will be particularly meaningful because the Sigi Zierling Institute at the UJ will be unveiled due to the generosity of Janet and Max. The institute will provide a national

center to explore the moral and religious impact of the Holocaust for future generations. And, it will solidify and honor the memory of Sigi Zierling, who was a beloved philanthropist, entrepreneur, scientist and Holocaust survivor. Sigi is survived by a loving family who have also been instrumental in furthering the mission of the UJ.

Janet and Max have been leaders in philanthropy for as long as we can remember. They are patron members of the UJ and for more than ten years they hosted parties for Jewish singles affiliated with the UJ.

They are also patron members of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art and Platinum Members for the Center Theater Group. They are avid supporters of the Beverly Hills Education Foundation, the Maple Center, the Venice Family Clinic and Happy Trails. Their tireless dedication to the arts and education has made them integral members of Los Angeles, civic community.

Janet is a multi-talented published cartoonist who also coproduced, co-wrote and directed two major musicals for the City of Beverly Hills. She was awarded the first Golda Meir Award in 1978 by the State of Israel Bonds. She has served as a board member and chair of the Beverly Hills Fine Art Commission for nine years. She currently serves as president of the Beverly Hills Theatre Guild and is on the board of the Greystone Foundation.

Max served two years as mayor of Beverly Hills during his eight year tenure on the City Council. He is the chairman of Beno's, a downtown Los Angeles apparel company, chairman of the Fashion District Business Improvement Board and member of the board of directors of Diagnostic Products. He is also on the advisory board of the Jewish Community Foundation and past president of Temple Beth Am. Like Janet, Max's influence is felt wherever he dedicates his talents.

Janet and Max have lived in Beverly Hills for over 40 years. They have three wonderful children, all graduates of either Berkeley or UCLA, and twelve grandchildren, six of whom were at Berkeley at the same time.

We are delighted to honor our dear friends as they receive a much-deserved honor from the University of Judaism and ask our colleagues to join us in wishing them all the best for the future.

**BIPARTISAN TRADE PROMOTION  
AUTHORITY ACT OF 2001**

SPEECH OF

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2001*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3005, the Trade Promotion Authority Act. I believe in free trade that is also fair trade, and this bill does not ensure that our future trade agreements will fit that description.

I strongly feel that we have to learn from the experience of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which has been a failure. Since NAFTA our trade deficit with Mexico has increased, the environment along the US/Mexico border has gravely suffered, consumer safety has been put at risk due to the

importation of goods that are poorly inspected, and manufacturing jobs in states like Rhode Island have been put at risk as employers leave for Mexico and other countries.

I also am concerned about the role that international organizations such as the World Trade Organization have on our national sovereignty. Our hard-fought federal, state, and local regulations that protect our consumers and environment will be put at risk by H.R. 3005. The bill would allow our environmental agreements that safeguard biodiversity, control the use of particular pollutants, and preserve our most endangered species, to be challenged as unacceptable barriers to trade.

Another major problem with the bill is its failure to learn from NAFTA's mistakes when it comes to corporate investment. Foreign corporations are using NAFTA's Chapter 11 on investment to challenge core governmental functions. Rhode Islanders need to be particularly concerned about this. We need to learn from the experience of the State of California which has been sued by the Canadian company, Methanex, because of California's ban on MTBE, a gasoline additive. This example is particularly pertinent to Rhode Island, because the Pascoag water district of Burrillville, Rhode Island has a contaminated water supply from MTBE. If we pass The Trade Promotion Authority Act, we need to be aware that we open the door to place Rhode Island laws and regulations at the mercy of foreign firms.

For all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 3005 and in support of the Levin-Rangel substitute.

**CDC RETIREE AND CONSTITUENT  
GARY CONRAD**

**HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the distinguished career of Mr. Gary Conrad, who is a member of my constituency in Georgia's Sixth District and has provided countless hours of assistance to the Congress as an employee of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia where he has served as the Chief of the Congressional and Legislative Branch in the Financial Management Office.

Mr. Conrad is retiring from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention after 34 years of service to the agency. His service record with CDC spans his entire career and it is a career that demonstrates loyalty, dedication, quality, and selfless acts to the people of Georgia, the United States and in fact the world. Mr. Conrad has worked tirelessly to provide Congress information about the agency, its mission, and its programs. His work has contributed significantly to our understanding of the agency's mission and the nation's public health needs.

Mr. Conrad has had several notable assignments and he can truly be recognized as an individual in the forefront of the public health service. During his career with CDC, Mr. Conrad worked directly with the World Health Organization, Smallpox Eradication Programme in Bangladesh where he investigated potential smallpox cases and implemented disease containment procedures in areas with

confirmed cases. His efforts contributed to the worldwide eradication of the disease.

For nearly eleven years, Mr. Conrad served as the Director for Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Programs in Atlanta, Nashville, Salt Lake City, and San Juan. In addition he has served CDC as the Deputy Director for the Public Health Service—Region IV, Division of Preventive Health Services.

When the CDC began to recognize the cases of the HIV virus early in the epidemic it was Mr. Conrad the agency called upon to serve as the Desk Officer for the Department of Health and Human Services newly designated National AIDS Program Office. During his career, Gary has also represented CDC as an advisor to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the International Organization on Migration, and the U.S. State Department on refugee-based health screening. He also served CDC in Miami on an emergency Cuban refugee screening project during the Mariel Cuban Boatlift.

Mr. Conrad's career is truly noteworthy and represents the excellence that exists within the citizens of our community and the nation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will surely miss the perennial contributions to public health of Mr. Conrad as he retires and it is my pleasure to recognize his efforts today in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO JANE ROBERTS

**HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jane Roberts who will retire in December as Commissioner of Springfield Township in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. She has served her community for many years with distinction.

Jane is a dedicated public servant. Upon arriving in Montgomery County, she became active with the Schuylkill Valley Center for Environmental Education and became interested in politics through the League of Women Voters where she served as President.

Jane, a Democrat, was elected a Commissioner of Springfield Township in 1994. She served as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners in 1996 and 1997. For the past seven years, she has been active in promoting recycling and other environmental causes as the Chairwoman of the Cultural and Environmental Resources Committee. In addition, she has served as the Commissioner Liaison to the Board of Directors of the Free Library of Springfield Township.

Jane and her husband Roy are the proud parents of two sons and one granddaughter.

I am pleased to honor Jane Roberts on her retirement from the Board of Commissioners. She has made significant contributions to her community that will leave a lasting mark. Her dedication to her community truly is commendable. I join Springfield Township in congratulating Jane on her many years of exemplary service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD  
"DICK" WOODFIN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Richard "Dick" Woodfin and thank him for his contributions to the state of Colorado. Dick, who last year celebrated his 100th birthday, has been an active leader in state political and agricultural communities for most of his lifetime. I would now like to recognize some of his past and present accomplishments and extend my gratitude to his service and dedication to our state and nation.

Dick came to Colorado as a child when his parents settled in Cheyenne Wells in 1916. He graduated from Colorado State University in 1928 and became an agriculture teacher and thus began a long career in the agricultural community. His work with the Colorado Farm Bureau began in 1930 as an extension agent. He worked and remained active in the cities of Crowley, Canon City, Grand Junction and Burlington. In 1948, his involvement took a step forward when he was instrumental in the creation of the Mesa County Farm Bureau. His official service to the Colorado Farm Bureau ended in 1962, but he remained persistent in fighting for the interests of the citizens of Colorado upon being elected to the state legislature in 1969.

Mr. Speaker, Dick Woodfin contributed so much to the struggles of the Colorado Farm Bureau and to the triumph of the people of Colorado. His achievements have recently been recognized with the presentation of the Colorado Farm Bureau 2001 Service to Agriculture Award. For his lengthy service to the State of Colorado and the United States of America, I would like to personally recognize him for his efforts. Dick, you are truly worthy of the praise of this body of Congress.

HONORING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF  
HENDERSONVILLE, TENNESSEE

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the young ladies of Girl Scout Troop #2765 in Hendersonville, Tennessee. Like so many Americans, they were taken aback by the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and proved, once again, that heroes come in all sizes.

In the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, people all over America shared their food, shelter and prayers with those directly affected by the tragic events of September 11. The Girl Scouts from Troop #2765, saddened as so many of us were at the realization that hundreds of young children lost a parent in the attacks, took it upon themselves to launch "Operation Cuddles."

With the help of several local organizations in Tennessee, these fourth-graders were able to collect over 500 stuffed animals and deliver them in person to children in need at a ceremony at the State House in New Jersey.

The young ladies' kindness and commitment in the aftermath of such a tragedy exemplifies the spirit and tenacity of America. The compassion shown to our fellow man during this atrocity has revealed many heroes among us, not the least of which are the ladies of Troop #2765.

I wish to thank these brave young women for their tremendous contribution to the recovery efforts, and for helping us all gain some perspective in a time of national tragedy.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA ALEXANDER, ADVOCATE FOR EDUCATIONALLY DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the passing of Barbara Alexander, a very special woman whose life was dedicated to aiding children. Barbara is best known as a loving, energetic, feisty, and diligent advocate for advancing educational opportunities for children, especially children from economically disadvantaged families. Her courageous efforts continued until her untimely death at age 64 on November 27th of this year.

Born in Beaumont, Texas, Barbara moved to Richmond, California, in my congressional district, with her family when she was 7 years old. She met her future husband, Billy Alexander, while in church one Sunday. Barbara was married to Billy for 44 years and was the proud mother of three daughters, five sons, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Barbara's activism on behalf of public school children began in 1963, when her eldest daughter, Gaye, entered kindergarten at Coronado Elementary School in Richmond. She volunteered countless hours at the school and joined the Parent Teacher Association and the school advisory council. In the 1970s, Barbara and Billy successfully won a court decision against the Richmond Unified School District and the State of California for their handling of federal funds committed for special education students under Title I. Soon afterward, Barbara's involvement in education and her fight for the rights of disadvantaged children intensified. She served as a member of the National Coalition for Title I Parents, and the California Association for Compensatory Education. Barbara continued her lifelong passion for poor children by pioneering programs to assist low-income children such as Dreams for Children, which raised money to take low-income children shopping for Christmas, a Day of Sharing at Nystrom Elementary School, weekend tutorial programs, and a summer school program called Summer of Hope.

In recent years, the Alexanders founded the West Contra Costa Back-To-School Festival, an annual event that brings together businesses and community organizations to provide free school supplies, health screenings and community services to students attending schools in Contra Costa County. Last September, about 2,000 students and their parents benefitted from the event. Billy fondly

calls Barbara a modern-day "Robin Hood" because she passionately helped poor children and their families even when her own family was experiencing financial difficulties. I want to thank Billy personally for the sacrifice he and his family made throughout the years. Barbara Alexander was a model for us all. Indeed, her passion and advocacy will continue to inspire us to explore ways to improve educational opportunities for all children.

Mr. Speaker, today the House is going to pass historic legislation to reform the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, a law to benefit disadvantaged public school students first enacted in 1965. I would like to think that Barbara Alexander would be proud of the work we have done in this bill to ensure that federal aid to schools in fact is targeted, better than ever before, on those children most in need of help. I would like to think that she would be proud of our efforts to ensure that all children are taught by qualified teachers, that they have quality after-school programs and that they will benefit from the bright lines we will soon draw with regard to our expectations for schools. Our bill is rooted in the belief that all children, no matter what their backgrounds, can learn equally well as their schools have the proper resources and a qualified teaching staff. I believe these are the goals that Barbara Alexander spent many years of her life fighting for, and I will think of her today, and the children she fought for, as we pass this historic bill.

HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2001*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3295, The Help America Vote Act. I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. NEY and the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. HOYER for their diligent work in getting this legislation to the floor quickly enough for it to make a difference in the upcoming 2002 elections.

The Presidential election of 2000 highlighted the numerous problems within our federal election system. Voting machines broke down, thousands of votes were discarded due to damaged ballots over or under votes and hanging, dimpled and pregnant chads. The situation was especially grave in our minority communities, especially African-American neighborhoods. The United States election process broke down, as did the voter's confidence in it. We all came to this House just under a year ago, promising to immediately act to fix the many problems we discovered. Today we must take the opportunity to restore public confidence in the integrity of the electoral process.

With the passage of this important legislation, we will finally demand minimum Federal standards for voter registration. H.R. 3295 would also mandate minimum standards on the equipment used to cast ballots, and the procedure used to determine what is and is not a vote on every variety of voting machine used in this country. This will eliminate confusing and contradictory local laws that made

a mockery of the 2000 election's Florida recount. This will establish standards that every State must meet for every Federal election.

Passage of this bill will also authorize \$2.65 billion in funds to help meet these new high standards by replacing outdated voting equipment, and educate voters about the election process. Of this money, \$400 million is to help States replace outdated and unreliable punch card voting systems, the antiquated system which led to the Florida turmoil, and another \$2.25 billion is to help States improve their equipment, provide greater access to disabilities, better train poll workers, and educate voters about their rights.

Although I support this bill as a good start towards desperately needed reform, I recognize that it does not solve all of our election difficulties. I am very disappointed that the Rules Committee did not make in order the amendment offered by my good friends Mr. MENENDEZ of New Jersey, Ms. DELAURO of Connecticut, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Their amendment would have solved many of the deficiencies contained in the bill, and make it more compatible with the bills currently being considered in the Senate.

Their amendment would mandate that the voting authorities begin to inform voters of a mistake in their ballot of voting for either too few or too many candidates. Nearly 200,000 ballots were thrown out of the Florida Presidential ballot because of over or under counting, and the technology to prevent this from occurring again is available. We should be using it.

The amendment would also require accessibility to alternative language voting for people with a limited grasp of English. This is a vital issue to me because the people in my congressional district, the Seventh District of New York, are native speakers of over 70 different languages. These hard working American citizens are just as entitled to vote as everyone else and should not be intimidated by the electoral process—something every citizen should hold dear.

Beyond that, this amendment ensures that the standards of the motor-voter law remain in order, to ensure that States cannot purge people from their rolls if they fall to vote in two consecutive Federal elections. It requires provisional ballots to be provided to voters missing from precinct registers, and notice be provided as to whether their residency was established and their vote counted following Election Day. The amendment ensures that national standards are maintained for error rates for voting machines, in addition to the other standards already established.

Although the Rules Committee did not make this amendment in order, I believe it is vitally important that these provisions be added to any bill that becomes law. Nonetheless, I continue to support H.R. 3295, which is a very good step in the right direction and support its passage today. But I hope that the Senate passes a bill containing all of these important provisions, and we are able to adopt it all in conference.

This bipartisan legislation has the endorsement of the National Commission on Federal Election Reform and its distinguished chairmen, former Presidents Carter and Ford. The National Conference of State Legislators and the National Association of Secretaries of State, both of which will have to deal with its mandates, have also endorsed it. They all rec-

ognize that this bill is the best way to help rectify the problems of the 2000 election, and ensure that debacle never occurs again.

I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 3295. Thank you Mr. Speaker and I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO WORLD WAR II FLYING ACE, RICHARD WEST OF CHILLICOTHE, MO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to World War II flying ace Richard West of Chillicothe, MO. A member of 35th Squadron, 8th Fighter Group, 5th Air Force stationed in the South Pacific, Richard shot down 14 Japanese fighters during 1943 and 1944. He was one kill away from being a triple ace.

Amazingly, in his 173 combat missions flying P-40 Warhawks and P-38 Lightnings, Richard saw air-to-air combat only eight times. However, one of those times he shot down four planes, another time he shot down two planes.

Along with other American aces in the South Pacific, West's character became legendary as the "Samson of the Pacific". In the book, "Fighter Aces," it is said that he refused to cut his hair until he downed his first Japanese plane. Richard also authored his own book, "Three Songs and Other Poems," a book depicting the drama of air-to-air combat.

Richard West is a highly decorated war veteran who helped shape the course of our Nation. He is a member of the "greatest generation" and deserves our respect and thanks. I am proud to announce that on Saturday, January 12, the Chillicothe Municipal Airport Terminal Building will be named in his honor, a memorial long overdue. I thank Richard West for his service to our country.

INTRODUCING THE HUD HOUSING AND SECURITY FLEXIBILITY ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the House an innovative program created by the Houston office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies in the Houston area. This program, utilizing grant money from the Operation Safe Home program, hires off-duty law enforcement officers to provide security and patrol housing complexes and apartments that are owned by or receive funds from HUD. This program has been a great success, and has made residents feel safer and more secure in their homes.

Unfortunately, this program turned out to be too innovative. Although this initiative has been an unqualified success, it turns out that HUD did not have the authority to make these types of security decisions. I believe that we should allow our local communities and those

who know them best the flexibility to pursue the solutions that will decrease violence, drug use, and other crimes that plague much of the public housing in our nation today. I do not believe that Americans who need assistance with housing costs should be forced to live in fear.

That is why I am introducing the HUD Housing Security and Flexibility Act. This legislation would allow HUD to hire local law enforcement agencies for these purposes. It authorizes offices that receive or administer funds under either of the aforementioned programs to enter into contracts with police departments and other agencies. These contracts would be limited to 3 years in length, and would be solely for security, patrols, or other protective services at HUD-owned or -assisted housing.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that this legislation will go a long way toward eliminating crime in our public housing, and making Americans feel safer in their homes. I hope that the Congress will take up this important legislation during the 107th Congress.

SOCIAL SECURITY GUARANTEE PLUS ACT OF 2001

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Social Security Guarantee Plus Act of 2001 to save Social Security. I believe strongly that we can and will work in a bipartisan manner to save Social Security, provided we choose to legislate for the next generation, not the next election.

Two-thirds of a century ago, Social Security's framers designed the program to meet certain promises for the American people: the promise of a safety net of financial security, the promise that all workers would be treated fairly, the promise that Social Security would be owned by workers, for workers, and a program that workers and their families could count on should they retire, suffer disability, or die. However our nation's current demographics and economics have changed, and Social Security's ability to continue meeting these promises is threatened. The Social Security Guarantee Plus Act I introduce today will enable Social Security to continue keeping its promises.

First, through this plan, the Social Security safety net is fully preserved. Promised benefits, including cost of living increases, are guaranteed for those already receiving retirement, survivors, and disability benefits, those about to receive those benefits, and future generations.

Second, the plan treats all workers fairly. Workers have paid into the system, it's their money, and we must protect and enhance their investment. It's not fair to workers to raise their payroll taxes or lower their benefits. Nor is it fair for the government to tell workers to work longer. I do not want to create another "notch." That's why my plan does not raise taxes, does not lower benefits, and does not change the retirement age.

Third, Social Security dollars belong to the workers that sent them here, therefore this plan gives workers a real ownership stake in the program by allowing workers to choose to receive a tax cut to invest directly in safe, individually-selected, market investments. A new

nation of savers, not the government, will control their retirement security. Should an individual die before becoming eligible, the balance of their money will be passed along to their heirs.

Fourth, under my plan, Social Security can be counted on for the next 75 years, and beyond. Real assets guarantee current and new expanded benefits, not Government IOUs, establishing a sound and sustainable financial footing. There will be no more need to increase taxes or lower benefits every few years to keep the program working.

Beyond keeping these promises, we must do more to further improve Social Security for the women of our nation. Because of their longer life expectancies and lower earnings, women are more likely to suffer poverty in old age and therefore heavily depend on Social Security's vital safety net. In addition, because benefits are based on earnings, women are penalized when they choose to stay home to raise their children. The Guarantee Plus Plan increases protection for women, not only by securing the future of the current Social Security and guaranteeing full benefits, including cost-of-living adjustments, but also by enhancing benefits for widows, divorced spouses, and working mothers. These benefits become available immediately in my bill.

Congressman WALTER JONES (NC-03) said "we, as members of Congress, have a duty to our seniors to ensure their retirement security will not be jeopardized." I couldn't agree more. Therefore, the bill includes a provision, similar to that introduced by my friend WALTER JONES, where each beneficiary will receive a legally enforceable certificate guaranteeing his or her benefits.

Here's how the Social Security Guarantee Plus Plan works. The plan guarantees full, promised, current law benefits for all workers, whether you are 6 or 65. Just as companies must back your pension plan with real assets, the Guarantee Plus Plan saves Social Security by setting aside real assets, not IOUs, to pre-fund benefits. These assets are saved in each worker's own account, thereby providing workers the opportunity to create real wealth for themselves and their families.

Workers who choose to participate will receive a refundable credit of 2-3% of their earnings to establish their own Social Security Guarantee Account. Workers, not the government, would select where to invest their Guarantee Account funds. The assets in these accounts would grow tax-free. No withdrawals would be permitted until a worker starts receiving benefits to ensure that the money is preserved for retirement.

At retirement or when the worker becomes disabled, a portion of the Guarantee Account is paid directly to the worker and the rest is used to help pay full, guaranteed Social Security benefits. But that's not all.

My plan also includes much needed improvements in benefits for widows, divorced women, working women caring for young children, and women with work not covered under Social Security. My plan also eliminates the retirement earnings penalty for all workers age 62 and older.

The Guarantee Plus Plan does all this and pays for itself over the seventy five-year actuarial period, and that's confirmed by the Social Security Administration's Office of the Actuary. Even under the most conservative estimates, the Guarantee Plus Plan allows the new So-

cial Security system to generate surplus cash in the later part of the century, actually adding black ink to the government's bottom line.

Other plans may cost less because they cut benefits or raise taxes. If your goal is to keep current benefits, boost women's benefits, and return Social Security to financial independence, The Guarantee Plus Plan is the lowest-cost proposal to date. My plan uses general revenues to fund the accounts. Even assuming borrowing for a transitional period, my plan pays back every borrowed dollar plus interest within the 75-year evaluation period. Not only do we pay off the mortgage on Social Security, we leave workers with substantial account balances and the federal government with excess cash.

President Bush has shown true leadership by setting out principles for reform. The Guarantee Plus Plan meets or exceeds all of these principles.

Principle #1: Modernization must not change Social Security benefits for retirees or near retirees. My plan exceeds this principle, because it preserves and guarantees benefits for all workers and retirees. In fact, my plan improves benefits for everybody.

Principle #2: The entire Social Security surplus must be dedicated to Social Security only. For the first time available Social Security surpluses will be used to benefit Social Security directly.

Principle #3: Social Security payroll taxes must not be increased. My plan does not ever raise payroll taxes. In fact, my plan creates long-term savings that could potentially allow a payroll tax decrease.

Principle #4: The government must not invest Social Security funds in the stock market. My plan allows workers, not the government, to invest account contributions in safe, sound investment choices.

Principle #5: Modernization must preserve Social Security's disability and survivors components. My plan does not alter Social Security disability and survivor benefits in any way, except to increase guaranteed benefits for survivors and to increase income security for individuals with disabilities, who keep 5% of their account in addition to full, guaranteed benefits.

Principle #6: Modernization must include individually controlled, voluntary personal retirement accounts, which will augment the Social Security safety net. My plan provides workers all opportunity to voluntarily participate in personal accounts that they own and control without individual investment risk. These accounts ensure Social Security will be able to pay current law benefits for all workers for 75 years and beyond.

The President also convened a bipartisan Commission to issue recommendations for strengthening and modernizing Social Security. Later this month, we will see the Commission's final report, and our nation will embark on further debate regarding the future of this great program.

Just yesterday, the House overwhelmingly passed a resolution that summarized what actions we, as Members of Congress, should take in saving Social Security. This resolution clearly states that we should join with the President in saving Social Security as soon as possible. It also states that any plan to save Social Security should recognize the obstacles women face in securing financial stability at retirement, the critical role Social Security plays in preventing poverty and providing fi-

ancial security for minorities. Finally, it states that any plan to save Social Security should guarantee current law promised benefits, including cost-of-living adjustments, for current and future retirees, and should not increase taxes. My plan accomplishes all these objectives.

As the choices necessary to secure the future of Social Security become more clear in the coming weeks and months, I want America to know my choices for how to strengthen and improve Social Security for the next 75 years and beyond. I choose:

No to privatizing; yes to securing Social Security as we know it.

No to lowering benefits or increasing taxes; yes to benefit guarantees.

No to more government IOUs; yes to real savings through voluntary personal savings accounts.

No to government investment; yes to worker choice and worker-controlled investing in safe, market investments.

No to program bankruptcy and burdening our children with debt into years unknown; yes to a solvent, debt-free Social Security program.

Stepping up to the challenge and finding a solution is the "American" way; ignoring it is not. Those who truly want to keep Social Security's promises must do more than just stand on the sidelines—they must offer their own workable proposal to fix Social Security's finances. Those who only criticize the difficult and candid choices of people giving purposeful thought towards saving Social Security have no place in this serious debate.

We must work together to build on the Success of the past to make a strengthened Social Security system an asset to all and not a liability to our children and grandchildren.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO LORENZO BOOKER

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to a young man whose name I predict we will hear for many years to come: Lorenzo Booker, a high school running back from my district who has been named the 2001 Gatorade National High School Football Player of the Year.

Mr. Booker was chosen for this national honor from more than 1 million male high school football players by the Gatorade Company and Coach and Athletic Director magazine. He joins a prestigious list of previous winners, including Emmitt Smith of the Dallas Cowboys and Peyton Manning of the Indianapolis Colts.

During Mr. Booker's three seasons at St. Bonaventure High School in Ventura, California, he broke four California state records and helped his team achieve an impressive 42-0 record and three CIF-Southern Section Division XI championships. His records are: 8,501 rushing yards, 882 points, 137 touchdowns, and 131 touchdown runs. He averaged 11.23 yards per carry.

In his final high school game, he ran for 232 yards and scored five touchdowns. His speed, strength and elusiveness have led to comparisons with the likes of Barry Sanders, O.J. Simpson, Marshall Faulk and Gale Sayers.

Mr. Booker and fellow teammate James Bonelli have been named to the U.S. Army All-American Bowl on January 5, 2002, at Alamo Stadium in San Antonio, Texas. On the day before the game, the Ken Hall Player of the Year trophy will be awarded. Mr. Booker is a finalist. He also is a finalist for the USA Today Offensive Player of the Year and the High School Heisman.

Obviously a leader on the field, Mr. Booker also has been described as a leader off the field, and as a gentleman who is proud and confident but who treats everyone as his equal.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Booker is considered by many to be the top college recruit in the country. Ironically, Mr. Booker is in no rush: He says he'll make a decision when he wakes up on National Signing Day, February 5.

Wherever he goes, college football fans will quickly learn what California high school fans already know: Lorenzo Booker is a winner.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Lorenzo Booker for a very successful and impressive high school football career and in wishing him the best as he dodges and weaves into the next chapter.

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#### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL CLIFFT

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District, Michael Clifft. On November 30, 2001, Michael, along with his family and friends, celebrated his retirement from the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local Union 374 after more than 35 years of dedicated service.

We in Northwest Indiana applaud Mr. Clifft's achievements thus far. At the young age of 23, he was initiated into the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, an event that marked his entry into a productive career in this field. A native Oklahoman, he joined our community in 1968 when he was transferred to Local 374 in Hammond, Indiana. His sense of dedication and professionalism that was formed in the Heartland came to fruition in Northwest Indiana with his many positive contributions in our community. We often seek in traditions a reflection of American ideals: reliability, loyalty, and an unwavering commitment to a strong work ethic. The Clifft family yields to us all an example of uncompromising dedication to this ethic—his father before him and his daughter after him are both distinguished Boilermakers. Mr. Clifft has provided the constituents of the First Congressional District with a positive standard after which they can model themselves.

As a testament to his dedication to the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Mr. Clifft was appointed to the position of Assistant Business Manager of Local 374 in 1995. For the six years he served in this position, he represented Local 374 with the same integrity that he has devoted to his career, his family, and his friends.

With his induction into the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Mr. Clifft became a member of a family of professionals that spans the globe. His efforts to serve his

international brothers and sisters to the best of his abilities are the reasons we honor him today. Yet these obligations do not curtail his involvement with those who have supported him in these endeavors. The Clifft family should also receive some of the praise offered today. His wife, his five children, and his ten grandchildren have selflessly shared this man with our community and they are also deserving of our gratitude.

On this special day, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Michael Clifft. His large circle of family and friends can be proud of the contributions this prominent individual has made. His work in the labor movement provided union workers in Northwest Indiana opportunities that might have remained undiscovered. Mr. Clifft's contributions kept the labor force strong and his loyalty and sincerity embody all that is admirable in America's workforce. I sincerely wish Michael Clifft a long, happy, and productive retirement.

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#### TRIBUTE TO MR. MARTIN MURPHY

### HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Martin Murphy. Mr. Murphy resides in Youngstown, Ohio and is a long-time U.S. History and Civics teacher at Chaney High School.

For years, Mr. Murphy has worked to promote the traditions and institutions of the United States to the children of Youngstown. He has provided students with the opportunity to meet veterans and hear their stories. He has taught the students the importance of celebrating our liberties by holding ceremonies around the flagpole and at cemeteries for those that gave their lives to ensure our freedom. He has taken students to African American History and Voice of America competitions, which test their democratic values and beliefs.

Recently, Mr. Murphy was nominated as Teacher of the Year for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I would like to thank Mr. Martin Murphy for dedicating many invaluable years to our young people. It takes a special person to teach them the significance of the freedoms that Americans are so fortunate to have.

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#### HONORING PROFESSOR GARY JOHNSON

### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an old and dear friend of mine, Dr. Gary Johnson. Dr. Johnson was instrumental in helping me become who I am today. As my advisor in the San José State University Counselor Education program, he helped me develop the sense of mediation and personal interactions which are so important in the work I do as a Member of Congress. This Friday evening, December 14, 2001, Dr. Johnson will be honored at a celebration of his impending

retirement from the faculty of my alma mater. The College of Education and the Department of Counselor Education at San José State University will gather together to pay tribute to Dr. Johnson for his 32 years of dedicated service to the Counselor Education program and to the betterment of our community and public schools.

Dr. Gary Johnson has been a leader in the design and implementation of the graduate program in the Department of Counselor Education at the College of Education at San José State University since 1969. He has served as a faculty member, program director, and division chairperson. In these capacities, he has motivated and inspired students from diverse backgrounds to maximize their individual potential for the good of our collective communities.

Since 1957, the innovative Graduate Department of Counselor Education has trained and graduated over 2,000 diverse professionals. It has maintained a recruitment and training emphasis focusing on cross-cultural issues, community partnerships, career life-span development, non-traditional counseling services, and historically under-represented student populations since 1970. Starting in 1978, the department has supported a bilingual emphasis in its students, a bilingual capability in its faculty, and a cross-cultural emphasis in its curriculum delivery.

Many students have chosen Counselor Education as the field in which to re-enter their university studies, receiving their Masters Degrees and going on to pursue successful careers in private industry, education, and community organizations. Many Counselor Education graduates have pursued leadership roles as school administrators and educational reformers. The professional work of these individuals is a testimony to the invaluable work of Dr. Johnson's long and distinguished career. Along with so many others, I take this opportunity to commend Dr. Gary Johnson for his outstanding contributions to the Graduate Department of Counselor Education at San José State University, and his outstanding contributions to my life and my professional development and career.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3484, THE PROMPT UTILIZATION OF WIRELESS SPECTRUM ACT OF 2001

### HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 3484, the Prompt Utilization of Wireless Spectrum Act of 2001. The bill's title aptly describes the critical need for this legislation to turn wireless spectrum, which has been tied up in litigation for years, into a useful, performing asset for the American people.

For some five years, these personal communication services spectrum licenses have been the subject of a contentious dispute between the original licensee, an entity known as NextWave, and the Federal Communications Commission, regarding their rightful ownership.

In 1993, the Communications Act of 1934 was amended to permit the FCC to sell licenses and construction permits through a

competitive bidding process and allow the successful bidders to pay for their licenses in installments. Pursuant to this authorization, auctions of certain licenses were held in 1996. NextWave successfully bid approximately \$4.7 billion for a substantial block of these licenses.

Subsequently, however, the market value of these licenses became depressed in response to various events, which in turn, adversely impacted the ability of some licensees to obtain funding for their purchases and operations. After making an initial payment of approximately \$500 million, NextWave failed to obtain financing for the balance it owed to the government and filed for bankruptcy relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in 1998. It thereafter made no other payments to the FCC for the licenses. Eventually, 20 other licensees also filed for bankruptcy relief under Chapter 11.

Extensive litigation over NextWave's licenses dragged on for several years. The FCC ultimately canceled the licenses and reaucted them in January of this year, with winning bids of nearly \$16 billion. Nevertheless, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia subsequently found the FCC's cancellation of the licenses violated the Bankruptcy Code and thereby rendering their reauction null and void.

In an effort to resolve the various issues presented by the disputed ownership of these licenses, the FCC, NextWave and certain other interested parties have entered into a comprehensive settlement agreement late last month. The agreement provides, in essence, for the transfer of the licenses by NextWave to the FCC, which in turn will convey them to the successful reauction bidders. In exchange for agreeing to transfer the licenses, NextWave will receive a cash payment from the United States government (in addition to which the government will make a cash payment directly to the IRS on behalf of NextWave). As the result of these transactions and certain related payments, the United States will receive approximately \$10 billion as net proceeds from the settlement.

In response to certain concerns expressed with regard to the settlement agreement, the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law and the Subcommittee on the Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary held a Joint hearing last week on this matter. Over the course of that hearing, various issues presented by the settlement agreement and proposed legislation were closely scrutinized, particularly those provisions requiring expedited judicial review and limiting the venue of certain appeals.

Largely as a result of that hearing and extensive consultations with the interested parties, I am now confident that the settlement agreement is in the best interest of the public and the national fisc, under the circumstances.

H.R. 3484, the Prompt Utilization of Wireless Spectrum Act of 2001 ensures that the settlement agreement will be implemented with the ultimate goal of making these telecommunications licenses available to those who will best utilize them for the American people.

Given the time constraints implicit in the pending settlement agreement and the need to tree up these licenses as soon as possible, it is my hope that Congress will promptly consider and pass H.R. 3484.

A WIDENING WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR WASHINGTON AND HAVANA TO CONSTRUCTIVELY ENGAGE

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker. With the bipartisan momentum for the abrogation of the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba gaining steam, along with the recent courteous diplomatic exchange between the State Department and Havana and the subsequent trade initiative that was struck between U.S. agricultural groups and Cuba's Foreign Trade Ministry, such development should be of great interest to those in this country who have long been concerned with the course of U.S.-Cuba relations. These two long time foes seem to be exercising a newfound flexibility that could evolve into normalized relations between Washington and Havana.

Michael Marx McCarthy, Research Associate at the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), has recently authored an article of considerable importance entitled, *A Widening Window of Opportunity for Washington and Havana to Constructively Engage*, some of which appeared in a recent issue of the organization's estimable biweekly publication, the *Washington Report on the Hemisphere*. McCarthy's article examines the polite exchange that transpired after Hurricane Michelle rained hundreds of millions of dollars of destruction on Cuba, and closely analyzes how the White House's expediting of Havana's cash purchase of U.S. foodstuffs could establish a diplomatic framework and a new mood which could lead to the restoration of regular political and economic ties. There is some possibility that, if we are lucky, this development could engender further constructive discussion and congressional action on the status of the archaic U.S. trade embargo that Washington slapped on Havana in 1962.

Additionally, considering the UN General Assembly's 10th consecutive overwhelming vote in favor of ending the U.S. trade embargo, and the mounting pressure from agricultural and business groups in this country to open the Cuban market to U.S. farm and industry products, now may be the time for some of my colleagues to harmonize with the rest of the world's public opinion and join with me in revising a failed policy that already has cost us dearly in reputation and in economic opportunities.

Furthermore, as the Castro government is reaching its natural end, the U.S. should want to build upon the recent discussions to bring about a watershed in these two neighbors' ties. To allow this positive momentum to relapse would be a grievous error. The Cuban government and people are aware that a majority of U.S. legislators and citizens desire friendly relations. To ensure that a peaceful transition of power follows the Castro government's end, U.S. officials should not relent on efforts to engage Cuba now. In fact, U.S. officials need to consider widening their humanitarian initiative by addressing basic bilateral issues, such as drug interdiction, laws of the sea, refugee and air space questions, as well as a broad range of economic, terrorism, trade, human rights observance and democra-

tization concerns. Action on these issues will provide the foundation necessary for a natural evolution in the development of constructive relations. As such, COHA researcher McCarthy's article is of great relevance since the effort to constructively engage Cuba is likely to grow in importance in the coming months.

A WIDENING WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR WASHINGTON AND HAVANA TO CONSTRUCTIVELY ENGAGE

Possibly marking a watershed moment in U.S.-Cuban relations, Washington broke its four decade-long history of obdurately naysaying any move in favor of a constructive relationship with Havana—even if that means denying assistance to Cuban civilians caught up in heart-wrenching natural calamities—when a U.S. administration, for the first time, decided to facilitate Havana's multimillion dollar purchase of lumber, corn, wheat, rice, soy and medical products to help Cuba restock its reserves of essentials seriously depleted by hurricane Michelle. The hurricane was the worst storm to hit the island in a half a century, causing millions of dollars in damage to Cuba's sugar and citrus crops, as well as infrastructure losses and adverse effects to its tourist industry.

The delivery of such goods, initially called for by Castro to take place aboard Cuban vessels, will instead be carried out by U.S. or third-country vessels, marking a major concession on Havana's part. This unfolding scenario might provide the basis for how a newfound flexibility can build significant momentum in favor of a constructive engagement.

Because the unprecedented agreement falls within the existing parameters of the U.S. embargo, the arrangement presented a delicate political issue for Havana to rationalize. Last year, the Cuban president swore to never purchase American goods under the White House's terms, after legislation to ostensibly liberalize the embargo was hijacked by ultra conservative members of congress intent on eliminating any U.S. financing of exports to the island. Despite its heated disagreement with the embargo, Havana's decision to live with the formula for the present purchase indicates the gravity of the economic situation and Castro's ability to learn new tricks by accepting Washington's goodwill gesture at face value. What remains to be seen, however, is whether this episode will morph into a more substantive and broadened diplomatic discussion on such bilateral issues as navigation, air space, refugees and drug interdiction, or if it is merely a one-shot arrangement which will go nowhere.

#### THE GOOD SAMARITAN

The White House, acting out of a "humanitarian need context," played an active role in clearing a major hurdle to the deal by expediting the Commerce Department's issuance of the licenses necessary for American companies to sell and deliver to Havana. This was done after Havana had, with respect, turned down an earlier offer of assistance which would have to go through intermediaries and not involve any Cuban government agency. On the surface, the significance of the initiative is a more modest version of Nixon's opening to China in 1973, but presents a widening window of opportunity that could initiate a deepening and broadening of a dialogue between the two long-time foes. Conceivably, the process could spur preliminary discussions that could end up phasing out the outmoded 40 year-old U.S. economic embargo against the island, something that a majority of Americans appear to want.

In fact, in this latest round of hurricane diplomacy, Cuba's foreign minister expressed optimism regarding recent developments, calling for the U.S. to terminate its stepped-up restrictions on travel to the island and pronouncing Havana ready for normalized relations with Washington. As of now, according to the State Department, the diplomatic exchange associated with the sale (which was in cash, with the purchaser being the Cuban Foreign Trade Ministry) is over and it is up to U.S. companies and Havana to seal the deal. Cuban authorities already are in contact with 15 agro-industrial companies and 15 firms that produce medical supplies or pharmaceuticals. The first actual deal between U.S. food companies and Cuba was completed on November 22 in Havana and was emotionally hailed as an extraordinary historical moment by an official from Riceland Foods. The rice will be picked up by Cuban vessels flying third country flags from the port of New Orleans in December and January. Cuba, for the record, stated that the purchase is a one-time arrangement that does not alter its fundamental opposition to the terms of the U.S. trade embargo.

#### POLITE EXCHANGE SETS TONE FOR AGREEMENT

The genesis of the truly important agreement can be attributed to the natural calamity that ravaged 45,000 homes on the island nation, attracted international attention to Cuba's pressing need for humanitarian assistance and helped produce an unusually civil diplomatic exchange between Washington and Havana. The State Department, in a dramatic shift from its past policy of total intransigence on the issue of Cuba qualifying for U.S. disaster relief, initiated the discussions by publicly offering hurricane relief aid to Cuba. Shortly thereafter, Havana responded to the U.S. tender in a manner devoid of its usual bitter bite, thanking Washington for its kind gesture, but requesting that the Cuban government be allowed to have direct access for purchasing U.S. medical supplies and food and arranging for its delivery.

#### POLITICAL FALLOUT

The surprisingly new, almost amicable, tone in their discussions suggests that the beginning of a détente might be possible down the road. Such a development could prove to be politically beneficial for both Washington and Havana. Bona fide dialogue, beginning at a relatively low diplomatic level, which would focus on chipping away at the four decade-old and anachronistic trade embargo, rather than seeking its abrogation in one major step, would follow a realistic scenario. The fact is that aside from the more ultra right-wing members of the Miami Cuban-American community, and a handful of highly conservative legislators, support for the embargo rapidly has been withering away. Many in the U.S. business, religious, academic and agricultural sectors, as well as some of the most prominent cold war policy makers from the Reagan era, oppose the outdated embargo. In fact, advocates of the embargo have been overtaken by the recent hurricane food aid purchase and are now on the fringe of the U.S. political process.

Miami's Cuban exile leadership, now politically facing a dead end, would do well to assess the changing dynamics of U.S.-Cuban relations. In reality, the agreement on the purchase of essentials gives a marginal boost for the Castro government just when it was going through hard times due to the worldwide economic slowdown. The Cuban economy, already weakened by the recent region-wide reduction in tourism from EU and Canada, particularly resulting from the repercussions of September 11, faced the prospect of a major financial crisis considering the magnitude of Michelle's destruction. The

American supplies should help in short-term relief efforts. More importantly, however, the arrangement could set an important precedent for future trade, as Havana would prefer to reduce shipping costs on imported goods, which in some cases have had to travel from as far as Vietnam, by instead purchasing from a neighbor only 90 miles away. It is estimated that Cuba now spends between \$700 million and \$1 billion on purchasing foodstuffs from U.S. competitors in Asia, Argentina and France, among others. Much of that amount, U.S. suppliers passionately believe, could be in their hands if regular sales between the two nations were permitted.

Castro derided the embargo as an act of economic imperialism, unjustly denying Cubans vital food and medical imports. While Washington's present move could prove to be a powerful political tonic for Castro and almost inevitably will lift his prestige, the delivery of U.S. goods (possibly even on U.S. vessels) to Cuban docks will attract positive international press coverage for the White House. The Bush administration will at least be an equal beneficiary of worldwide praise since it has been U.S. policy towards Cuba, and not the Castro regime, which has been discredited and isolated.

For Washington, the political motivation for its change of policy on hurricane relief is difficult to precisely track. Previously, the Bush administration sent Havana an inflammatory signal by nominating Otto Reich—an anti-Castro Cold War extremist who was tenaciously supported by the far right leadership of the Miami Cuban-American community—to the State Department's top Latin American policymaking post. The food and medicine deal, however, sends a constructive message to Cuba. Although the move has not been explained beyond its obvious humanitarian purpose, it is without question that the recent sale is in the interest of Cuban democratization and could signify that Secretary of State Powell desires to generate a constructive dialogue with Havana.

Until the State Department made its surprising move on hurricane relief, the decades-long schism between the two nations had been, if anything, worsening. Formulating a new, positive diplomatic posture could prove useful to the two nations as the Castro era approaches its natural end. To ensure that a peaceful transition of power will be the paramount goal of U.S. policy makers, Washington must not go back on its constructive posture. Even the most basic diplomatic ties will prove helpful in avoiding a bellicose struggle over the succession of leadership on the island that would inevitably affect the U.S. mainland. In fact, the two nations would be wise to widen the agenda of issues to be discussed to include the establishment of cooperative initiatives on drug interdiction, laws of the sea, refugee and air space jurisdiction as well as a broad range of economic, terrorism, trade, human rights observance and democratization concerns.

#### MOVE CONSONANT WITH RECENT TREND TO LIBERALIZE AND DISPENSE WITH EMBARGO

The humanitarian food and medicine relief agreement comes at an interesting time in the ongoing congressional debate on Cuba. For the past two years the Florida delegation on the Hill has lost much of its influence on issues pertaining to Cuba. The House voted to repeal the travel ban and measures to abrogate the entire embargo failed by relatively small margins. Several weeks ago, however, the Senate decided not to act on the controversial Cuba travel ban repeal, a move which was perceived to have pleased a White House loath to appear soft on Cuba.

Of greatest importance in the present trend towards more normalized relations,

however, is the rising profile of the anti-embargo campaign by various U.S. farm interest groups as well as a broad range of multinationals and the legislators representing them, who are insisting that trade links with Cuba be extended in order to facilitate American exports to the island. On November 15, the Senate Agricultural Committee passed its funding measure, which permits federal financing of agricultural exports to Cuba, a bill that would establish a direct ongoing economic link between Washington and Havana. In the absence of such permissive legislation, there was no such financing involved in the Hurricane Michelle sale to Cuba. A delegation from the USA Rice Federation, which represents a majority of the nation's rice farmers, recently returned from a Havana International Trade Fair, marking the first official visit of a U.S. trade group to such an event in nearly four decades. Upon their return from Havana, USA Rice officials announced their support of the State Department's hurricane relief effort and the Agricultural Committee's vote on federal financing, as well as their serious interest in gaining access for U.S. rice farmers to Cuba's billion dollar produce purchasing market.

#### THE LESSON OF HURRICANE LILI

In the past, Washington has been unyielding when it came to providing any form of disaster relief to Cuba if it was assaulted by a natural calamity. In 1996, when Hurricane Lili leveled thousands of structures on the island, the only U.S. relief effort came from one Miami-based Catholic Charities group. Historically, Miami exile polemics shaped the debate over Cuba, automatically ruling the country out from receiving any U.S. assistance. This obstacle still plagues efforts at constructively engaging Cuba today.

In 1996, militant anti-Castro forces argued once again that assistance sent to the island would never reach those most in need and would end up in the hands of Castro officials, where the goods would be used to strengthen a despised dictatorship. Some Cuban-Americans fear that sending aid would signify an ideological decision, not a humanitarian gesture. In the absence of such assistance, aid sent family-to-family as a permitted remittance would have to do the job, but it would not be sufficient in terms of total volume. That is why skeptics on this issue should reconsider and view Washington's recent step as an astute decision that shuns the sterile responses inexorably made by all White Houses dating back to the Kennedy era.

Furthermore, the State Department's monitoring of the 1996 church donation to Caritas, the Cuban equivalent of Catholic Charities, concluded that such aid had in fact reached its intended destination. Ironically, this little-recalled episode might have established a platform of trust between the State Department and Havana and encouraged U.S. officials to immediately intercede after Michelle rained its destruction.

#### TOWARDS RESTORED TIES

Despite the deep-rooted prevailing mistrust between the two capitals, Washington would be wise to follow Havana's lead in expressing its interest in expanding its present minimal ties. Washington should view the successful 1996 shipment of aid, the Senate Agricultural Committee's recent key vote, USA Rice's scouting of trade opportunities on the island, the Bush administration's intervention on behalf of the cash purchase, Havana's decision to let the goods be delivered by U.S. or third-country vessels, and the positive tone of the recent diplomatic exchanges between the two nations as the foundation for initiating talks that could produce the critical mass necessary for the development of positive relations in the coming months.

IN MEMORY OF PETTY OFFICER  
FIRST CLASS VINCENT E.  
PARKER, UNITED STATES NAVY

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise before the House of Representatives to honor the life of an outstanding American, Vincent E. Parker. United States Navy Petty Officer First Class Vincent E. Parker is originally from Preston, Mississippi. Tragically, Petty Officer Parker was lost on Sunday morning, November 18, 2001, along with one of his shipmates, Petty Officer Third Class Benjamin Johnson while serving his country in the Persian Gulf.

Vincent Parker, noted for his devotion to God and country, grew up in rural eastern Mississippi. He attended Macon Elementary School and graduated from Nanih Waiya High School in Louisville. He was a devout member of the Assembly of God Church in Columbus, Mississippi, and he grew up in a loving, well-respected family with five siblings.

Like his brother John, he enlisted in the Navy upon graduation from high school. He successfully climbed the ladder as an enlisted man and was rated as an Engineman First Class Petty Officer. He was serving onboard the USS *Peterson*. This deployment was to be his last, completing a successful career in the Navy. His mission on November 18th was to enforce the United Nations sanctions imposed upon Iraq following the Gulf War. He boarded *Samra*, a ship believed to be smuggling oil for Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Petty Officer Vincent Parker for his 19 years of service to the United States of America and the United States Navy. He is also to be commended for his life-long devotion as a son, husband, brother, father and citizen. Petty Officer Parker is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn D. Parker Jr. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte, and their two children, Vincent Jr. (age fourteen) and Rachel (age twelve). He leaves behind his sister Ruth Marie, and his four brothers, Glenn, Andy, Steven, and John.

Vincent was known onboard the *Peterson* not only for his Naval leadership, but also for the example he set as a citizen and man of God. He was simply known as "Butch" to his friends. He enjoyed the simple pleasures in life such as family and deer hunting. He will most be remembered for his devotion to God, country, and family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in remembering an American hero, Petty Officer First Class Vincent E. Parker. Our sincere prayers and thoughts are with the Parker family at this difficult time. May God bless the Parker family, and may God continue to bless the United States of America with heroes like Vincent Parker.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECTRUM  
LICENSE POLICY ACT

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be an original cosponsor of the Spectrum Li-

cense Policy Act of 2001, and I am hopeful we can pass this bill into law this year before we adjourn.

After months of negotiation in this matter, I am glad we have a deal that represents a win for everyone. It benefits the government by providing ten billion dollars in revenues to our Treasury. It benefits the original license holder by preserving the benefit of the bargain it had originally negotiated. It benefits our bankruptcy code, by preserving the doctrine of the stay and the power of the courts to enforce it, even against the government. And it benefits consumers by permitting the spectrum to come on the market as soon as possible, fostering much needed competition.

In a very real sense we have reached this point because of the interest and involvement of the Judiciary Committee. When the Federal Communications Commission was seeking to unilaterally take away NextWave's spectrum assets, in violation of the automatic stay, this Committee weighed in to preserve the integrity of the bankruptcy code. The FCC was unable to ram their legislation through and the parties, to their credit, continued negotiating.

I am hopeful that this bill will serve as a precedent for achieving settlements for other similarly impacted parties. For example, I would note that Urban Communicators PCS LP, a minority owned enterprise, has also filed for bankruptcy and been engaged in a dispute with the FCC over spectrum rights. I would urge the FCC and the Congress to take up their case on an expedited schedule as well.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO J. PAUL  
BROWN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize J. Paul Brown for his contributions to the community of Ignacio, Colorado. J. Paul's civic involvement in the community spans over twenty years and involves the areas of agriculture, education, planning, and economic growth. I am proud to recognize him for his hard work and dedication in the following achievements.

J. Paul graduated from New Mexico State University with honors in 1975. In that same year, J. Paul became a rancher and entered the cattle and sheep market, a business he still runs today. In 1978, he began his civic service and was elected to the La Plata County Farm Bureau, serving later as President of the organization. He served on the State Board of Directors for the Colorado Farm Bureau, President of the Colorado Wool Growers, and was honored as the Colorado Wool Grower Of The Year in 1996.

J. Paul continued his service to the community and state as a member of the La Plata Planning Commission, Sergeant of Arms for Colorado Counties, Inc., and as Chairman of the Region 9 Economic Development District. As a father and firm believer in education, J. Paul was elected to the Ignacio School Board of Directors. His performance led him to the honor of being one of only five members in the state to be nominated for the State School Board.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize J. Paul Brown and his dedication to the commu-

nity of Ignacio, Colorado. J. Paul comes from a long line of dedicated community activists, following in the footsteps of his parents, Casey and Jean, who have recently passed a milestone of their own by celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year. His own dedication to the community is amazing when one considers he has raised a family of four along with his wonderful Debbie, during his service to the people of Ignacio and the State of Colorado. Please continue your service to the community J. Paul and good luck in your future endeavors.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS  
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman Chris Smith for his leadership this year. Our new Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee has served our Veterans well.

I am proud of the bill now before the House, H.R. 3447. It is a compromise that was achieved over several months by the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. It contains measures from the health care bill that I introduced earlier this year, H.R. 2792, as well as proposals from a number of Senate bills. This bill will provide veterans greater confidence in their health care system, along with higher accountability for the VA.

Important Provisions of this bill:

Enables VA nurses to pursue advanced degrees while continuing to care for veterans. This aids recruitment and retention of nurses within the VA health care system, and promotes higher quality of care for veterans.

Mandates Saturday premium pay to certain VA patient care staff, such as licensed vocational nurses, pharmacists, and respiratory, physical, and occupational therapists. This provision will ensure that the VA remains competitive with other providers.

Requires the VA to develop a nationwide policy on health care staffing to promote safe and high quality care for veterans.

Establishes a 12-member National Commission on VA Nursing that would enhance the recruitment and retention of VA nurses and strengthen the nursing profession in the VA and nationwide.

Authorizes service dogs to be provided to severely disabled veterans suffering from spinal cord injuries, other mobility diseases, hearing loss or other types of disabilities that having a trained service dog would assist.

Modifies VA's system of determining "ability to pay" for VA health care services by introducing an index used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to determine family income thresholds. This would reduce hospital co-payments by 80 percent compared to current law, for near-poor veterans who require acute hospital inpatient care.

Strengthens the mandate for the VA to maintain capacity in specialized medical programs for veterans by requiring each network of VA facilities to maintain a proportional share of national capacity in specialized health care

programs, guaranteeing that these programs will be there if disabled veterans need them.

I am pleased to report that the bill establishes a program of chiropractic services in each network of VA facilities. It authorizes the VA to employ chiropractors as federal employees as well as to contract for these services. Also, it creates a VA advisory committee on chiropractic health care.

Thank you Chairman Rockefeller, Senator Specter and Senator Daschle, as well as Mr. Filner and Mr. Evans, who worked with me to achieve this compromise for an effective new program of VA chiropractic health care.

Requires VA Secretary to assess special telephone services made available to veterans, such as "help lines" and "hotlines," with a report to Congress.

Provides authority for Secretary to study, then if found feasible, obtain a personal emergency-notification and response system for service-disabled veterans.

Authorizes critically necessary construction project at the Miami, Florida VA Medical Center.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, this bill will improve veterans' health care programs as well as assist the VA's health care personnel to provide quality care to our nation's veterans, especially those most seriously disabled and least able to help themselves.

Veterans of our armed forces deserve a dependable and innovative system of health care and benefits. This bill increases our ability to meet the needs of veterans, who have sacrificed to meet ours.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Enhancement Act of 2001, and I want to thank the other Members and staff who have worked hard to finish this bill in the first session of this Congress. I particularly want to recognize my friend, Mr. FILNER of California, and Susan Edgerton and John Bradley, our Staff Directors of the Health Subcommittee, as well as Bill Cahill and Kim Lipsky, professional staff members of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. These and other staff have worked closely with us to achieve this legislation on behalf of America's veterans.

REMOVAL OF MRS. BIGGERT'S  
NAME AS CO-SPONSOR OF H.R. 3295

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, the House printing deadline prohibited me from removing the gentlewoman from Illinois, Mrs. Biggert, from the list of co-sponsors of H.R. 3295. Mrs. Biggert's name was added as a cosponsor of H.R. 3295 in error. Had I not been precluded from doing so, I would have taken to the floor to correct this situation and ask unanimous consent that her name be removed from the co-sponsor list.

TRIBUTE TO HOOPS SAGRADO  
(SACRED HOOPS)

**HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, once in a while on this floor, we have the privilege to leave politics behind and recognize the outstanding achievements of Americans.

So today I would like to pay tribute to a group of young Americans—very close to my heart—that have become ambassadors of the playground.

In 1999, my friend Bryan Weaver founded a non-profit group named Hoops Sagrado. Hoops Sagrado is a cultural exchange program that is using the game of basketball to help bring a better life to two groups with seemingly little in common, young adults from the urban center that is Washington, DC, and young Mayans from the rural western highlands of Guatemala.

Despite the difference in cultures, the group share a common passion: They both love playing basketball. Hoops Sagrado is named after a Native American belief that all races are connected through the sacred hoops of life, and must live in balance with one another to survive.

These young men and women are doing their part to fulfill what Dr. Martin Luther King said was "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?"

For the last two years I have had the great privilege of serving as an honorary chair of the Hoops Sagrado project, and was thus especially pleased to see that last week the Washington Post devoted a Metro Section series to Hoops Sagrado's mission in Guatemala. The series highlighted the hope that Hoops Sagrado brings to these young people from Guatemala and America, a disproportionate portion of whom are raised by single mothers, and touched by the scourge of violence.

With great pride in the achievements of Hoops Sagrado, I urge all Americans to follow their example in touching young people, and review the Washington Post series published during the week of November 25, 2001 and describing how they overcame hardship to build bridges of friendship.

Finally, I would like to thank them and their sponsors Ben Cohen, Phil and Jan Fenty of Fleetfeet, and The National Basketball Association for the important and honest work they did as ambassadors on behalf of this country.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 25, 2001]

Ambassadors of the Playground

By Sylvia Moreno

Two vans stuffed with tall, gangly teenagers, oversize suitcases and boxes of basketballs wend sluggishly westward from the Guatemala City airport on a muggy summer night, the riders seeing this new world through the prism of the one they just left.

"This looks like Georgetown," says 17-year-old Max Costa as the van he rides in passes a few blocks of small shops and boutiques.

Moments later, whoops and hollers greet the sight of a Wendy's, one of several fast-food restaurants on the outskirts of the capital.

"This looks like the Adams Morgan part of town," Max announces excitedly, as they pass strip malls punctuated with neon signs

and billboards advertising a Burger King and a Domino's Pizza. "That's straight, joe!"

They get to the ancient and picturesque city of Antigua close to midnight, and as they stroll the historical streets, their minds are fixed on things such as finding a burger or a hip-hop disco. They encounter neither.

They are more than 3,000 miles from home—in body, perhaps, not in spirit. This trip is supposed to show them that there's so much beyond the 'hood, but they're still looking for home.

The ancient colonial arch in Antigua is compared to McDonald's. They it look at stunning examples of centuries-old Spanish architecture and Antonio "Biggie" Dupree, 18, asks:

"Is that a church? That's big, dog!" His friends call him Biggie because he looks like one of their idols, the late rapper Notorious B.I.G.—except Biggie has a baby face and a soft voice.

He walks through a small plaza lined by grand 16th-century ruins—convents and churches toppled in 1773 by an earthquake that forever changed the face of this former Central American capital. But looking at the massive stone walls with small, high-set windows, Biggie says, "Imagine what it would be like to be in one of these Guatemala jails."

A GRAND VISION

That night was the first in a three-week journey to the lush highlands of western Guatemala, a country of spectacular beauty and stark oppression, poverty and hunger. Group members came to play hoops, but they had been told they would do much, much more.

These African American teenagers—nine from the District, two from Montgomery County—were to see some of the country's most cherished sites, take Spanish classes, conduct daily basketball clinics for Mayan children and repair basketball courts for a poor, mountainside school.

They had come as representatives of Hoops Sagrado (Sacred Hoops), a fledgling non-profit group whose leader hoped that such an experience would instill leadership skills and a sense of community service in disadvantaged youths through playing and coaching basketball. For the players, it was a free trip, a chance to get out of Washington, to see things, to enjoy themselves. Their leader had a grander mission in mind.

Bryan Weaver founded Hoops Sagrado in 1996 after his first visit to Guatemala, when he was struck by the role that hard-scrabble basketball courts played as social centers of indigenous Mayan villages. He returned in 1999, bringing one of the African American kids whom he coached in youth leagues in Adams Morgan and Columbia Heights. Last year, he brought three. He was convinced that African American and Mayan kids could learn valuable lessons from each other. They are unalike racially, culturally and linguistically, but they face the same problems of bigotry, street violence and relegation to the margins of their societies.

Bryan expected members of his group to grow in self-confidence from coaching kids and to realize that they were not alone with their problems—that others might have even harder lives. And the Mayan youngsters, he figured, would benefit from the court moves his players could teach and be inspired to strive for more in their lives than a sixth-grade education and recycling the meager lives of their parents, grandparents and great-grand parents. To help the Mayan kids, Bryan also started a scholarship program to help keep girls in school past sixth grade, when free public education ends in most indigenous villages, unlike in the cities, which get enough resources to pay for public education through 12th grade.

He figured that this—the third summer of the program—would be pivotal.

He had joined forces with directors of the Shiloh Development Community, a teenage mentoring project in Columbia Heights, and with the addition of the Shiloh group was bringing the largest number of players yet to Guatemala: 11. He had included two girls, hoping that they would serve as role models for the Mayan girls who also would turn out for the basketball clinics.

There were preparatory meetings, with Bryan telling the players about Guatemala's indigenous Mayan community and urging them to heed the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s challenge: "The most urgent and pressing question in life is what are you doing for others."

He was focused on lofty ideals and aspirations. But the players including one young man who, despite two previous trips with him to Guatemala, was still fighting the lure of the street—presented the kind of mundane and vexing problems that young people sometimes exhibit: Stubbornness. Laziness. Lack of common sense. Failure to think through the consequences of their actions. Anger. Indifference to other people and their problems.

The oldest and the veteran of these trips was Sean Thomas, 23, who in his mid-teens was sent to a drug boot camp and was slowly realizing that he needed to break out of Adams Morgan to straighten out his life. He was flashy and street smart but erratic—Just like one of his favorite ballplayers, former Sacramento Kings point guard Jason Williams. Sean wore his Williams Jersey in Antigua and tried out the little Spanish he remembered from his two previous summers in Guatemala: *Vamos, chicas*. "Let's go, girls."

The first female Hoops Sagrado volunteer, 16-year-old Carrie Sartin—a tall, thin Sheryl Swoopes wannabe, walked the cobblestone roads of Antigua that first night, carrying "T& Whiskers," a black and white stuffed cat she had brought along. "They have rocks as streets," she said later.

The guys also included Clayton Mitchell, a brash 18-year-old, who walked through Antigua's empty and peaceful central plaza at midnight, pausing for a moment to advise the others: "Enjoy the night. You can't do this in D.C."

Dwayne Crossgill, 18, knew that. An all-around athlete, Dwayne ran track and played football and basketball. He longed for opportunities to get out of the District. He thought that there was more to life than the view from his second-story apartment in Columbia Heights, where he lives with his mother. There, drug dealers stand on stoops and push their wares. Dwayne had heard the occasional gunshot. He had attended more than one friend's funeral.

"Living in D.C., I realize there's a lot of bad in the world, a lot of crimes," he said before he left for Guatemala. "It's good to see the there's other ways of life."

Bryan eventually found out—the hard way—that teenagers who don't know each other don't magically get along and that even the most well-meaning adult counselors can clash. He later realized that his charges were not as prepared as they should have been about the culture and mores of Guatemala, about how to talk, act and dress in a vastly different culture. And he also discovered how hard it can be to persuade a teenager that behavior or dress that is acceptable in Washington could easily be offensive or provocative in a Mayan village.

But those lessons came later.

#### TRYING TO CONNECT

Bryan had brought with him the autobiography "I, Rigoberta Menchu," and a few days

after the group got to Guatemala, he asked Sean to read to the group a paragraph from Chapter 1, in hopes of setting the right tone for the trip. Menchu is a Mayan who grew up not far from where the Hoops Sagrado team was headed.

During Guatemala's 37-year civil war, as she tells the story, members of her family were raped and killed, like hundreds of thousands of Mayan Indians. Menchu, living in exile in Mexico, won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 for her work in promoting social justice and human rights for Guatemala's indigenous people. The work has been criticized for exaggeration and misstatements, although it has also been widely praised as an accurate portrait of what it was like in Guatemala in those years.

Menchu was Sean's age, 23, when she told the story of her life, a narrative that turned into the book. So Bryan hoped the words would resonate with him, as well as the others as they embarked upon their journey into the Mayan world:

"I'd like to stress it's not only my life. It's also the testimony of my people. It's hard for me to remember everything that's happened to me in my life since there have been many very bad times but, yes, moments of joy as well," Sean read haltingly.

"The important thing is that what has happened to me has happened to many other people, too: My story is the story of all poor Guatemalans. My personal experience is the reality of a whole people."

#### SO DIFFERENT, SO SIMILAR

But that first night, Menchu's world was far removed from these young people, armed with their headphones and gangsta rap and hip-hop CDs. Their T-shirts bore the slogans: "Thug Life" and "Scarface," "Kids and Guns Don't Mix" and "Sexy." And on their feet they wore the equivalent of what could pay for several school scholarships for Mayan children: silver Nike Solo Flights and black patent-toe Air Jordans; leather Reeboks and New Balance cross-trainers.

What they did share with many Mayan children wasn't so obvious: broken homes, families wracked by alcohol or substance abuse, apathy and discrimination.

Daily, the Hoops Sagrado team would travel a road up a mountain to get to the village of Xecam and the basketball clinics. It was a strain, up a steep and gutted road, marked by hairpin curves and treacherous cliffs.

But the real effort, it turned out, would come from within. The road from Washington to Guatemala and back was marked by tears, turmoil, anger, doubt and misunderstanding.

Dwayne's favorite T-shirt was imprinted with the words of a Swahili slogan that bore the prophecy for this group. "Life has meaning only in the struggles," it read. "Victory or defeat is in the hands of the gods. So let us celebrate the struggles."

There were plenty of struggles ahead.

#### INTERGOVERNMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION SHARING ACT OF 2001 H.R. 3483

### HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Intergovernmental Law Enforcement Information Sharing Act of 2001. This bipartisan bill is designed to increase the flow of critical information among Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies.

Interagency cooperation has always been an important factor in protecting the safety and security of this Nation. But the unimaginable events of September 11 and the ensuing Anthrax attacks have drawn unparalleled attention to the need for a timely interchange of meaningful information.

I am pleased to have bipartisan support of this legislation from my colleagues: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, chairman of Government Reform Committee, Mr. SHAYS from Connecticut, who is chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs, and International Relations; Ms. SCHAKOWSKY from Illinois, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management and Intergovernmental Relations, which I chair; and Mrs. MALONEY from New York, Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy, Technology, and Economic Growth and former Ranking Member of my subcommittee.

On October 5th of this year, the Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management and Intergovernmental Relations held a hearing on bio-terrorism. During that hearing, Baltimore Police Commissioner Edward T. Norris testified that the FBI did not provide his agency with adequate descriptions or photographs of those suspected of participating in the September 11th attacks until weeks after the tragic events.

Following the hearing, FBI Director Robert S. Mueller pledged to increase the role of non-Federal law enforcement agencies in the Government's efforts to combat terrorism, and to share more information with State and local agencies. On November 13th, our subcommittee held joint hearing with Mr. SHAY's subcommittee to discuss the Federal Government's efforts to enhance information sharing with State and local governments.

Local officials, including Commissioner Norris, testified that progress had been made in intelligence sharing with Federal agencies. However, their inability to obtain classified information remained a significant impediment to their ability to prepare for potential terrorist threats within their jurisdictions. The bill I am introducing today addresses that problem.

H.R. 3483 would require the Attorney General to carry out security clearance investigations of senior government and law enforcement officials of any political subdivision of a State or territory with a population of 30,000. In addition, the bill requires the Attorney General to conduct security clearance investigations of senior law enforcement officials whose agency participates in a Federal counter-terrorism task force or working group.

Upon successful completion of these investigations, the Attorney General is to grant the appropriate security clearances. The cost of such investigations is to be paid by the requesting State or local agency, not the Federal Government.

This legislation also calls for the Attorney General to conduct a study to examine methods of enhancing the sharing of sensitive Federal law enforcement information with State, territorial and local officials. The study would include a review of appropriate safeguards to protect confidential sources and methods, mechanisms for determining the credibility of information relating to potential threats, and restrictions on access to Federal databases.

Governors, mayors and chief law enforcement officers are responsible for protecting

their constituents. These State and local officials are the first responders to emergencies. They need access to critical information on potential threats within their jurisdictions. The "Intergovernmental Law Enforcement Sharing Act of 2001" will enhance their ability to get that information.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

H.R. 3483

A bill, to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for intergovernmental cooperation to enhance the sharing of law enforcement information.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Intergovernmental Law Enforcement Information Sharing Act of 2001".

#### SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Governors and mayors are responsible for the protection of their constituents, and State and local agencies are typically the first responders to emergencies. Therefore, State and local officials and agencies must be able to receive information regarding potential threats within their jurisdictions.

(2) Most State and local law enforcement authorities currently have mechanisms in place to receive and protect classified information provided by Federal officials. These mechanisms must be supplemented to include elected officials and additional senior law enforcement officials in every State.

(3) Expanding the issuance of security clearances, consistent with all applicable Federal standards and investigative requirements, is an important means of improving information sharing among Federal, State, and local officials.

(4) There is a need for a comprehensive review of procedures within Federal law enforcement agencies in order to identify and remedy unnecessary barriers to information sharing among Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies.

#### SEC. 3. SECURITY CLEARANCES AND ENHANCED INFORMATION SHARING.

Chapter 65 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

##### “§ 6509. Intergovernmental cooperation to enhance the sharing of law enforcement information

“(a) The Attorney General shall expeditiously carry out security clearance investigations for the persons identified in subsection (b), and shall grant appropriate security clearances to all such persons who qualify for clearances under the standards set forth in applicable laws and Executive orders.

“(b) The persons referred to in subsection (a) are:

“(1) Every Governor of a State or territory who applies for a security clearance.

“(2) Every chief elected official of a political subdivision of a State or territory with a population exceeding 30,000 who applies for a security clearance.

“(3) At least one senior law enforcement official for each State or territory, as designated by the Governor of such State or territory.

“(4) At least one senior law enforcement official for each political subdivision described in paragraph (2), as designated by the chief elected official of such subdivision.

“(5) Law enforcement officers from State, territorial, and local agencies that participate in Federal counter-terrorism working groups, joint or regional terrorism task forces, and other activities involving the

combined efforts of Federal and non-Federal law enforcement agencies.

“(6) The chiefs, commissioners, sheriffs, or comparable officials who head each State, territorial, and local agency that participates in a working group, task force, or similar activity described in paragraph (5).

“(c)(1) The Attorney General may charge State, territorial, and local governments, in whole or in part, for the costs of carrying out security clearance investigations and granting security clearances under this section. Such charges may not exceed the amounts charged for carrying out such investigations and granting such clearances for Federal employees.

“(2) The Attorney General may waive any charges that would otherwise apply under paragraph (1) to a State, territorial, or local government if such government agrees to promptly provide Federal officials, without charge, access to the criminal databases of such government for the purpose of conducting personnel security background investigations for military, civilian, and contract employees.

“(d) To the maximum extent practicable, the Attorney General shall ensure that information systems, including databases, are configured to allow efficient and effective sharing of information among appropriate Federal, State, territorial, and local officials and agencies.”

#### SEC. 4. STUDY BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

(a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Attorney General shall conduct a study of methods to enhance the sharing of sensitive Federal law enforcement information with State, territorial, and local law enforcement officials. The study shall review—

(1) appropriate safeguards to protect confidential sources and methods;

(2) mechanisms for determining the credibility of information relating to potential threats;

(3) restrictions on access to Federal databases by State, territorial, and local elected officials and law enforcement personnel; and

(4) any other matter that the Attorney General considers appropriate.

(b) **PARTICIPATION.**—The Attorney General shall ensure that officials from State, territorial, and local law enforcement agencies participate in the study.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act the Attorney General shall submit a report containing the findings and recommendations of the study to the Committee on Government Reform and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

#### SEC. 5. DISCLAIMER.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the head of a Federal agency to classify information or to continue the classification of information previously classified by an agency.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 494 on December 12, 2001 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

#### MIDDLE EASTERN TERRORIST INCIDENTS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 11th, the U.S. suffered the most destructive terrorist attack on its soil by Middle Eastern terrorists with the suicide bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., which killed over three thousand Americans and wounded many more. This was the highest casualty toll ever recorded for a single terrorist incident anywhere. Yet the U.S. is by no means the only country to feel the wrath of Middle Eastern terrorists in recent months.

The cancer of terrorism that has plagued the Middle East for decades has now transformed into new and more deadly forms that pose grave challenges to the United States and our allies. Middle Eastern terrorists are now striking outside their home region, boldly attacking high-profile targets, and killing in a more indiscriminant manner.

Nonetheless, the Middle East is a hotbed of state-sponsored terrorism. Five of the seven states that have been branded by the U.S. government as sponsors of international terrorism—Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Syria—are part of the troubled Middle East region. The Middle East is not only infested with more terrorist groups than any other region, but the Middle East remains the world's foremost exporter of terrorism, with most of the spillover afflicting Western Europe and the United States. These state sponsors of terrorism are concerned with furthering their national goals only through the use of their terrorist networks. It remains imperative, therefore that the United States and our allies track down and destroy these terrorist groups and their global reach wherever they may be.

Accordingly, in wanting to bring to the attention of my colleagues a list of the significant Middle Eastern terrorist incidents from 1961–2001 based on the findings of the State Department's Office of the Historian, I request that this terrorism list be printed at this point in the RECORD.

#### SIGNIFICANT MIDDLE EASTERN TERRORIST INCIDENTS: 1961–2001

1961–1982

Munich Olympic Massacre, September 5, 1972: Eight Palestinian “Black September” terrorists seized 11 Israeli athletes in the Olympic Village in Munich, West Germany. In a bungled rescue attempt by West German authorities, nine of the hostages and five terrorists were killed.

Ambassador to Sudan Assassinated, March 2, 1973: U.S. Ambassador to Sudan Cleo A. Noel and other diplomats were assassinated at the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Khartoum by members of the Black September organization.

Entebbe Hostage Crisis, June 27, 1976: Members of the Baader-Meinhof Group and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) seized an Air France airliner and its 258 passengers. They forced the plane to land in Uganda, where on July 3, Israeli commandos successfully rescued the passengers.

Iran Hostage Crisis, November 4, 1979: After President Carter agreed to admit the Shah of Iran into the U.S., Iranian radicals

seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran and took 66 American diplomats hostage. Thirteen hostages were soon released, but the remaining 53 were held until their release on January 20, 1981.

Grand Mosque Seizure, November 20, 1979: 200 Islamic terrorists seized the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, taking hundreds of pilgrims hostage. Saudi and French security forces retook the shrine after an intense battle in which some 250 people were killed and 600 wounded.

Assassination of Egyptian President, October 6, 1981: Soldiers who were secretly members of the Takfir Wal-Hajira sect attacked and killed Egyptian President Anwar Sadat during a troop review.

Assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister, September 14, 1982: Premier Bashir Gemayel was assassinated by a car bomb parked outside his party's Beirut headquarters.

1983

Bombing of U.S. Embassy in Beirut, April 18, 1983: Sixty-three people including the CIA's Middle East director, were killed, and 120 were injured in a 400-pound suicide truck-bomb attack on the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. The Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

Bombing of Marine Barracks, Beirut, October 23, 1983: Simultaneous suicide truck-bomb attacks were made on American and French compounds in Beirut, Lebanon. A 12,000-pound bomb destroyed the U.S. compound, killing 242 Americans, while 58 French troops were killed when a 400-pound device destroyed a French base. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

1984

Kidnapping of Embassy Official, March 16, 1984: The Islamic Jihad kidnapped and later murdered Political Officer William Buckley in Beirut, Lebanon. Other U.S. citizens not connected to the U.S. Government were seized over a succeeding 2-year period.

Hizballah Restaurant Bombing, April 12, 1984: Eighteen U.S. servicemen were killed, and 83 people were injured in a bomb attack on a restaurant near a U.S. Air Force Base in Torrejon, Spain. Responsibility was claimed by Hizballah.

1985

TWA Hijacking, June 14, 1985: A Trans-World Airlines flight was hijacked en route to Rome from Athens by two Lebanese Hizballah terrorists and forced to fly to Beirut. The eight crew members and 145 passengers were held for 17 days, during which one American hostage, a U.S. Navy sailor, was murdered. After being flown twice to Algiers, the aircraft was returned to Beirut after Israel released 435 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners.

Soviet Diplomats Kidnapped, September 30, 1985: In Beirut, Lebanon, Sunni terrorists kidnapped four Soviet diplomats. One was killed, but three were later released.

Achille Lauro Hijacking, October 7, 1985: Four Palestinian Liberation Front terrorist seized the Italian cruise liner in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, taking more than 700 hostages. One U.S. passenger was murdered before the Egyptian Government offered the terrorists safe haven in return for the hostages' freedom.

Egyptian Airliner Hijacking, November 23, 1985: An EgyptAir airplane bound from Athens to Malta and carrying several U.S. citizens was hijacked by the Abu Nidal Group.

1986

Aircraft Bombing in Greece, March 30, 1986: A Palestinian splinter group detonated a bomb as TWA Flight 840 approached Athens Airport, killing four U.S. citizens.

Berlin Discoteque Bombing, April 5, 1986: Two U.S. soldiers were killed, and 79 Amer-

ican servicemen were injured in a Libyan bomb attack on a nightclub in West Berlin, West Germany. In retaliation, U.S. military jets bombed targets in and around Tripoli and Benghazi.

1988

Kidnapping of William Higgins, February 17, 1988: U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. W. Higgins was kidnapped and murdered by the Iranian-backed Hizballah group while serving with the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) in southern Lebanon.

Naples USO Attack, April 14, 1988: The Organization of Jihad Brigades exploded a car bomb outside a USO Club in Naples, Italy, killing one U.S. sailor.

Pan Am 103 Bombing, December 21, 1988: Pan American Airlines Flight 103 was blown up over Lockerbie, Scotland, by a bomb believed to have been placed on the aircraft in Frankfurt, West Germany, by Libyan terrorists. All 259 people on board were killed.

1991

Attempted Iraqi Attacks on U.S. Posts, January 18-19, 1991: Iraqi agents planted bombs at the U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia's home residence and at the USIS library in Manila.

1992

Bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina, March 17, 1992: Hizballah claimed responsibility for a blast that leveled the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, causing the deaths of 29 and wounding 242.

1993

World Trade Center Bombing, February 26, 1993: The World Trade Center in New York City was badly damaged when a car bomb planted by Islamic terrorists explodes in an underground garage. The bomb left six people dead and 1,000 injured. The men carrying out the attack were followers of Umar Abd al-Rahman, an Egyptian cleric who preached in the New York City area.

Attempted Assassination of President Bush by Iraqi Agents, April 14, 1993: The Iraqi intelligence service attempted to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during a visit to Kuwait. In retaliation, the U.S. launched a cruise missile attack 2 months later on the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

1994

Hebron Massacre, February 25, 1994: Jewish right-wing extremist and U.S. citizen Baruch Goldstein machine-gunned Moslem worshippers at a mosque in West Bank town of Hebron, killing 29 and wounding about 150.

Air France Hijacking, December 24, 1994: Members of the Armed Islamic Group seized an Air France Flight to Algeria. The four terrorists were killed during a rescue effort.

1995

Jerusalem Bus Attack, August 21, 1995: Hamas claimed responsibility for the detonation of a bomb that killed six and injured over 100 persons, including several U.S. citizens.

Saudi Military Installation Attack, November 13, 1995: The Islamic Movement of Change planted a bomb in a Riyadh military compound that killed one U.S. citizen, several foreign national employees of the U.S. Government, and more than 40 others.

Egyptian Embassy Attack, November 19, 1995: A suicide bomber drove a vehicle into the Egyptian Embassy compound in Islamabad, Pakistan, killing at least 16 and injuring 60 persons. Three militant Islamic groups claimed responsibility.

1996

Hamas Bus Attack, February 26, 1996: In Jerusalem, a suicide bomber blew up a bus, killing 26 persons, including three U.S. citizens, and injuring some 80 persons, including three other US citizens.

Dizengoff Center Bombing, March 4, 1996: Hamas and the Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ) both claimed responsibility for a bombing outside of Tel Aviv's largest shopping mall that killed 20 persons and injured 75 others, including two U.S. citizens.

West Bank Attack, May 13, 1996: Arab gunmen opened fire on a bus and a group of Yeshiva students near the Bet El settlement, killing a dual U.S.-Israeli citizen and wounding three Israelis. No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but Hamas was suspected.

Zekharya Attack, June 9, 1996: Unidentified gunmen opened fire on a car near Zekharya, killing a dual U.S./Israeli citizen and an Israeli. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) is suspected.

Khobar Towers Bombing, June 25, 1996: A fuel truck carrying a bomb exploded outside the U.S. military's Khobar Towers housing facility in Dhahran, killing 19 U.S. military personnel and wounding 515 persons, including 240 U.S. personnel. Several groups claimed responsibility for the attack.

Bombing of Archbishop of Oran, August 1, 1996: A bomb exploded at the home of the French Archbishop of Oran, killing him and his chauffeur. The attack occurred after the Archbishop's meeting with the French Foreign Minister. The Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA) is suspected.

PUK Kidnapping, September 13, 1996: In Iraq, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) militants kidnapped four French workers for Pharmaciens Sans Frontieres, a Canadian United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official, and two Iraqis.

1997

Egyptian Letter Bombs, January 2-13, 1997: A series of letter bombs with Alexandria, Egypt, postmarks were discovered at Al-Hayat newspaper bureaus in Washington, New York City, London, and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Three similar devices, also post-marked in Egypt, were found at a prison facility in Leavenworth, Kansas. Bomb disposal experts defused all the devices, but one donated at the Al-Hayat office in London, injuring two security guards and causing minor damage.

Empire State Building Sniper Attack, February 23, 1997: A Palestinian gunman opened fire on tourists at an observation deck atop the Empire State Building in New York City, killing a Danish national and wounding visitors from the United States, Argentina, Switzerland, and France before turning the gun on himself. A handwritten note carried by the gunman claimed this was a punishment attack against the "enemies of Palestine."

Israeli Shopping Mall Bombing, September 4, 1997: Three suicide bombers of Hamas detonated bombs in the Ben Yehuda shopping mall in Jerusalem, killing eight persons, including the bombers, and wounding nearly 200 others. A dual U.S./Israeli citizen was among the dead, and seven U.S. citizens were wounded.

Yemeni Kidnapping, October 30, 1997: Al-Sha'if tribesman kidnapped a U.S. businessman near Sanaa. The tribesman sought the release of two fellow tribesmen who were arrested on smuggling charges and several public works projects they claim the government promised them. They released the hostage on November 27.

Tourist killings in Egypt, November 17, 1997: Al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya (IG) gunmen shot and killed 58 tourists and four Egyptians and wounded 26 others at the Hatshepsut Temple in the Valley of the Kings near Luxor. Thirty-four Swiss, eight Japanese, five Germans, four Britons, one French, one Colombian, a dual Bulgarian/British citizen, and four unidentified persons

were among the dead. Twelve Swiss, two Japanese, two Germans, one French, and nine Egyptians were among the wounded.

1998

U.S. Embassy Bombings in East Africa, August 7, 1998: A bomb exploded at the rear entrance of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, killing 12 U.S. citizens, 32 Foreign Service Nationals (FSNs), and 247 Kenyan citizens. About 5,000 Kenyans, six U.S. citizens, and 13 FSNs were injured. The U.S. embassy building sustained extensive structural damage. Almost simultaneously, a bomb detonated outside the U.S. embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, killing seven FSNs and three Tanzanian citizens, and injuring one U.S. citizen and 76 Tanzanians. The explosion caused major structural damage to the U.S. embassy facility. The U.S. Government held Usama Bin Ladin responsible.

2000

Attack on U.S.S. *Cole*, October 12, 2000: In Aden, Yemen, a small dingy carrying explosives rammed the destroyer U.S.S. *Cole*, killing 17 sailors and injuring 39 others. Supporters of Usama Bin Ladin were suspected.

2001

Bus Stop Bombing, April 22, 2001: A member of Hamas detonated a bomb he was carrying near a bus stop in Kfar Siva, Israel, killing one person and injuring 60.

Tel-Aviv Nightclub Bombing, June 1, 2001: Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombing of a popular Israeli nightclub that caused over 140 casualties.

Hamas Restaurant Bombing, August 9, 2001: A Hamas-planted bomb detonated in a Jerusalem pizza restaurant, killing 15 people and wounding more than 90.

Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Homeland, September 11, 2001: Two hijacked airliners crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Soon thereafter, the Pentagon was struck by a third hijacked plane. A fourth hijacked plane, suspected to be bound for a high-profile target in Washington, crashed into a field in southern Pennsylvania. More than 5,000 U.S. citizens and other nationals were killed as a result of these acts. President Bush and Cabinet officials indicated that Usama Bin Laden was the prime suspect and that they considered the United States in a state of war with international terrorism. In the aftermath of the attacks, the United States formed the Global Coalition Against Terrorism.

Downtown Jerusalem Bombing, December 2, 2001: Two suicide bombers blew themselves up in downtown Jerusalem killing ten people and wounding more than 130. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack.

Haifa Bus Attack, December 3, 2001: A Hamas suicide bomber blew himself up on a public bus in the northern Israeli city of Haifa, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens of others.

West Bank Bus Attack, December 12, 2001: Palestinian gunman killed eight people and wounded 30 in a grenade and shooting ambush on an Israel bus in the West Bank just minutes before 2 suicide bombers struck in the Gaza Strip.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BETTY ANN ONG

### HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Betty Ann Ong, the sister of my constituent and friend

Cathie Ann Ong-Herrera. Betty was a woman of remarkable courage who was one of the many to die in the act of war perpetrated on our country on September 11, 2001.

Betty Ann Ong was born in San Francisco on February 5, 1956 to Harry Ong, Sr. and Yee Gam Oy Ong. Betty was the youngest of four siblings, Harry Ong, Jr., Cathie Ann Ong-Herrera, and Gloria Ann Ong-Woo. Betty grew up in San Francisco's Chinatown where she attended Jean Parker Elementary School, Francisco Middle School, Washington High School, and the City College of San Francisco. She excelled in volleyball and bowling. Later in life, Betty also loved to travel, collect antiques and carousels, and had an extensive collection of stuffed animals and dolls.

Betty began her career in the airline industry as a baggage handler and a ticket reservations agent with PSA and Delta Airlines. In 1998, Betty joined American Airlines as a flight attendant and later became a flight attendant purser. Betty loved her job and the people she worked with, and she was voted Flight Attendant of the Year five time by her peers.

Betty's colleagues always described her as a very loving, caring, and always friendly person, both to her co-workers and to the passengers she served. Betty received numerous written compliments from her passengers.

On that tragic date of September 11, Betty was serving as a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11 from Boston to Los Angeles. As terrorist hijackers took over the plane, Betty and her colleagues calmly reported to the ground crew vital information about what was taking place. She identified some of the hijackers' seat locations, which helped investigators later identify the individuals responsible, and asked the ground crew to pray for the passengers aboard. Under over-whelming circumstances, Betty's primary concern was the safety of her passengers.

Up until the moment her life was tragically taken, Betty Ann Ong was a true professional who performed beyond her call of duty. Betty Ann Ong acted heroically under trying circumstances, and her heroism should be a sterling example of service to us all. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Betty Ann Ong, celebrating her heroic legacy, and wishing her family peace for their loss.

#### HONORING FRESNO BEE REPORTER, JOHN ELLIS

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fresno Bee reporter, John Ellis. Mr. Ellis was recently presented the Unsung Heroes Award given by the Youth Law Center.

The following is the story printed in today's Fresno Bee celebrating John's award:

Fresno Bee political reporter John Ellis received a national award Wednesday night that honors individuals for their work regarding child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

The Youth Law Center's annual Unsung Heroes Awards were presented to seven people. Ellis was the only journalist among the

honorees, who included bureaucrats, attorneys, a teacher and a Seattle Police Department deputy assistant chief. Six of the honorees are from California.

His Jan. 14 story, "Fresno County may house foster children illegally," told how Fresno County had been housing some of its most difficult foster children in two area motels, a practice that some legal advocates say violates state law.

The California Department of Social Services, which found out about the situation through inquires by The Bee, notified Salvador Montana, then director of Fresno County's Department of Children and Family Services, that housing the children in motels was not allowed.

The county quit the practice after the state stepped in; the children were moved to foster-care group homes.

The sponsoring Youth Law Center is a national nonprofit organization that focuses on the problems and needs of children who are placed out of home in foster care or juvenile justice systems.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate John Ellis both for his dedication to journalism and child welfare. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing John the very best.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 495 on December 12, 2001 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

#### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

### HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3447, the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important measure and I commend the distinguished chairman of the Veterans Committee, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH.

This legislation provides a number of significant enhancements to veterans health care programs, with the purpose of both expanding those services offered to veterans, and improving the manner in which those services are delivered.

Specifically, the bill makes a number of changes in the policies governing VA nursing staff. It enhances eligibility and benefits for the employee incentive scholarship and education debt reduction programs by enabling VA nurses to pursue advanced degrees while continuing to care for veterans, in order to improve recruitment and retention of nurses within the VA health care system. Furthermore, the bill establishes a 12-member National Commission on VA Nursing that would assess legislative and organizational policy changes

to enhance the recruitment and retention of nurses by the department and the future of the nursing profession within the department, and recommends legislative and organizational policy changes to enhance the recruitment and retention of nursing personnel in the department.

Another issue addressed by the legislation concerns the maintenance of proper staffing ratios and the provision of overtime pay. The bill mandates that the VA provide Saturday premium pay to title 5/title 38 hybrid employees. Such hybrid-authority employees include licensed vocational nurses, pharmacists, certified or registered respiratory therapists, physical therapists, and occupational therapists. Moreover, it requires the VA to develop a nationwide policy on staffing standards to ensure that veterans are provided with safe, high quality care, taking into consideration the numbers and skill mix required of staff in specific health care settings. It also requires a report on the use of mandatory overtime by licensed nursing staff and nursing assistants in each VA health care facility, and to include in this report a description of the amount of mandatory overtime used by facilities.

H.R. 3447 offers several improvements in service for those veterans who require specialized medical care. It authorizes service dogs to be provided by VA to a veteran suffering from spinal cord injuries or dysfunction, other diseases causing physical immobility, hearing loss or other types of disabilities susceptible to improvement or enhanced functioning in activities of daily living through employment of a service dog. Additionally, it strengthens the mandate for VA to maintain capacity in specialized medical programs for veterans by requiring VA and each of its veterans integrated service networks to maintain the national capacity in certain specialized health care programs for veterans (those with serious mental illness, including substance use disorders, and spinal cord, brain injured and blinded veterans; veterans who need prosthetics and sensory aids); and extends capacity reporting requirement for 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation makes some important adjustments to regulations governing payment for services from non-service connected veterans. This is done through modifying the VA's system of determining non-service-connected veterans' "ability to pay" for VA health care services by introducing the "low income housing limits" employed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), used by HUD to determine family income thresholds for housing assistance. This index is adjusted for all standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSAS), and is updated periodically by HUD to reflect economic changes within the SMSAS. The bill would retain the current-law means test national income threshold, but would reduce co-payments by 80 percent for near-poor veterans who require acute VA hospital inpatient care. This is important for those veterans with low incomes who reside in high-cost-of-living areas, like New York.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the legislation extends the authority of the VA to collect proceeds from veterans health insurance policies for services provided as non-service connected care.

This bill represents the latest step in the longstanding ongoing commitment of Con-

gress to oversee and improve the system that provides health care to our Nation's veterans. For this reason, I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this vital measure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "PROMPT UTILIZATION OF WIRELESS SPECTRUM ACT OF 2001"

**HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Prompt Utilization of Wireless Spectrum Act of 2001." For longer than I would like to acknowledge, the FCC and Nextwave have battled back and forth about the status of Nextwave's C block licenses. Nextwave obtained these licenses the way every carrier obtains a spectrum license from the FCC: by being the highest bidder at auction.

When Nextwave filed for bankruptcy, the FCC sought to cancel Nextwave's licenses. I asked, begged, and pleaded with Chairman Powell's predecessor, Bill Kennard, not to cancel the licenses, and, more importantly, not to reauction them.

Despite having filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, Nextwave retained a property right in those licenses, a right that could not be rescinded by the FCC or any other agency. Auction 35 went ahead anyway, raising a record amount. But the D.C. circuit confirmed what I had been arguing for some time: that Nextwave's property right to those licenses could not be violated.

Auction 35 has thus placed us in a quandary. Wireless carriers who were auction 35 winners are counting on that spectrum to roll out or enhance valuable services to consumers. And we have a giant hole in the budget that needs to be plugged.

Nextwave's C block licenses have laid fallow for too long and need to be put to good use. The settlement agreement authorized by the prompt utilization of Wireless Spectrum Act of 2001 may not be the prettiest or easiest way to ensure that these licenses are put to good use. But this legislation, and the corresponding settlement, appear to be the best way to put them to good use.

I applaud the parties for spending countless hours reaching this settlement. And I hope that both Houses of Congress can enact this legislation this year so that consumers can reap the benefits of putting this spectrum to its best use.

I thank Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. CONYERS for co-sponsoring this legislation. And I look forward to its prompt consideration.

HONORING EDNA BUTRIMOWITZ  
IPSON ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ERIC CANTOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman. Edna Butrimowitz

Ipson was born in a small town outside Kovno, Lithuania in 1911. The youngest of six children, she is a survivor—a survivor of hunger, of hardship, of sacrifice. Mrs. Ipson survived the Holocaust.

When her husband could no longer practice law and opened a motorcycle business in their home, Mrs. Ipson turned her talents to the family business. She may not have been able to ride a motorcycle, but she certainly could sell them. Often times, she had been known to say, "When my husband comes home, you'll see. If this motorcycle isn't everything I said it was, you don't have to buy it."

She and her son, Jay, were in line with the rest of her family to be taken to the Riga Latvia concentration camp when they were pulled out of line by a guard who had known her husband. While the rest of her family did not survive the concentration camps, she was sent to the airport where she worked endless days as a slave laborer, loading and unloading coal cars.

In 1943, the Ipsons escaped from the ghetto to a small farm in Trakai where a Polish Catholic farmer risked his life to save her and her family. For nine months, they lived in a hole in the ground, escaping detection.

Yet even after liberation, their lives were not easy. While her husband sought ways of escaping, Mrs. Ipson took sole responsibility for providing for their family. She risked her life, traveling through Russian Military lines to illegal procure food from the black market. If caught, she would have been jailed and severely punished. However, she persevered and kept their family alive.

Her family finally escaped using Mrs. Ipson's maiden name, Butrimowitz, and forged Polish papers through Poland to the American-Zone in Berlin. Finally, after being sponsored by Mrs. Ipson's uncle Abraham Brown, they immigrated to America.

Once in America, her phenomenal will and fortitude continued to serve her family. Mrs. Ipson became the first female service station attendant. She would wash the windshield and check the oil of the service station customers—a very unusual sight in those days. Yet, she was one of the best salespeople in the area. While servicing the vehicles, she would bring out Like New car wax, shine a spot and convince the driver he needed the wax to make his car look "like new." Her service station sold more car wax than any other in the area.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Ipson has led an amazing life of joy, sorrow and unending sacrifice. In fact, she often sacrificed celebrating her own birthday, protesting that Hanukah and her December Wedding anniversary were more important than her birthday. This year, her son, Jay, is honoring her life and celebrating her 90th birthday. Although I cannot be there in person, Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in honoring this remarkable woman and in wishing her the happiest of birthdays.