

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with over 300 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this important designation.

This memorable day will begin with a morning mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar presiding. The festivities will be culturally enriched by the performance of several Croatian musical groups. The Hoosier Hrvati Adult Tamburitza Orchestra directed by Frank Jovanovich, the Croatian Glee Club "Preradovic," and the Croatian Strings Tamburitza and Junior Dancers directed by Dennis Barunica will perform at this gala event. A formal dinner banquet will end the day's festivities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President Betty Morgavan, and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families. I am proud to represent these gifted residents of the First Congressional District of Indiana.

**RICHARD HAIRE RETIRES FROM
CORRALES ELEMENTARY**

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, we all know that our schools will never be any better than the men and women who teach in them. I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable teacher who has made Corrales Elementary one of the best in my home state of New Mexico.

Corrales has been truly fortunate to have someone of the talents and dedication of Mr. Haire within the community. It is an honor to be able to recognize him on this special occasion.

After serving as an exemplary elementary school teacher in New Mexico for more than 32 years, Richard Haire is retiring the chalk, and will end a career that will conclude with teaching a fifth grade class of children at Corrales Elementary for twenty-three consecutive years. I say he is retiring the chalk because I know that he will continue to contribute to the community in a variety of ways.

Mr. Haire graduated second in a class of 360 in 1965 from Commack High School in upstate New York, where his classmates voted him most likely to succeed. He graduated cum laude from the State University of New York with a BA in psychology, and then received his Ms in Education from Syracuse University.

In addition to teaching children, Mr. Haire was a mentor to scores of his colleagues. Indeed, he is a teacher's teacher. His greatest service to our community lies in his devotion as an educator to his students. He deserves the greatest praise both from the families of these young individuals, and from all those whose lives he has touched. His efforts are an

invaluable investment in New Mexico's future and we are all truly blessed that we had such a dedicated professional in the classroom.

It is impossible to find a former student whose life has not been changed positively by Mr. Haire. Everyone can point to a turning point where his teaching caused each to embark upon a course of action. In his service to education, Mr. Haire embraced the principle that one person can make a difference, by leading by example, getting people involved, touching everything and everyone in the community.

Teachers like Richard Haire do make a difference. I believe so strongly in education. I know that as we battle the ills of our society—poverty and hopelessness—education is the great beacon and the great hope. I strongly believe that our public school system will continue to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The commitment Mr. Haire has made to children both in and out of the classroom continues to illustrate the power of a single person.

Mr. Speaker, in 1818, Thomas Jefferson said, "A system of general education, which shall reach every description of our citizens from the richest to the poorest, as it was the earliest, so will it be the latest of all the public concerns in which I shall permit myself to take an interest." This quotation embodies Richard Haire's career.

We will dearly miss his service at Corrales Elementary.

LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING LOAN PILOT PROGRAM

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGO

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will amend the Native American Housing Loan Pilot Program by making spouses of qualified Native Americans, including American Samoans, Native Hawaiians, Native Alaskans and American Indians, eligible to obtain VA home loans.

While veterans living in most of our nation have been able to obtain home loans guaranteed by the federal government for decades, certain segments of our veteran population did not obtain this benefit until the 1990s. Many American Samoan, Native Hawaiian, Native Alaskans and Native American Indian veterans who lived on native lands were not eligible for home loans because, among other reasons, fee simple title to the land could not be acquired. Without clear title to the land, commercial banks would not make home loans and, without commercial loans, the Department of Veterans Affairs could not offer assistance to these veterans.

In 1992, Congress created a pilot program to address this problem. This program was created through §8 of P.L. 102-547 and is now called the Native American Housing Loan Pilot Program. The Native American Housing Loan Pilot Program provides VA direct housing loans to Native Americans who, because of where they live, are not eligible for the national VA home loan guarantee program. Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians, Native American Indians and Native Alaskans all benefit from this program.

For nine years, this program has been a tremendous success—hundreds of loans have been made and the default rate is very low. However, this direct loan program does not solve the housing problem for veterans married to American Samoans, Native Hawaiians, Native Alaskans and Native American Indians.

In American Samoa, for example, there are many non-Samoan veterans married to a Samoan spouse who are ineligible to obtain VA home loans. These non-Samoan veterans are surprised to find out first, that the national VA home loan program is not available to them, and second, that they are ineligible to participate in the Native American Housing Loan Pilot Program, which is operational in American Samoa.

The bill I introduce today will expand the eligibility of the program by making spouses of qualified American Samoans, Native Hawaiians, Native Alaskans and Native American Indians eligible to obtain VA home loans.

This would be a small adjustment to the current eligible population and would be made available only in those few areas in which the national VA home loan program has not been implemented.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**ISRAEL DESERVES THE RIGHT TO
DEFEND HERSELF**

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, since September 11th, Americans have been living in a new age. Attacks on New York and Washington made us keenly aware of our vulnerability.

Never before had we been attacked so savagely so close to home. That is a day we will never forget.

Well, Mr. Speaker, now we all know what it must be like to be an Israeli, because this has been the pattern of THEIR lives, every day.

Israel has long lived under the shadow of terrorism. In the aftermath of 9-11, Americans need look no further than the people of Israel as a source of strength and courage.

Terrorists have no regard for innocent human life and have threatened innocent Israelis for years.

But in recent weeks these terrorists have escalated their bloody tactics and threaten ALL innocent Middle Easterners who just want to live in peace.

They have escalated their violence to a terrifying level that threatens regional stability and world peace.

Mr. Speaker, the whole world is watching and wondering and praying for peace in the Middle East and an end to this senseless slaughter.

Our President has stepped up to the plate and initiated negotiations towards that end.

That's all well and good, Mr. Speaker, but on the very day that Secretary of State Powell arrived in Israel to begin the process, yet another terrorist bomb blew a hole in the heart of peace itself.

And in spite of this we continue to insist that Israel pull its troops out of the West Bank! Mr. Speaker, we are asking Israel NOT to defend herself.

Mr. Speaker, how can we ask Israel to pull back—to stop defending itself—at the very

time we are engaged in our own war against terrorism?

We are fighting in a country thousands of miles away, but Israel's enemies are in her own back yard. How can we tell Israel to back off, when the terrorists don't play by civilized rules?

Israel is a land that is holy to so many people throughout the world. Yet the terrorists have invaded the most sacred churches, shooting from its windows, and using nuns and clerics as human shields.

This is what Israel is up against, Mr. Speaker. Yassir Arafat either can not, will not, or does not want to, end the terrorist attacks against innocent Israelis.

Since September 11th, we Americans know very well what terrorists seek to do—to strike mortal fear within the fabric of everyday life, to destroy free society from within.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot expect Israel—or any free country—to cease defending itself against this kind of threat.

Just as we are standing up to Osama Bin Laden and his forces of evil, Israel must stand up against the forces of evil that would bring her down.

SOCIAL SECURITY CERTIFICATES

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on Feb 15, 2002, House Majority Leader DICK ARMEY circulated a Memorandum where he called on Congress to push Social Security Privatization in the upcoming legislative session. I agree that addressing the long-term solvency of the Social Security program deserves our utmost attention in the upcoming legislative session. However, the recommendation that we privatize Social Security does nothing to strengthen the financial solvency of the program.

The Majority Leader exclaims that his bill H.R. 3135, which allows workers to voluntarily put between three and eight percentage points of their Social Security tax into personal retirement accounts, is based on a progressive scale that allows lower-income workers to put more into their accounts and to build more wealth. The Majority Leader failed to take into account the volatility of the stock market. I do not believe that the American public is willing to gamble their retirement security in the up's and down of the stock market. Especially, with the recent collapse of Enron and the present economic recession, the American public is even more suspicious of any proposal that will partially or fully privatize Social Security. Americans know that Social Security provides guaranteed, lifelong benefits. No matter what the stock market does the day you retire or in the months leading up to your retirement, your benefits will be unaffected.

In addition, the Majority Leader's plan to send out Social Security certificates to seniors that claim to guarantee their Social Security benefits is disingenuous at best. Not only will sending these bogus certificates cost the taxpayers 47 million dollars, but it does absolutely nothing to guarantee that Social Security benefits will be there in the future. The Congressional Research Service has concluded that the certificates provide no more protection

than already exists under law. It's not an iron-clad guarantee and Senior citizens will not be able to use these certificates in a court of law. The certificates should instead tell Seniors the truth about the Republican's plan to privatize Social Security and their reckless waste of the budget surplus, which will inevitably lead to a lack of benefits for Seniors.

Nevertheless, the Social Security program faces serious financial challenges, however, those challenges are manageable and does not require us to dismantle the system via privatization.

CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 476, the Child Custody Protection Act.

This legislation makes it a federal crime to knowingly transport a minor across state lines with the intent that she obtain an abortion, in violation of the minor's home state parental consent or notification law. Under the measure, violations of this law would be punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000 and one year in prison. Any parent or guardian who suffers legal harm from the violation of a parental notification law is allowed to seek civil action for damages.

The bill includes an exception from prosecution, however, if the abortion is necessary to save the life of the minor. The bill also protects the minor from prosecution under its provisions. The measure allows individuals accused of violating this provision to defend themselves against civil and criminal actions by claiming that they believed the parents had been notified or had given their consent, as required by state law.

By way of background, it is important to note that in many states it is illegal for a school nurse to dispense so much as an aspirin to a minor without parental consent. However, absent this legislation, minors can be brought across state lines without parental consent for the express purpose of obtaining an abortion. Over-the-counter aspirin requires parental notification, but abortion does not? Mr. Speaker, how can this be?

In 1999, the House passed identical legislation by a vote of 270 to 159; unfortunately, the measure was never considered by the other body, thus necessitating its reintroduction in the 107th Congress. I commend Chairman SENSENBRENNER, Chairman CHABOT, and Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for their work in crafting this urgent legislation, and I truly hope that my colleagues will Join me in voting for this legislation today. As such, I urge an "aye" vote on final passage.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE PAST AS A PROLOGUE TO
THE FUTURE—75 YEARS AFTER
THE FLOOD OF 1927—

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 75th Anniversary of the Flood of 1927, the images that come to mind serve to remind us of how the flood affected Missouri and shaped the flood protection policies of today. Although the floodwaters of the past have receded, the lessons they have left behind are unmistakably clear.

The first major levee break during the Flood of 1927 was at the Dorena levee and has significant meaning to those living in the surrounding area because it forever changed Missouri and the entire river delta. The Dorena break alone flooded 135,000 acres of land in the St. John Levee and Drainage District, left 7,500 people homeless and overtopped the Farrenburg levee near New Madrid, flooding an additional one million acres. Overall, the break will always be remembered as part of the greatest natural disaster in American history.

When the Flood of 1927 finally subsided, the disaster had displaced 700,000 people—80,000 more people than currently live in Missouri's Eighth District today. Geographically, the flood left 26,000 square miles under water (an area roughly two times the size of the country of Switzerland), crops were destroyed, cities paralyzed, farm land ruined and more than a thousand people were dead (276 from the flood and the remainder from the sickness and disease that followed). Today, a flood of that magnitude would shut down every interstate from St. Louis south to New Orleans—running east or west.

Prior to the Flood of 1927, the river control system in place was based on a "levees only" policy, which many attribute as being partially responsible for the Flood of 1927. The policy meant that there were no outlets, reservoirs or spillways to assist in flood control. The lack of coordinated protection for water flow combined with the heavy rain and melting snow resulted in major flooding which broke the levees in more than 120 places. At a time when the federal budget barely exceeded \$3 billion, the flood, directly and indirectly, caused an estimated \$1 billion in property damage.

As is the case with many disasters, the Flood of 1927 prompted lawmakers to take a long look at past policy. In an attempt to learn from the flood so that they wouldn't repeat the mistakes of the past, the Flood of 1927 led to the "Flood Control Act of 1928." The plan, which gave the US Army Corps of Engineers the job of providing flood control on the Mississippi River, authorized the Jadwin Plan, or what came to be known as the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project (MR & T). This comprehensive flood control plan has four major elements—levees, floodways and control structures, channel improvements and stabilization measures, and tributary basin improvements. These elements work together to provide flood protection and navigation while simultaneously promoting environmental stewardship and restoration.

Since the establishment of MR & T in 1928, more than 87 percent of the project has been