

as to require special focus. The solution was both innovative and practical. The Cape and Islands region needed its own District Attorney, and Phil Rollins had the skill to fulfill that vision.

Over the years that followed, Phil Rollins racked up some impressive professional accomplishments. He was among the first in the Commonwealth to hire female prosecutors, he created a regional crime hotline and developed regional crime prevention strategies, and earned an outstanding reputation for innovation in child abuse and domestic violence. Respected and admired by his colleagues, he was twice selected to be the President of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association.

As he leaves office, he can look back with enormous pride on all that he has done to professionalize the work of prosecutors, and to improve the quality of life on Cape Cod and the Islands. Most of his crime initiatives are still in place, and he leaves a highly trained office with over 20 lawyers, and a budget of over \$2.5 million. Those who have left his office are considered to be among the best and brightest lawyers in the state.

So, I rise today as a former District Attorney myself, and as the Congressman of a very grateful Cape and Islands constituency to join with my colleagues in the US House of Representatives to recognize the important work of a fine public servant and longtime and very dear friend. Thank you, Phil.

STEEL TARIFFS

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to mark the one-year anniversary of the Section 201 temporary tariff relief for the domestic steel industry. This is an issue that, unfortunately, I have worked on for too many years. However, the current section 201 remedies are working, and I urge the President to continue to support our domestic steel industry by continuing the relief program over the original three year plan.

As many of my colleagues are aware, from 1997 to 2002, 35 domestic steel companies were forced into bankruptcy through illegal dumping practices. One of these companies was Northwestern Steel & Wire Company, which was in Sterling, Illinois, in my district. Northwestern Steel and Wire was forced to close its doors and 1,400 employees lost their jobs. The Department of Labor determined that Northwestern Steel employees were eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance because "various customers increased their reliance on imported steel and wire rod." This reliance came from a system of foreign steel being dumped into the U.S., thereby preventing American steel companies from fairly competing.

In March 2002, the President imposed 3 years of declining tariffs on various steel products and raw materials. This has allowed the domestic steel industry to deal with changes in the market in a way that does not simply bankrupt all producers or displace thousands of workers. By preventing illegal dumping, the Section 201 relief has allowed a new company to move into Sterling, Illinois. Sterling Steel is currently working with the community to use the Northwestern Steel facilities, and bring steel jobs back to the area. They have created 200 steel related jobs in an area that had lost all steel industry. The ability to open more efficient steel factories and creating jobs in a more stable steel market can only occur with a level playing field. Steel tariffs provide that.

The U.S. steel industry provides not only jobs for communities like Sterling, Illinois, but it also helps secure our national defense. Many vital products that protect and defend our nation's troops are made of steel. Not, just any steel, American steel. Without the opportunity and protection of the 201 relief, we could not guarantee the men and women of our armed services the protections of new ships and tanks. The domestic steel industry is necessary for our nation's vital infrastructure, making up parts of our roads, power plants, and pipelines. By reducing competition by allowing dumping to close down domestic steel producers, we make our nation and our economy more vulnerable.

I want to encourage the President to continue with his plan for three-year declining tar-

iffs. This action will allow the domestic steel industry to stabilize and help communities like Sterling to adjust to the new market without massive layoffs. We must continue to support domestic industry in order to properly turn our economy around.

SUPPORT FOR THE VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of full funding of the Violence Against Women Act. This law fostered countless initiatives that have brought millions of dollars to shelters, increased resources for law enforcement, expanded the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and bolstered the prosecution of child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence cases.

These programs and services are invaluable. U.S. Department of Justice statistics indicate that domestic violence has decreased by 49 percent since VAWA went into effect. They also reaffirm that full funding for VAWA is well worth the investment. It is estimated that the \$1.6 billion spent on VAWA programs during the first six years after its enactment saved government coffers \$14.8 billion in medical, legal, workplace and other social costs, not to mention saving many lives.

Unfortunately, state budget crises and decreases in federal funding are threatening these vital programs and services. President Bush's budget request for FY 2004 would cut funding for VAWA programs and services by \$141.6 million in FY 2004 from the previously authorized level of \$692.5 million.

Our Nation must renew our commitment to ending all forms of domestic violence. I urge my colleagues to appropriate fall funding to fulfill the mission of the Violence Against Women Act.