

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IMPROVING RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act, which reauthorizes special education programs in our nation's schools. This legislation improves the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to ensure that children with special needs receive the high-quality education they deserve. I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for his assistance in bringing this bill to this point.

For too many years, children with disabilities were denied access to public education. However, with the passage of the Education of All Handicapped Children Act in 1975, the doors of educational opportunity were opened. Today, more than ever, students with disabilities have an opportunity to accomplish their goals. According to the Department of Education, about 6.6 million students currently participate in these programs across the nation. Of those, almost 50 percent of students with disabilities spend 80 percent or more of their day in the regular education classroom. In addition, graduation rates for students with disabilities with a standard diploma are at an all-time high, while drop-out rates continue to fall.

Despite IDEA's many success stories, there is room for improvement in serving children with disabilities. These children are still among those at the greatest risk of being left behind. Now more than ever, we must make sure that children with disabilities are given access to an education that maximizes their unique abilities and provides them with tools for later successful, productive lives. We must continue to be vigilant in our efforts towards improving the quality of education of all children, including children with disabilities. We must shift from the current focus on compliance with bureaucratic rules to ensuring that children with disabilities are making progress and achieving to high expectations so that no child is left behind.

The Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act aims to improve current law by focusing on improved education results, reducing the paperwork burden for special education teachers, and addressing the problem of over identification of minority students as disabled. In addition, this bill seeks to reduce litigation, and reform special education finance and funding.

One of the great benefits of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is that we have raised expectations and will hold school districts accountable for the annual progress of all their students, including students with disabilities. Although we have made great progress in including students with disabilities in the regular

classroom, we now must make equally great progress in ensuring that they receive a quality education in the regular classroom. We must carefully align the IDEA with NCLB to ensure that students with disabilities are included in the accountability systems of States and school districts.

This bill will help reduce the paperwork burden so that school districts are able to retain and recruit highly qualified special education teachers. The excessive amount of paperwork currently inherent in special education continues to overwhelm and burden teachers, robbing them of time to educate their students. Teachers must have the ability to spend more time in the classroom rather than spending endless hours filling out forms that do not lead to a better education for students.

Furthermore, we are committed to implementing reforms that would reduce the number of students that are misidentified or over represented in special education programs. Minorities are often significantly over represented in special education programs. In fact, African Americans are nearly three times more likely to be labeled as mentally retarded, and almost twice as likely to be labeled emotionally disturbed. Current methods of identifying children with disabilities lack validity or reliability. As a result, thousands of children are inappropriately identified every year, while many others are not identified early enough or at all.

This bill seeks to reduce litigation and restore trust between parents and school districts. All too often miscommunication damages this relationship and results in a proliferation of litigation. We are committed to implementing reforms that provide ample opportunities for positive interaction before a problem becomes serious. We are also committed to ensure that parents are actively involved in their child's education experience. This bill will give parents greater access to be involved in making decisions about their child's education.

Finally, we are very proud of our record in securing the largest funding increases for IDEA over the past 7 years. Since 1995, Congress has nearly tripled federal spending for special education. This bill continues to lead the way in increasing funds for IDEA by creating a path to attain full funding of the federal government's 40 percent goal within 7 years.

We remain committed to build upon reforms already implemented and must keep these challenges in mind as we reauthorize IDEA. I look forward to working with the member of the Committee, other Members of Congress, and stakeholders as we work to craft legislation that will build upon and improve previous reforms and continue to ensure that children with disabilities receive a quality education. I urge my colleagues to join me and the other original co-sponsors in support of the Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DON WILCOX

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Don Wilcox for his outstanding achievements as the president of the Norwood Roping Club of Colorado. Through his leadership, the Roping Club has accomplished much, and it is my distinct honor to stand and recognize Don before this body of Congress and this nation.

The Norwood Roping Club hosts their own rodeo every year and, because of Don and his community's efforts, the size of that rodeo has nearly doubled over the last year. Don aggressively set out to increase the number of sponsors, giving Norwood's rodeo the distinction of having the largest prize money pot in the state. Don's work caught the attention of the Colorado Pro-Rodeo Association, which presented the Norwood club with two awards. Furthermore, the Norwood rodeo now attracts some of the best cowboys in the state. On top of this extraordinary record of success, this year's rodeo will be sanctioned by rodeo associations in New Mexico and Arizona, bringing cowboys from three states to Norwood for the competition. Despite his important role in the advancement of Norwood's rodeo, Don remains a humble man, giving much of the credit to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Don Wilcox and congratulate him on his accomplishments. His dedication to preserving our Western heritage through his club's rodeo is a credit to himself, the Norwood Roping Club, and the community of Norwood. Don possesses a cowboy's determined spirit, and it is truly an honor to acknowledge his success before this body of Congress and this nation. Keep on riding, Don.

HONORING DEE AND BEN GETTLER AS THEY ARE HONORED BY THE OHIO CANCER RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dee and Ben Gettler, good friends and distinguished constituents, who will be honored for their community service and commitment to cancer research on April 10, 2003, by the Ohio Cancer Research Associates. Dee and Ben's devotion to community and national organizations is legion.

Dee was born in Troy, New York, and graduated from the College of William and Mary. She has served Cincinnati as Chairman of the Women's Committee for the Cincinnati Ballet; President of the Umbrella Board and the

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Board of Trustees for the Seven Hills School; Business Manager for Conversation in the Arts; and Out of Town Chairman for the Cincinnati Opera; President of the Parents Organization for Anderson High School; Member of the Advisory Council for Indian Hill Schools; Board Member for the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing; and Chairman of the University of Cincinnati Presidents Ball. She has been President of the Women's Armed Forces Memorial and is a lifetime member of Hadasah.

Ben is an attorney and manufacturing company executive. Born in Louisville, Kentucky, he graduated from the University of Cincinnati with high honors in economics. In 1945, Ben received his J.D. from Harvard University and was selected as a Frankfurter Scholar. He served to the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army in 1955–56. From 1973 through 1987, Ben practiced law with Gettler, Katz and Buckley in Cincinnati, and is a member of the Ohio and U.S. Supreme Court bars. Currently, he is Chairman of the Board of Vulcan International Corporation, which is listed on the American Stock Exchange.

Ben served as Chairman of the Board of the University of Cincinnati, has been a Member of the Board of Trustees since January, 1984, and is a member of the Presidential Search Committee. He is Chairman of the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati, and was Chairman of Cincinnati's Jewish Hospital for five years. Ben was National Chairman of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA) from 1994–98 and is currently Chairman of its Policy Committee. He is also a Trustee of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority.

All of us congratulate Dee and Ben as they are honored by Ohio Cancer Research Associates and thank them for their commitment to our community.

IN HONOR OF DONNA
RUTHERFORD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Californian, Donna Rutherford, as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Donna Rutherford was one of thirteen children who learned early in life the values of work, sharing and helping others. A mother of three, she became active in her children's schools as a parent volunteer, working to improve education for all children. This led to her being elected a Trustee of the Ravenswood City School District, a position she held for 12 years. In 2000, she became a member of the City Council of the City of East Palo Alto and she currently serves as the City's Vice Mayor.

Donna Rutherford worked in the food services industry for many years and became a part-time cook at Mateo Lodge's Wally's Place. She was promoted two years later to Social Rehab Coordinator and now serves as Wally's Place's Program Administrator where she supervises counseling staff and the care and management of the facility.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Donna Rutherford as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about a very disturbing issue to all Americans—child pornography. As co-chair of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, I have been working for years with my colleagues, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the U.S. Attorney General and the U.S. Customs Service, to eliminate child pornography from the Internet.

Child pornography was a worldwide industry that was all but eradicated in the 1980's. Unfortunately it has resurfaced with a vengeance thanks to computer technology and the Internet—thus requiring those who fight this crime to come up with new ways and seek new allies in our war to save our children. I am pleased to report that Visa U.S.A. (Visa), one of the world's largest credit card companies, has recently begun a program to try to stave off this ever-rising tide of child smut.

Visa's program is designed to put a stranglehold on this growing illegal industry by going after the one thing that keeps it going—money. The way Visa's program works and what it does is pretty amazing, so I'd like to share it with you.

Using sophisticated technical and forensic software tools, they identify sites that advertise that they accept Visa for payment. In fact, Visa's system monitors up to one million Web pages every day. Merchants dealing in child pornography are then reported back to Visa. Tests are conducted to determine who the merchant is and who owns the website and to trace the transaction trail. What this means is that child pornographers will no longer be able to hide by moving from site to site, because they will be found if they post Visa as their payment method. Visa acceptance privileges are terminated and finally—and I like this part throughout the world work together to either establish or support criminal investigations.

The results of Visa's monitoring system represent an invaluable intelligence contribution to the FBI's Innocent Images Program, a multi-agency investigative initiative to combat the proliferation of child pornography and exploitation over the Internet. I can tell you that the Innocent Images Program has been highly successful in identifying and investigating the people involved in this predatory crime. And when the FBI gets this level of cooperation from industry, the program becomes even more efficient and effective.

Such cooperation is encouraging and provides a fine example to our friends in private industry of how they can play a role in partnership with government and law enforcement agencies. While we here in Congress must continue to work for legislation that will take away avenues for the merchants who traffic in this abhorrent trade, we must actively seek out new partnerships with the private sector to find additional ways to drive child pornography from the Internet and to protect the interests of children worldwide.

HONORING FRANK BOYER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Colonel Frank Boyer of Colorado Springs, Colorado for his extraordinary service to this country. After joining the United States Air Force, Col. Boyer sacrificed his career as a jet fighter pilot to pursue nine years of medical training, eventually becoming an Air Force surgeon. That career change was especially important in the winter of 2001, when Col. Boyer was instrumental in saving the lives of seventeen young soldiers injured during their service in Afghanistan. Today I am privileged to honor Col. Boyer for his service before this body of Congress and this nation.

In October 2001, Col. Boyer and his team of seventy doctors, nurses and medical staff from the Air Force Academy set up a combat hospital in Oman to support American troops fighting for Operation Enduring Freedom. Just forty-five days later, a B-52 dropped an errant bomb on a group of American Special Operations fighters in Afghanistan, killing three and wounding twenty, many severely.

On that day, seventeen of the injured soldiers were rushed to Col. Boyer's military hospital. Every one of them survived. Col. Boyer and his team worked for thirty-six continuous hours, performing twenty-three surgeries, including four life-saving procedures. For this exceptional effort under extreme pressure, Col. Boyer received the Bronze Star.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Col. Frank Boyer for his outstanding service to the United States of America. I want to thank him on behalf of this nation and this Congress for his calm leadership through a chaotic and frightening incident. Seventeen young soldiers owe their lives to Col. Boyer and his medical team. All of our nation is in Col. Boyer's debt.

IN HONOR OF VICKI SMOTHERS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Californian, Vicki Smothers, as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

As Vice President of Free at Last's Board of Directors, Vicki Smothers has devoted herself to treating substance abuse and its tragic effects on the people of our community. She has been with this highly effective, grassroots organization which specializes in community recovery and rehabilitation from its inception. She was also one of the cofounders of the East Palo Alto AIDS Task Force.

Vicki Smothers is Community Programs Specialist for Prenatal Advantage where she coordinates prenatal services and counsels teen mothers in an effort to reduce infant mortality rates. A long-time East Palo Alto resident, she has a keen awareness of the needs of the community and is devoted to assisting others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Vicki Smothers as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

END UNFAIR PUNISHMENT OF
STUDENT ATHLETES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, as we all prepare for college basketball's "March Madness" this month, I am introducing a bill, the Student Athlete Fairness Act, along with Representative ROB ANDREWS, to deal with another kind of madness. Recently a number of institutions of higher education have penalized student basketball players for misconduct, by banning them from post-season intercollegiate play. I support actions by colleges and universities to hold their coaches and players accountable when they engage in misconduct of any kind. Recruiting violations, academic fraud and financial improprieties have no place in college or college sports, and deserve punishment.

However, these particular institutions are penalizing the wrong student athletes—students who were not involved in any wrongdoing. In one case, Fresno State University is barring an entire basketball team from post-season intercollegiate play for the transgressions of previous players and coaches, even though none of the current student athletes or coaches were involved in the wrongdoing at all.

We can no longer allow colleges and universities to penalize innocent student athletes. Instead institutions of higher education must focus their efforts on the guilty parties.

The Student Athlete Fairness Act would prohibit colleges from penalizing players or coaches who had no involvement in a rules violation and would also prohibit colleges and universities from being affiliated with intercollegiate associations, like the NCAA, whose policies might include sanctioning players, teams and/or coaches even if they were not involved in any rules violation.

While many schools and teams work hard to follow the rules that are intended to preserve a quality academic and campus life alongside a vibrant athletic program, some schools have chosen to make innocent students scapegoats for the actions of runaway athletic programs that give win-loss records more priority than ethics and fair play.

An integral ingredient of the college and university mission is to foster both the academic and personal development of their students—from civic engagement and community service, where students learn how to become active participants in democracy, to team athletics, where students gain valuable leadership experience. These objectives are severely undermined when students are punished harshly, in ways that can significantly affect their future careers and earnings, for violations of rules by others. This kind of substitute punishment has no place in our courts, and it should have no place in our colleges and universities either.

The Student Athlete Fairness Act would make certain that the coaches, school officials, or students who break the rules are the ones

who are punished. Innocent student athletes should be free to play ball.

CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION
ACT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in October 2002, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention released a report entitled the National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children, which estimate there are almost 800,000 reported cases of missing children. This equates to over 11 children per 1000 in the U.S. that are missing. Worse yet are the hundreds of thousands of missing children that are not reported. While a large number of missing children are runaways, too many are missing due to abduction. One way to decrease this number is to pass H.R. 1104, the Child Abduction Prevention Act. H.R. 1104 is better known as America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response Plan, the AMBER Alert.

Currently, the AMBER alert is a voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin in case of child abduction. Almost 40 states have established AMBER alerts. Since the program began a little over six years ago, the AMBER alert has been credited with the recovery of 47 children. If the plan were implemented nationwide, with federal funding, the possibilities of recovering more children increase exponentially.

As a parent and a grandparent, I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same, our children deserve it!

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SARA FISHER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize Mrs. Sara Fisher of Gypsum, Colorado. As Sara prepares to step down from her position as the Eagle County Clerk and Recorder, it is clear that the people of Eagle County are lucky to have benefited from Sara's years of service.

The job of Clerk and Recorder has presented many challenges during Sara's tenure. Since she first took office the population of the county has more than doubled. Sara modernized the county's voting system, streamlined the process of obtaining basic services, and increased staff at satellite offices. Sara, who speaks Spanish fluently, has worked to increase the number of bilingual office staff to better serve her diverse community. Throughout her service as Clerk and Recorder, Sara has always had a positive attitude about serving the people of her county. Sara serves because she loves her community, and that shows in her dedication and hard work. The people who have been fortunate enough to

have worked with Sara while she has been the Clerk and Recorder all know that she is a true asset to Eagle County, and an excellent public servant.

After more than a decade of service, Sara has recently built a new home in Gypsum and is looking forward to spending more time with her husband, Bill, and enjoying the beautiful landscape of Colorado. Throughout all of the challenges that Sara has faced, she has been a strong and competent leader in both Eagle County and throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Sara Fisher before this body of Congress and this nation. She has been a diligent servant of Eagle County and her commitment to her community will be greatly missed.

IN HONOR OF MILDRED SWANN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Californian, Mildred Swann, as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Mildred Swann organized a neighborhood forum where people of different ethnic heritages gathered to share their experiences and aspirations. She engaged many volunteers in the effort that resulted in the formation of a tutoring and mentoring program for Tongan Youth. She serves as the Facilities Chair of Community Gatepath, and in this position she led the campaign to decrease dependence on shrinking government funding while maintaining the quality of the organization's programs. She also helped Community Gatepath to work with San Mateo County to identify high-risk MediCal families and provide them with prenatal care and parenting skills.

Mildred Swann has served her community in many ways and with many organizations, and has been honored by Menlo College for her contributions to the community. She was also recognized by Foothill College Haramba for her service to youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mildred Swann as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

AMBER ALERT CONCERNS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, as an OB-GYN who has had the privilege of bringing over 3,000 children into the world, I share the desire to punish severely those who sexually abuse children. In fact, it is hard to imagine someone more deserving of life in prison than one who preys on children. Therefore, I certainly support those parts of H.R. 1104 which enhance the punishment for those convicted of federal crimes involving sexual assaults on children.

I also support the provisions increasing the post-incarceration supervision of sex offenders. However, given the likelihood that a sex

offender will attempt to commit another sex crime, it is reasonable to ask why rapists and child molesters are not simply imprisoned for life?

However, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that making the AMBER Alert system a Federal program is neither constitutionally sound nor effective law enforcement. All Americans should be impressed at the demonstrated effectiveness of the AMBER system in locating missing and kidnapped children. However, I would ask my colleagues to consider that one of the factors that makes the current AMBER system so effective is that the AMBER Alert system is not a Federal program. Instead, states and local governments developed AMBER Alerts on their own, thus ensuring that each AMBER system meets the unique needs of individual jurisdictions. Once the AMBER Alert system becomes a one-size-fits all Federal program (with standards determined by DC-based bureaucrats instead of community-based law enforcement officials) local officials will not be able to tailor the AMBER Alert to fit their unique circumstances. Thus, nationalizing the AMBER system will cause this important program to lose some of its effectiveness.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1104 also exceeds Congress' constitutional authority by criminalizing travel with the intent of committing a crime. As appalling as it is that some would travel abroad to engage in activities that are rightly illegal in the United States, legislation of this sort poses many problems and offers few solutions. First among these problems is the matter of national sovereignty. Those who travel abroad and break the law in their host country should be subject to prosecution in that country; it is the responsibility of the host country—not the U.S. Congress—to uphold its own laws. It is a highly unique proposal to suggest that committing a crime in a foreign country against a non-US citizen is within the jurisdiction of the United States Government.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation makes it a Federal crime to "travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct." I do not think this is a practical approach to the problem. It seems that this bill actually seeks to probe the conscience of anyone who seeks to travel abroad to make sure they do not have illegal or immoral intentions. Is it possible or even advisable to make thoughts and intentions illegal? And how is this to be carried out? Should Federal agents be assigned to each travel agency to probe potential travelers as to the intent of their travel?

At a time when Federal resources are stretched to the limit, American troops are preparing for imminent military conflict, and when we are not even able to keep known terrorists out of our own country, this bill would require Federal agents to not only track Americans as they vacation abroad, but would also require that they be able to divine the intentions of these individuals who seek to travel abroad. Talk about a tall order! As well-intentioned as I am sure this legislation is, I do not believe that it is a practical or well-thought-out approach to what I agree is a serious and disturbing problem. Perhaps a better approach would be to share with those interested countries our own laws and approaches to prosecuting those who commit these kinds of crimes, so as to see more effective capture and punishment of these criminals in the countries where the crime is committed.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, while H.R. 1104 has some good provisions aimed at enhancing

the penalties of those who commit the most heinous of crimes, it also weakens the effective AMBER Alert program by nationalizing it. H.R. 542 also raises serious civil liberties and national sovereignty concerns by criminalizing intent and treating violations of criminal law occurring in other countries' jurisdictions as violations of American criminal law.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BUZZ
ZANCANELLA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Buzz Zancanella, an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to serving Glenwood Springs, Colorado. For the past thirty-six years, Buzz has worked in his community, most recently as a water maintenance coordinator. After a long and successful career, Buzz has decided to retire. As he looks forward to retirement, I would like to take this time to highlight his service to his community.

Buzz is a native of Glenwood Springs who graduated from Garfield County High School in 1958 and began serving Glenwood Springs as a volunteer firefighter in 1959. In 1961, Buzz left home to fight for his country, serving honorably in the Navy. It was also at this time that Buzz met his wife, Gracie. When Buzz returned to Glenwood Springs in 1966, he began his long career with the city, working for the city's electric company. Later, in 1977, Buzz became the city's fire chief and remained in that role until 1985 when he began working for the Glenwood Springs Water Department. Buzz is now known as the go-to guy in the city of Glenwood Springs. His service has been much appreciated and he will be truly missed.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to stand and recognize Buzz Zancanella before this Congress and this nation. Public servants work tirelessly to ensure that our communities are run safely and smoothly. Their service and dedication deserves our recognition and thanks. That is why I recognize Buzz Zancanella as he retires from his many years of service to his community. I wish you all the best Buzz.

IN HONOR OF RUTH-E BENNISON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Californian, Ruth-e Bennison, as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Ruth-e Bennison received a Masters degree in accounting from the University of Washington and worked as an accountant until her marriage in 1956. She later opened her own travel agency, began to travel extensively herself and became the Western Regional Manager for Sheraton Hotels. When her mother became ill and entered a nursing home, she developed a keen interest in long-term care facilities. She became a volunteer in the long-

term care ombudsman program in San Mateo County and she has selflessly dedicated more than 15,000 hours to the program over 15 years. Ruth-e Bennison has also given generously of her time and talents as a HICAP volunteer and has given 5,200 volunteer hours to this agency. She's been honored for her work by the Department of Health and Human Services and was honored with the HICAP Excellence Award in 2002 for saving San Mateo County more than \$5 million in Medicare related expenses.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ruth-e Bennison as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

HONORING CITY OF LIVONIA FIRE-
FIGHTER OF THE YEAR, FIRE-
FIGHTER MATTHEW MAURIER

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated Michigan resident, Firefighter Matthew Maurier, recently named City of Livonia Firefighter of the Year. Firefighter Maurier has served the City of Livonia with great pride and courage since 1995.

On September 16, 2002, Firefighter Maurier answered a call to a pedestrian injury accident. Upon arrival, he found a young male patient lying in the roadway who suffered significant head trauma and multiple fractures requiring immediate attention. Realizing the patient's airway was compromised as a result of his injuries, Firefighter Maurier began aggressive intervention to ventilate the patient. Recognizing the patient would require the services of a Trauma Center for definitive treatment, Firefighter Maurier immediately requested a helicopter for transport. This action saved considerable time the patient would not have otherwise had available.

Mr. Speaker, Firefighter Matthew Maurier is a hero to the people of Livonia, Michigan and the United States. I extend my sincere appreciation to him for making our community a better place.

THE NORTH MYRTLE BEACH
BILLBOARD EFFORT

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and praise the actions of the North Myrtle Beach Republican Club. Their efforts to raise community support and money to erect billboards around their city to show support for President Bush and the American soldiers stationed in the Middle East have been outstanding. The diverse group of community members, comprised of business owners, attorneys, doctors, retirees, and elected officials, have come together under the direction of Ms. Cleo Steele to respond to the numerous anti-American protests held world wide, nationally, and even in the community of

Myrtle Beach. Believing that the media gives a one-sided and distraught view, Ms. Steele gave birth to the idea after hearing of a similar program in Louisville, Kentucky. The group focuses on the ideas that the anti-Bush, anti-war mentality is currently in the minority, and that regardless of the circumstances, American troops need all the support that can be mustered during this crucial time. Within an hour of making her first phone call, Ms. Steele already had the backing of ten people, and the total force has increased since then. I am proud of the efforts of the North Myrtle Beach Republican Club and wish to applaud their actions. In my opinion, they are the epitome of American patriotism, and their zeal should give hope to all who call themselves Americans.

HONORING CITY OF LIVONIA FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR, MICHAEL BAILEY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated Michigan resident, Firefighter Michael Bailey, recently named City of Livonia Firefighter of the Year. Firefighter Bailey has served the City of Livonia with great pride and courage since 1995.

On September 16, 2002, Firefighter Bailey answered a call to a pedestrian injury accident. Upon arrival, he found a young male patient lying in the roadway who suffered significant head trauma and multiple fractures requiring immediate attention. Realizing the patient's airway was compromised as a result of his injuries, Firefighter Bailey began aggressive intervention to ventilate the patient. Recognizing the patient would require the services of a Trauma Center for definitive treatment, Firefighter Bailey immediately requested a helicopter for transport. This action saved considerable time the patient would not have had available.

Mr. Speaker, Firefighter Bailey is a hero to the people of Livonia, Michigan and the United States. I extend my sincere appreciation to Firefighter Bailey for making our community a safer place.

A CALL FOR PRAYER ON THE EVE OF WAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening on what may be the eve of war. Like so many Americans, my prayers are with our men and women in uniform who so bravely and honorably prepare to fight the evils in this world in order to insure the continued safety and wellbeing of friends, family and citizens of this great Nation. On this day, my thoughts are also with our President and our other leaders of this great Nation upon whose shoulders the burden of these decisions falls.

I was recently given a prayer written by Jeff Stewart, a close personal friend and lay leader

at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mobile Alabama. The following prayer will be delivered at an ecumenical service in Mobile with the cooperation of four local churches.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in lifting this prayer to our Lord God in hopes that it will provide strength and reassurance to our President and our armed forces.

"Help us, Lord, not be anxious about anything." During this time of pending war and the death that will surely come to our Service men, women and civilians. Give us Your peace and the power to invoke Your love and strength, "but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, we present our request to You" that those that will lose their lives will find the comfort of Your presence and Your peace. "O God which transcends all understanding, guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4: 6-7)

We seek not war but peace and we know that You, O God, can bring peace if it is Your will; therefore, we put our trust in You and we know that "You are the Lord, the God of all mankind. And nothing is too difficult for you." (Jer 32:37) Amen.

Be sober, be vigilant, because our adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. As we seek to do God's will, we must deliberately make ourselves subject one to another and be clothed with humility, for God resisteth the proud and giveth the grace to be humbled. Humble yourself therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt us in due time, casting all our cares upon Him, for He careth for us all.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Jeff Stewart for this thoughtful prayer and the comfort it provides during these times of needed guidance and wisdom—words from the heart and words from which we may all benefit.

HONORING MICHIGAN STATE TROOPER OF THE YEAR, D/SGT. EVERETT TORLEY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated Michigan resident, D/Sgt. Everett Torley, recently named City of Livonia Michigan State Trooper of the Year. D/Sgt. Torley has distinguished himself as an outstanding resource for the criminal justice community in southeast Michigan.

His knowledge in his field of service is unsurpassed in this state. He is one of only three persons in the State of Michigan trained and certified in forensic video clarification by the FBI. Those skills have been used to solve numerous crimes, most recently ending a string of local robberies.

As a testament of his expertise, D/Sgt. Torley has been asked to serve as an instructor at the FBI Academy in the Law Enforcement Video Association. As an instructor, D/Sgt. Torley will be instrumental in teaching forensic video clarification to law enforcement officers around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to D/Sgt. Everett Torley for making our state and our country a safer place.

HONORING THE CITY OF LIVONIA POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR BRIAN DUFFANY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated Michigan resident, Police Officer Brian Duffany, recently named City of Livonia Police Officer of the Year. Officer Duffany has served the City of Livonia with great pride and courage since 1991.

On January 14, 2002, Officer Duffany received a dispatch call stating a robbery had taken place at a nearby restaurant. While on patrol, Officer Duffany observed a vehicle and driver matching the bulletin's description and attempted to stop the vehicle for questioning. The suspect attempted to flee, but after striking two civilian cars the chase continued on foot. Officer Duffany quickly apprehended the suspect, who was still carrying a revolver in his pants pocket.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Brian Duffany is a hero to the people of Livonia, Michigan and the United States. I extend my sincere appreciation to him for making our community a safer place.

CONGRATULATING MR. CHARLES J. TODD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Court Security Officer (CSO) Charles J. Todd for his quick thinking and courage in his recent arrest of a wanted criminal. His quick actions have earned him the U.S. Marshal's CSO of the Year Award.

On July 9, 2002, a violent homicide was committed in the city of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Three suspects were charged in the homicide and two were arrested immediately. The third suspect, Francis Kelly, remained at large. On July 12, CSO Todd viewed a wanted poster for the third suspect at the beginning of his shift. Later that day, Todd observed an individual who met Kelly's description, as the subject was walking toward him down a street with heavy pedestrian traffic. CSO Todd used a ruse to get the subject to identify himself and then detained him until back-up units arrived.

CSO Todd's attention to detail and dedication to duty and bravery deprived Francis Kelly the opportunity to kill again. CSO Todd's actions were not only a positive reflection on himself and the Court Security Officer program, but also on the United States Marshals Service.

Mr. Speaker, CSO Todd has clearly displayed his bravery and sense of duty in this action. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his commitment to excellence and his desire to see justice carried out. I would also like to ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him good fortune in his new position as Site Supervisor with the CSO contracting firm.

A TRIBUTE TO MADGE JENNINGS
OVERHOUSE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today we rise to recognize the achievements and life of Madge Jennings Overhouse. We have had the privilege of knowing Madge for many years, and can personally attest to her lasting legacy of achievement through selfless volunteerism. Hers is the epitome of a life dedicated to public service.

Madge Jennings Overhouse was born in July 29, 1924 in The Dalles, Oregon, and soon moved to San Jose. She attended San Jose State University, graduating cum laude with honors in history. Madge married Howard Overhouse in 1949, and they have one son, Richard, and three lovely grandchildren.

Marge's career as a librarian spanned almost 40 years and two institutions. She started out at San Jose State, then moved to San Jose Community College. Typical of Madge, she assumed a leadership role in her profession, serving on the Santa Clara County Library Commission from 1976 to 1982, as well as serving on the California Library Agency for Systems and Services from 1979 to 1984, representing Santa Clara County as an alternate for Supervisor Rod Diridon. Madge also served on the Steering Committee for the Master Plan of California Libraries.

Madge's contributions to the community throughout her lifetime are legion, and the list of civic organizations that Madge has helped is long. We would like to take a moment to talk about them here. Madge was one of the first women to serve on the Executive Board of the Santa Clara County chapter of the Boy Scouts of America. The Santa Clara County Fair Association benefited from Madge's input as a Board member from 1987 to 1995. Madge also served on the boards of the Iota Delta Chapter of the Chi Omega sorority and the Campbell Historical Preservation Board. Madge is also a long-time member of the San Jose Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Madge lent her talents to the Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force, which led to the completion of Highway 85, which is now a major transportation artery in the Bay Area. During my time on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, Madge's support on important measures such as this, which often meant doing the "leg-work" that no one else volunteered to do, was instrumental on so many occasions.

Madge has an absolutely amazing record of political involvement. For more than thirty years, Madge has been a stalwart in the Democratic Party at the local, state, and national level. Madge has fostered and encouraged the careers of numerous public officials in California.

Madge's lifelong commitment to volunteerism has been honored by almost every civic organization in Santa Clara County, and we are delighted to offer our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Madge for a lifetime of public service achievement.

RECOGNIZING THREE TALENTED
RHODE ISLAND EDUCATORS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of three talented and committed educators from Rhode Island. These outstanding teachers have been selected to receive the 2003 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching was established in 1983 by the White House and is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Each year, NSF identifies educators from the 50 states and 4 U.S. territories as leaders in the improvement of science and mathematics education. These educators are awarded a \$7,500 grant from the National Science Foundation and a Presidential citation and serve as role models for their communities and colleagues. Additionally, the grants allow them to continue inspiring their students through innovative teaching.

This year, the winners from my district are Ms. Ann Simonelli from Holden Elementary School in Warwick, Mr. Daniel Potts from Chariho Middle School in Wood River Junction, and Ms. Susan Osberg from North Kingstown High School. Ms. Simonelli has been teaching for 22 years, Mr. Potts for 12 years, and Ms. Osberg for 37 years. Their dedication to educating the leaders of tomorrow is laudable. As the United States works to improve its international rankings for math and science education, it is important to reward teachers who excel in these areas.

Mr. Speaker, I find it heartening that there are educators in this country who devote so much time and effort to shaping the minds of our young people. I hope you and our colleagues will join me in recognizing and congratulating these outstanding teachers on receiving this prestigious award.

PENN STATE MONT ALTO 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Penn State Mont Alto for its 100th Anniversary as a well respected institution of learning. When this institution was first established, in May 1903 by the governor of Pennsylvania, it was known as the Pennsylvania State Forest Academy in Mont Alto. The academy was only the third forestry school in the entire nation, behind Yale and Biltmore respectively. The school was founded by Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock to train men for service in

the state forests. To this day, the Forest Academy still educates America's foresters in addition to students in many other academic programs.

The earliest goal of the academy was to reforest much of the surrounding land, especially in areas made barren by forest fires and charcoal production. On Arbor Day in 1905, the academy's first administrator, George Wirt assigned students to search for native tree species not found on campus. These students returned with over 400 specimens reflecting 30 different varieties of species. These collected specimens were the beginning of the Mont Alto arboretum. An arboretum that to this day continues to provide a training ground for students, as well as a research site for the development of new hybrids.

The Pennsylvania State Forest Academy in Mont Alto has been constantly evolving throughout its history. In 1929, the academy merged with the Pennsylvania State College (now University) becoming one of the Commonwealth campuses. At that time, the campus was used only for the first year of training for Penn State forestry students. The students would then complete their three remaining years at the main campus in University Park. The campus continued to grow and by 1963 the first one or two years of most Penn State majors were being offered at the Mont Alto campus. The school completed its evolution in 1997, when students were able to earn their baccalaureate degrees at the Penn State Mont Alto campus.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Penn State Mont Alto for its 100 years of commitment and dedication to providing a quality education to so many young people.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution of the United States gives the other body the responsibility for confirming, in a fair and just manner, judicial nominees chosen by the President. Unfortunately in the current political climate, qualified nominees are being held captive, causing a vacancy crisis in the federal judiciary.

Injecting ideology into the confirmation process is misguided at best and downright irresponsible at worst. The American people expect better out of their elected officials. There is a drastic shortage of judges in the federal court system, Mr. Speaker. With every passing day that these nominations are allowed to stagnate in the other body, the crisis worsens. These vacancies are denying swift and balanced justice for the American people.

This problem must be addressed in a non-partisan way by placing well-qualified and experienced judges on the bench in an expedient manner. The President has thus far fulfilled his duty by nominating well-qualified men and women to the federal bench. It is long past time for my colleagues in the other body to act.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER COX FOR
HIS SERVICE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's finest public servants, and my good friend, Mr. Christopher C. Cox.

Chris, who recently departed as my Chief of Staff in order to serve President George W. Bush, exemplifies the finest qualities of the men and women who serve the members of this legislative body. Chris is a man of great integrity, loyalty, intellect, and is dedicated to the best interests of the United States.

It is this selfless service to his government that sets Chris apart from others in his generation. Turning down the lucrative practice of law following his graduation from the University of Illinois School of Law, Chris came to Capitol Hill to be a participant, rather than a mere spectator, in our democracy.

During his service on the Hill, Chris has been a tireless advocate for common-sense conservative government and a key player in the effort to maintain a Republican majority in the House of Representatives. In addition to serving as a trusted advisor to my staff and I, Chris honorably served Congressmen ROBIN HAYES, SAXBY CHAMBLISS and MAC COLLINS.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in wishing Chris well in his new capacity as a Special Assistant to President George W. Bush, and to thank Chris for his years of service in the people's House.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
DON EDWARDS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today we rise to recognize the achievements and life of former Congressman Don Edwards. We are proud to have known Representative Edwards for many years.

Born and raised in San Jose, California, Representative Edwards received his bachelor's degree from Stanford University where he later studied law. He became an F.B.I. agent during the Depression, and went on to serve in the U.S. Navy as an intelligence officer and gunnery officer at sea in World War II.

He was first elected to represent what was then California's 9th Congressional District in 1962. In Congress, Representative Edwards served on the House Judiciary Committee and for 23 years he served as the Chairman of the

Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights. He also sat on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Last year, Representative Edwards received the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award for his "unswerving devotion to the Constitution and its values throughout his career."

One of the foremost defenders of civil liberties in Congress, Representative Edwards in the 1970s—along with Senator Frank Church and his committee—exposed the pervasive abuses of civil liberties in J. Edgar Hoover's COINTEL PRO, which monitored, infiltrated and disrupted entirely lawful civil rights and anti-war organizations. He also fought to abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Representative Edwards was one of the first seven Members of the House of Representatives to oppose the Vietnam War in 1965 and became a leader in the anti-war movement.

In the 1960s he was floor leader of the Omnibus Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act and the Equal Rights Amendment. Outside of Congress, he took part in civil rights marches in the South; visited Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the Birmingham, Alabama jail and spoke against apartheid while visiting South Africa.

Every year, he introduced an ERA bill to the House, and in 1989, he argued "women are entitled to their birthright to full rights of citizenship."

In 1968, he introduced legislation creating the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge. With the efforts of other Bay Area Representatives, he was instrumental in establishing the largest urban wildlife refuge in the country. The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge covers 25,902 acres and spans 12 cities and 3 counties.

Representative Don Edwards left a legacy in Congress of supporting civil rights, advocating for those less fortunate in our society and being a strong defender of our Constitution. He is a visionary public servant and a valued friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on March 19, 2003, I was unavoidably detained in a meeting with my constituents, and was unable to vote in rollcall vote No. 71. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "no."

SUPPORT FOR BAN ON PARTIAL-
BIRTH ABORTION

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a ban on the partial-birth abortion procedure. I firmly believe in the sanctity of human life, and am pleased that my colleagues in the other body have taken this necessary step to protect an unborn child's right to life.

I am pleased to be a supporter and cosponsor of the House version of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban, H.R. 760. I urge my colleagues to consider the lives of thousands of unborn children each year that are terminated by this callous procedure, children who would be spared by the swift passage of this measure. Beyond H.R. 760, I urge my colleagues to support legislation that further protects the rights of unborn children.

I am encouraged that there is great momentum in banning partial-birth abortions, and I am hopeful that the House of Representatives will be able to quickly pass this bill. With passage of legislation outlawing this barbaric practice, we will be taking a significant step in protecting innocent children.

COMMENDING CARPENTER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Carpenter Elementary School for being named a Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School. This award is given to those elementary schools that exemplify educational excellence. It is designed to identify and give public recognition to outstanding schools that achieve high academic standards, to make available a comprehensive framework of key criteria for school effectiveness, and to communicate best practices for educational success among Michigan schools.

Through hard work and dedication, Carpenter Elementary has met those criteria. It provides year-round education for its students, and even holds, "intercessions," which are optional five day theme-based learning experiences made available during vacation periods. By using this format, the school reduces time spent in review, enhances student retention of learning, and improves student and staff attitude and attendance.

Mr. Speaker, Carpenter Elementary School is to be recognized for earning the Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Award. They are an example of the tremendous potential elementary schools have to make a difference in the lives of their students. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the teachers and administration at Carpenter Elementary School for their commitment to excellence and their desire to provide students with a high-quality education. I would also like to ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them good fortune in the future.

INTRODUCING THE INTERMODAL
TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2003

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Intermodal Transportation Act of 2003. This legislation enjoys bipartisan support, and I believe that its inclusion in TEA-21 Reauthorization will significantly enhance our nation's public transportation infrastructure.

We will be facing significant budget restraints in the reauthorization TEA-21 over the next 6 years, and for that reason I believe it is critical to look at ways to maximize our existing transportation assets. One important way we can do this in the realm of public transportation is by connecting the public transportation modes better so that they provide a more accessible and attractive transportation alternative. Public transportation, including intercity bus, intercity rail, local mass transit, and rural transit, serve thousands of communities nationwide, but they are rarely linked together in common facilities and with consolidated travel information. The Intermodal Transportation Act will provide for these missing intermodal connections.

This bill will create a new competitive grant program for intermodal transportation centers, which will provide incentives for states and communities to develop intermodal facilities. These intermodal centers will tie together all public transportation modes in convenient locations, giving public transportation users the ability to make seamless intercity and local trips from origin to destination. Across the country, very little has been invested in intermodal facilities linking the modes of affordable public transportation that the American people rely on everyday. ITA provides benefits to all public transportation riders through dedicated funding for these vital intermodal transportation terminals.

ITA will also create a National Public Transportation Information System so that with one call or website visit, a user can get information on schedules, fares, and locations for the intercity and local transportation services that she will need to make a trip.

ITA also increases funding so that customers using wheelchairs have better access to the intermodal system, thus allowing a mobility-impaired passenger to get on an intercity bus with a wheelchair lift and make accessible connections throughout the country.

In addition to creating a seamless intermodal transportation system, the cost-effective programs in ITA will produce new employment opportunities. These will include not only the construction and operating jobs directly related to the projects, but also new jobs created by the economic development produced by new intermodal transportation hubs in urban areas and through the connections we develop between rural communities and the national airway system.

With a total cost of around \$150 million annually, the Intermodal Transportation Act will create a fully integrated public transportation network throughout the country while also linking hundreds, if not thousands, of rural communities to airports and creating economic development opportunities and new jobs across the country.

I am pleased to introduce these important intermodal proposals with significant bipartisan support. I would especially like to thank JO ANN EMERSON and MICHAEL BURGESS for their strong support of this legislation. I would also like to thank the other original co-sponsors of this legislation: ED CASE, MARTIN FROST, MAJOR OWENS, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, ELEANOR HOLMES-NORTON, RICHARD BAKER, BETTY MCCOLLUM, and JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. We will work with our fellow colleagues to see that this bill is included in the reauthorization of TEA-21.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MS.
JOYCE WILLIAMS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Joyce Williams upon her retirement after 37 years of service in the federal government. During her accomplished career, Ms. Williams distinguished herself by aggressively taking on every task assigned and assuming the many associated responsibilities. She consistently exhibited willingness to work as a team player and assumed leadership responsibilities for the good of the Agency.

Beginning her career as a Procurement Clerk at the Defense General Supply Center in Richmond, Virginia, Ms. Williams steadily rose through the ranks till she assumed her current position as Chief of Congressional Affairs Office at the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). During her tenure as Chief, Ms. Williams innumerable responsibilities included, but were not limited to, managing the liaison operations between DLA and Capitol Hill, monitoring the day-to-day operations of the Congressional Affairs Team, and overseeing the Congressional Hearings process.

On January 26, 2001, the Defense Logistics Agency Headquarters Complex at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, was officially named the Defense Logistics Agency Andrew T. McNamara Complex, a tribute to the Agency's first Director, Lieutenant General Andrew T. McNamara, (Retired). Ms. Williams worked many long hours in conjunction with myself and my staff to enable a special exception to existing law. Buildings on military installations are traditionally named for distinguished individuals, but only posthumously. Due to Ms. Williams diligence, I was able to include language in the fiscal year 2001 National Defense Authorization Act that made the name change.

Throughout her career, Joyce has been rewarded and recognized for her exceptional abilities and sustained the highest level of performance receiving numerous, and letters of appreciation. Joyce's achievements over the course of her 37 year career have been of the quality and level that are clearly deserving of the DLA Distinguished Career Service Award. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to Ms. Williams' lifetime of distinguished service.

INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR JUVENILE (TYPE 1) DIABETES RESEARCH

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce legislation which urges Congress to increase federal funding for Type 1 diabetes, also known as juvenile diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes is a devastating illness that affects over 1 million Americans, many of whom are diagnosed as children. This serious

disease robs children of their innocence and independence, and burdens its victims with a lifetime of finger-sticks, shots, and fear of dreaded complications. Even with a strict regimen of insulin injections, blood-glucose monitoring, diet and exercise, people with Type 1 diabetes are at severe risk for blindness, kidney failure, amputations, heart disease and stroke.

The burden of diabetes is felt by all Americans. Americans spend \$105 billion each year on the direct and indirect costs of this disease. One of every four Medicare dollars is spent on beneficiaries with diabetes, and one in ten health care dollars overall are spent on individuals with this disease disease.

There is great promise that a cure for Type 1 can be found in the near future. Advancements in genetic research, transplantation and immunology, and research into potential vaccines all hold the potential to eliminate Type 1 diabetes. But if we are to find a cure, we in Congress must find the money to pay for it.

The Diabetes Research Working Group (DRWG), a Congressional appointed panel of experts in diabetes research, issued a report in 1999 that indicates the need for a significant increase in diabetes research. The DRWG recommended a \$4.1 billion increase for diabetes research over a five year period. Congress must heed this report. This legislation I am introducing today recognizes the particular burden of Type 1 diabetes, and the need to follow the recommendations of the DRWG.

Mr. Speaker, full funding for diabetes research will help eradicate this devastating illness, save billions of health care dollars, and end the unnecessary suffering of millions of Americans.

During the previous Congress, this legislation was passed by unanimous consent, but with the pending budget fight and potential cuts to the NIH budget, it is imperative that the Congress raise its voice in support of finding a cure for Type 1 diabetes. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in our fight against this disease.

BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 975) to amend title II of the United States Code, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, it is with great regret that I come to the floor in opposition to this bankruptcy bill, H.R. 975.

Last year, I voted for this legislation when it came to the House floor when we had reached a deal with strong legislators on the other side of the aisle, Representative HYDE and Senator HATCH.

Unfortunately, the bill that we are voting on today lacks a critically important provision which would prevent perpetrators of abortion clinic violence from filing for bankruptcy and then avoid paying the fines and penalties assessed against them as a result of their illegal activity.

The Bankruptcy Code's central purpose is to provide a fresh start to the "honest but unfortunate debtor." These debtors are not honest, unfortunate, innocent, or peaceful protestors: They owe fines because of their threats and acts of violence against doctors, clinic staff, and women.

The problem is widespread. Since 1977, there have been over 75,000 acts of violence and/or disruption at the Nation's clinics.

This includes: 7 murders; 17 attempted murders; 41 bombings; 165 arsons; 82 additional failed bombing and arson attempts; 370 physical invasions of personal and business properties; 942 acts of vandalism; 100 butyric acid attacks; 557 anthrax threats, of which 480 happened since September 11, 2001; 122 assaults; 343 death threats; and 3 kidnappings.

Bankruptcy reform is critically important, but without this provision, we will be sending a message to perpetrators of health clinic violence that they can continue to trample on the rights of American women and use violence to do so.

Without this provision, if someone injures or kills someone outside an abortion clinic, they can file for bankruptcy and avoid paying any judgements made against them.

In other words, they are not held financially responsible for violating the law. We must stop these people from violating the law and we must stop them from finding shelter in bankruptcy.

It is for this reason that I cannot vote for this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JIM GRAY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 12, 2003, Jim Gray, a member of my constituency, was honored with Tennessee's highest artistic award. The Tennessee Arts Commission presented Jim with the Distinguished Artist Award as a part of the 2003 Governor's Awards in the Arts in Nashville, TN.

Jim's artistic drive has been with him his entire life, and he used his talents to guide his career as a young adult as an illustrator, an advertising executive, and as a technical illustrator in the United States Air Force.

After a visit with his family to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1966, Jim found an artistic inspiration that he had never felt before. This inspiration led him to move to east Tennessee, where his desire to paint the beauty of the Tennessee countryside became his passion.

Throughout the years, Jim has sold more than 2,000 paintings and 125,000 prints to collectors in the United States and abroad. He has won several other awards, has been commissioned to do many major works, and has held workshops where he has instructed hundreds of students. His two sculptures of President Andrew Johnson are on display at Johnson's hometown of Greeneville, TN and at the Tennessee State Capitol Building in Nashville. Most recently, Jim's painting titled "Rising Above" was purchased as part of the Knoxville Convention Center art collection.

I am proud to display one of Jim's paintings in the entrance of my Washington, D.C. office.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Jim Gray for his achievements. On April 4th of this year, Jim will again be honored at a reception at the Knoxville Museum of Art, and a copy of this congratulatory statement will be presented to him. I also include here today an article written about Jim from the Knoxville News-Sentinel.

Jim's art continues to be an inspiration to us all and I am pleased today to speak on his behalf.

STATE HONORS 2 OF ITS GREATEST GRACE NOTES

DOLLY PARTON, ARTIST JIM GRAY WIN TENNESSEE'S HIGHEST AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN ARTS

(By Terry Morrow)

NASHVILLE, Mar. 12, 2003.—A couple of hundred miles away from their beloved Smoky Mountains, singer Dolly Parton and artist Jim Gray found common ground Tuesday night on the stage of Ryman Auditorium.

It was there that the Tennessee Arts Commission paid tribute to them with the 2003 Governor's Awards in the Arts, the state's highest artistic honor. Parton received the Lifetime Achievement Award for numerous musical, educational and thespian achievements. Gray was recognized with a Distinguished Artist Award for his maritime paintings and his part in helping to create the artists' community in Gatlinburg.

Eleven people and three organizations from across the state were honored at the ceremony. Parton, a Nashville resident, and Gray, who lives in Knoxville, attended as did Gov. Phil Bredesen and other state dignitaries, including David Willard, director of Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Knox County Commissioner Mary Lou Horner, Randy Tyree and Ted Miller, vice president of Dollywood.

Speaking at the ceremony, Bredesen, who is a painter, said the arts should be able to weather the state's current budget crisis.

Parton was cited not only for her many musical hits but for her educational pursuits in Sevier County. In her native county, Parton boosted the already thriving economy in Pigeon Forge when she retooled Silver Dollar City into Dollywood in the mid-1980s. She later created the Dollywood Foundation and the Imagination Library, which encourages children to read.

"This is called a Lifetime Achievement Award, but I ain't done yet," Parton said, indicating she was working with Bredesen to extend her Imagination Library beyond East Tennessee. Addressing the fact that the award was a "lifetime" award, Parton said, "That makes you feel old. I don't feel old. I don't look that old. As long as I have those surgeons in California, I won't look that old."

In a tribute to Parton, the Peasall sisters sang Parton's hit that many consider her autobiographical single, "Coat of Many Colors." The sisters, who are from Whitehouse, were part of the "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack and appeared in the film.

Others receiving the Distinguished Artist Award were Chattanooga musician Roland Carter and Memphis sculptor Luther Hampton. Ralph Blizzard, a legendary old-time fiddler from Blountville, won the Folk Heritage Award.

Parton and Gray were noted for their particular contributions in East Tennessee. Many of Parton's songs are based on her East Tennessee childhood. Gray's work often includes majestic scenes of the Great Smoky Mountains. Moving from Mobile, Ala., in 1966 to Gatlinburg, Gray aided in creating the city's arts and crafts community.

Thanking his wife Fran, his three children and seven grandchildren, Gray said, "What an honor. It's very emotional for me. How can it get any better than this?"

Parton and Gray have worked together before. A bronze statue of Parton, created by Gray in 1987, sits in front of the Sevier County Courthouse in Sevierville. Thousands of tourists stop to see the 2-ton, life-size structure each year.

"At 70, I've been blessed all these years doing what I have loved the best," Gray said. "I have been working full-time in fine arts since 1966. As far as I am concerned, this is icing on the cake, and it has been a wonderful cake I have enjoyed."

Knoxville will honor Gray with a reception Thursday, April 3, at the Knoxville Museum of Art. In addition to celebrating the Governor's Award, the Jim Gray painting "Rising Above" will be on display, and Mayor Victor Ashe will announce that the painting has been purchased as part of the Knoxville Convention Center art collection. The reception is open to the public. Anyone interested in receiving an invitation to attend should contact the Arts and Cultural Alliance, 865-523-7543.

TRIBUTE TO ROSSANA ROSADO, PUBLISHER EL DIARIO-LA PRENSA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Mrs. Rossana Rosado, Publisher and CEO of the El Diario-La Prensa who will be honored on Thursday, March 20, 2003, on the 90th anniversary of the newspaper, the oldest Spanish-language daily in the United States. I regret that I am unable to join her and her colleagues for the 18th Annual National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP) Convention and luncheon in Las Vegas. I would very much have enjoyed celebrating this well-deserved recognition with her.

For 90 years, El Diario-La Prensa has been instrumental to the Hispanic community in the Northeast, providing the Hispanic community in the United States a vehicle of communication within itself, which has contributed to its development and strengthening and empowered Hispanics to attain significant achievements in the political, economic and social arena. Furthermore, for nine decades, El Diario-La Prensa has informed our Latino community, serving as an ever present link between them and their families and friends in their countries of origin in Latin America and the Caribbean, during times of political turmoil and times of stability, times of success as well as times of economic downturn, joyous occasions or sad times.

Mr. Speaker, good writing is indeed an art. From 1995 to 1999, Ms. Rosado was responsible for the newsroom operations as El Diario's Editor in Chief, becoming the first Latina and one of just a few women in this country to hold this important position at a major newspaper. Her writing, eloquent and to the point, has won the attention and admiration of El Diario-La Prensa readers like me. I commend her for her ability to bring style to provocative and powerful commentary. Editorials that grab the reader with candid and passionate writing about politics and other issues affecting New York City communities deserve recognition.

In September 1999, after dedicating to *El Diario-La Prensa* nine of her seventeen years in the news media, Ms. Rosado was promoted to Publisher and CEO to oversee the day-to-day operations of the entire paper. She, once again, became the first Latina in the U.S. to hold such a high-ranking post in the newspaper-publishing world. This move provided her with the opportunity to cross over to the business and revenue side of the newspaper industry, a new frontier for Latinos in general and for women in particular. It is interesting to mention that her first experience as a reporter was at *El Diario-La Prensa* where she covered my home borough of the Bronx as well as City Hall, and wrote a weekly column. Ms. Rosado has had a diverse career in the N.Y. media, which includes work at radio and television stations, print media and public service.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Rosado is the recipient of several prestigious awards including an Emmy for her work in television. Among many tributes, in March 2002, she received the NYS Governor's award for Excellence—"Women Sustaining the American Spirit"—in honor of Women's History Month. How fitting, Mr. Speaker. Ms. Rosado served as a member of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's transition team. She serves as Director on the board of United Way of NYC and September 11th Fund, as well as in other organizations. She is a graduate of Pace University, in White Plains, New York where she received her B.A. in journalism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Rossana Rosado for her leadership and extraordinary contributions to the advancement of journalism and in wishing her continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 19, 2003, during the House's consideration of H.R. 97, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, I was recorded as voting "yea" on rollcall vote No. 72, the substitute amendment offered by Mr. NADLER of New York. I should have been recorded as voting "nay" on the Nadler substitute amendment.

IMPROVING PARENTAL CHOICE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, today I submit for introduction a bill to improve education for children with special needs by encouraging innovative approaches to parental involvement and flexibility.

This legislation is meant to enhance other reforms being proposed in the IDEA reauthorization bill. Those reforms will improve special education by reducing the paperwork burden for educators, improving early intervention

strategies, reducing misidentification of special needs students, and restoring trust between parents and districts by reducing litigation. I believe we must empower parents to be more involved in their child's education.

My legislation would help states create customized education systems for children with special needs. Many states would like to offer options for children with special needs. Unfortunately, the current IDEA structure does nothing to promote these alternatives. This new legislation encourages states to research and develop scholarship programs for children with special needs, providing parents the opportunity to choose the education they see as a best fit for their child.

The Improving Parental Choice bill would give states greater flexibility in providing for supplemental services. Students with special needs should have the flexibility to access the tutoring services of their choice. My bill would make it permissible for districts to use their federal IDEA reserved funds to provide greater opportunities for participation in outside supplemental education services. Children at a school designated for improvement under No Child Left Behind would have the opportunity to access the support services preferred by their family.

This legislation would also allow pre-school age children to continue education with successful and comfortable providers. Children under age three currently receive special needs service from the provider of their choice. This legislation would expand the options of parents and decrease transition problems for the youngest children with disabilities by allowing states to expand programs that currently serve children ages 0-2. It would allow children to continue participation in their preferred program (including private providers) until age five when the child begins school.

Children with special needs have different needs. They deserve education services that are customized for their personal needs. This legislation will provide parents with more resources and more opportunities for their children with disabilities.

IMPROVING PARENTAL CHOICE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2003

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today, I join my colleague from South Carolina in offering this important legislation to improve and increase the options available to parents of students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The IDEA reauthorization is a top priority for my Committee this year. We want to build on the success of the No Child Left Behind Act and align IDEA with NCLB.

One of our key principles for reauthorization is the encouragement of innovative approaches to parental involvement and parental choice. IDEA already contains choice, for the educated and the wealthy. There is no reason to deny millions of parents those same opportunities. We should empower all parents to expand their participation and increase knowledge of their rights and responsibilities under the law.

This bill would accomplish three goals:

Encourage states to develop innovative, flexible choice programs for children with disabilities and permitting states that have such programs to allow federal funds to follow the child based on the parents' choice. According to a report by Education Week, Florida's pioneering program, launched two years ago under Governor Jeb Bush and Lieutenant Governor Frank Brogan, resulted in state education officials receiving more than 14,000 inquiries from parents interested in exploring scholarships as a means of securing the best education possible for their children. Federal law should not discourage other states from emulating the Florida model or from engaging in other innovative efforts to improve choices for the parents of children with special needs.

Permit districts to use their funds under this Act to provide necessary accommodations (including reasonable, additional expenses) to allow children with disabilities being educated in schools designated for improvement under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to participate in supplemental educational services. NCLB, enacted in 2002 with overwhelming bipartisan support, guarantees parents with children in underachieving federally-funded schools—including children with disabilities—the right to obtain tutoring and other supplemental educational services for their children from providers reimbursed with their children's share of federal education funds. Eligible providers include private and faith-based providers of educational services. NCLB established an important historical precedent for the portability of federal Title I education funds, in which the money follows the child. The same principle should be applied to federal special education funds when children with special needs are otherwise being denied the opportunity for a quality education.

Expand the options of parents and decrease transition problems for the youngest children with disabilities by allowing states to expand current Part C (currently ages 0-2) programs to children that would otherwise be participating in Section 619 (ages 3-5). Parents can choose for their preschooler to remain in the Part C program with their current providers (including private providers) without interruption or transition from traditional Part C at age 3.

School choice, particularly for children with disabilities, provides a constructive way to continue to improve public education by insisting on excellence for every child. I strongly believe that parents are in the best position to determine where their child should be educated. We should allow all parents the right and the responsibility to have that choice.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure to give parents and children with disabilities the choice they deserve.

CONGRATULATING MR. JOHN LARSEN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate FBI Agent John Larsen on being named the U.S. Marshals Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. His dedication and desire to work for the cause of

justice is a model for all law enforcement officers.

Agent Larsen was a key figure in the prosecution of Robert Burke. Burke was convicted of supplying the handcuff key to Jeffery Erickson, who ultimately used it to escape confinement and murder Deputy U.S. Marshal Roy Frakes and Court Security Officer Harry Belloumini in 1992.

For the past ten years, Agent Larsen has worked tirelessly to uncover evidence for this case that may never have been found otherwise. Agent Larsen first located Mr. Burke in Ireland, and then helped facilitate his extradition back to the United States on charges of perjury. He then oversaw over 180 witness interviews, most of which were with inmates, being asked to recall conversations that had taken place over a decade ago. Having nothing to offer some of these witnesses for their testimony, Agent Larsen had to implore upon their sense of decency to bring some closure to the family and the United States Marshals Service.

Through perseverance, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to justice, Agent Larsen was a crucial factor in bringing an emotional case to a close.

Mr. Speaker, John Larsen's record of service and the fruits of his labor speak for themselves. Earning the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award from the U.S. Marshals is a well-deserved token of the respect that is due him for his efforts. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his commitment to excellence and his desire to see justice carried out.

DIVINITY, DIVERSITY, DIGNITY
BOUND TOGETHER

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the following article written by Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach. Rabbi Zoberman's editorial appeared in the Suffolk News-Herald on March 18th.

DIVINITY, DIVERSITY, DIGNITY BOUND
TOGETHER

This is a time of decision beclouded by political partisanship and posturing at home and in the United Nations. Going to war for a democracy is not an easy undertaking as it would be for a dictatorship. The value of human life weighs heavily upon decision-makers in a nation such as ours whose guiding concern is the individual's welfare. That is contrary to a totalitarian regime where the individual is not an end in itself but a means to goals serving the interests of an autocratic ruler. There is thus a vast difference between the conduct of George W. Bush and that of Saddam Hussein, both representing diametrically opposing systems of government.

America is on the verge of confronting Iraq primarily for the sake of eliminating a growing danger to the world by a leader who proved that he would not hesitate to use mass destruction weapons even against his own people. Hussein has not given up his dream of gaining hegemony over a region rich in oil to be used for his own megaloma-

niac purposes as he seeks to establish a nuclear option. He has only become emboldened to get his way by his past defeat in the 1991 Gulf War and consequent limitations posed on Iraq by the United Nations. A wounded and humiliated lion is more dangerous than an uninjured one. History taught us that dictators do not willingly relinquish power.

No doubt, the evil of 9/11 created a greater urgency to respond to forces undermining the world's stability, propelled by the global terrorism of uncompromising militant Islam assailing the West and its values. It begrudges our superior standing and their own longstanding inadequacies. Its aim is tragically not dialogue but a deadly duel they are bound to lose. Al-Qaida, now on the run following their defeat in Afghanistan, was too successful for its own good. It will be relentlessly pursued. Imagine if Osama Bin Ladin invested his large finances in promoting cultural exchange between civilizations! Hussein contributes to terrorism in a variety of ways, including generous monetary rewards to Palestinian families of suicide-homicide bombers who have terrorized Israel, the West's frontier, for over two years, wrecking havoc that no nation would have tolerated so long. The last terrifying terror act in Haifa was in the neighborhood where I grew up and it was Bus #37 and the stop, which I used only a month ago. My sister, a "Real" school counselor, lost two young teenage students among the fifteen dead.

Another hopeful democracy in the making in the Middle East, the first Arab one, alongside Israel's inspiring example, would bode well for an essential transformation of a critical part of the world once blessing humanity with the vision of the sacredness of each human life and now breeding those who violate it in God's name. America standing up for itself would have a sobering effect on those who believe that it has grown too weak to be the world's leader. That is a dangerous scenario we cannot afford.

Power to defend what we rightfully cherish, touching upon our very security and basic way of life, is not to be snickered at. As son of Polish Holocaust survivors I know what the absence of power meant to the Jewish people in our darkest period. Let us take pride in our hard-earned power and in Hampton Roads' leading role in our nation's military mission for freedom's sake, pledging to support all our heroic servicemen and women as well as their families awaiting their safe return. Eleven members of my own over 300 family unit synagogue are in the Persian Gulf arena. At this trying juncture for humanity, America is called upon once more to assert that divinity, diversity and dignity are bound together.

Mr. Speaker, I comment Rabbi Zoberman for his timely and thoughtful statement. As we appear on the verge of war with Iraq, Rabbi Zoberman's words serve as a strong reminder of the differences between the United States and the evil Iraqi regime.

DEFENDING AMERICA'S
HOMELAND

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in the early hours of the morning, our men and women in uniform began a campaign to defend America's homeland and lib-

erate a population that has been under the brutal dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. While thousands of miles away, this nation stands behind these heroes and prays for their safety as they risk their lives in order to protect our freedom and security.

As the great battles of the past have clearly indicated, America's armed forces are the world's strongest, most advanced and will always succeed. While America may be in the early days of this conflict, it is certain that our brave soldiers, sailors and airmen will ultimately prevail and decades of oppression will be lifted from the Iraqi people.

The days ahead represent a struggle to prevent Saddam Hussein's terror from reaching our borders in the future. While the work our soldiers are doing now is in an arena far away, it is a direct accomplishment for the security and safety of America's homeland.

The young men and women in uniform are nothing short of heroic and their country stands proud of the missions they are leading abroad—both military and humanitarian. I would also like to commend their families for the sacrifices they have made for America. These days may be difficult, but the results of their work will forever be remembered and America will prevail.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our nation, along with a coalition of more than thirty supporting nations, entered into military conflict with the nation of Iraq. I want to express my deepest appreciation for the commitment and resolve of our American men and women in service and their families. I join today with all of my colleagues in offering the unyielding support for all of our troops in the United States Armed Forces and their families.

Joining the thousands of troops from around the world in Iraq are many brave and courageous reservists and enlistees from the Central Valley. I join today with all those who have family members and friends in the region as we hope and pray for their safe and speedy return.

There is no question that Saddam Hussein is destabilizing the region, that he is willing to use deadly force against his own people, and that he is a threat to U.S. security. Yet, regardless of how each of us feels today about entering into this conflict, we must stand resolute behind our Commander in Chief and behind our men and women in uniform. Our hearts and thoughts are with those who will be putting their lives on the line for the sake of freedom in the days ahead.

TUNISIA 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF
INDEPENDENCE

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great ally of the United States.

Today, March 20th, marks the 47th year of Tunisia's independence. In 1797, the United States signed a Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the North African country of Tunisia. Over 150 years later, Tunisia peacefully gained independence from France. Today, we congratulate Tunisia as she celebrates 47 years as an independent nation.

The Republic of Tunisia has remained a steadfast friend to the United States, joining Allied forces during World War II and continuing support throughout the Cold War. Today, as we continue in our efforts against terrorism, Tunisia remains by our side as a Muslim nation and a loyal ally. Tunisia's ongoing efforts to work with the United States in the campaign to eradicate terrorism has been absolutely critical.

Tunisia's flourishing economy offers great hope for African and Middle Eastern countries, while she also continues to play an increasingly important role in the politics of the international community. One of Tunisia's most valuable assets has been its continued willingness to support a Middle East peace process. Despite being surrounded by nations engulfed in political turmoil, Tunisia continues to take an active role in combating international unrest.

I congratulate Tunisia on 47 years of independence and look forward to the United States' continuing strong relations with Tunisia for years to come. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 47th Anniversary of Tunisia's independence.

COMBATTING TERROR AND EVIL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, last night, the United States continued its march against those who threaten the security of the United States. As the United States leads a coalition of nations willing to combat terror and evil, I offer my prayers to our heroic men and women who have been called on to defend our freedom. These brave soldiers are the latest of a long and proud history of courageous Americans dedicated to protecting the citizens of the United States.

For 12 long years, Iraq has failed to disarm and live up to the agreements it promised to uphold. By choosing not to disarm or to surrender power peacefully, Saddam Hussein has left us with no other option but to disarm him by force.

This is a critical moment in American history. We could either choose the path of appeasement or choose the path of forceful disarmament. History has shown that appeasement has never prevented war; it only postponed war. America must not wait for Saddam Hussein to build an arsenal strong enough and deadly enough to blackmail the Free World. The time for action is now. May God Bless America.

ARMED FORCES TAX FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support of H.R. 1307, the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act of 2003. It is only appropriate during this time of conflict that we take every opportunity to recognize and support the brave men and women of our armed forces. The original version of this legislation provided a number of significant tax benefits for our armed forces, National Guard and Reserves, and I am pleased and relieved to see that the bill has been restored to its original form and intent.

As a veteran of the United States Army, I know firsthand the contributions our military service personnel make in defense of our nation and the tremendous burden their families are forced to bear. Here in the U.S. House, I serve on the Army Caucus, and I have worked on a bipartisan basis to support our men and women in uniform. Furthermore, North Carolina's Second Congressional District includes Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, home to many soldiers now on the ground in Southwest Asia. Our service personnel are dedicated, professional and devoted to duty. Congress must stand up for these brave men and women who risk their lives to defend our country, our ideals and our interests around the world.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1307 includes a number of provisions to reduce taxes for the members of the armed services. It provides capital gains tax relief to soldiers who invest in a home for themselves and their families but have to move due to reassignment or deployment before they satisfy the five-year qualifying period.

The bill also provides National Guard and reserve members an "above-the-line" tax deduction for overnight expenses when they travel more than 100 miles from home to attend National Guard and Reserve meetings, as well as filing extensions and penalty-free withdrawals from education accounts for students attending one of our service academies.

Mr. Speaker, prompt passage of this legislation is a small gesture of support to active duty personnel as well as members of the Reserves and National Guard. In these uncertain times, we must remember that many of our soldiers put their civilian lives on hold in service to our country. More than 50,000 Reservists are supplementing active duty forces for our war against terrorism, and another 120,000 have been mobilized for our conflict with Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I urge quick passage of H.R. 1307 in the House and Senate, and I hope the President will promptly sign it into law as a gesture of support and respect for our armed forces. The brave men and women of America's armed forces need to know that Congress stands behind them, and passing this legislation will demonstrate that Congress will put national interests ahead of special interests.

PATRIOTISM OF THE TOWN OF CORNWALL

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report to the House the strong sense of patriotism sweeping through a small town in the heart of New York's 19th Congressional District. The Cornwall Town Board has passed a resolution in support of all of our troops that are deployed overseas to protect our freedom and liberties.

The Resolution states that the Board supports of those brave men and women of Cornwall currently "serving in the armed forces and of our great country and their families and support the armed services for the great sacrifices they must make in the service of our country in the name of freedom."

I commend the Cornwall Town Board for their patriotic actions and ask that the entire text of the Resolution be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CORNWALL IN SUPPORT OF OUR TOWN RESIDENTS WHO ARE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN THE ARMED FORCES, IN SUPPORT OF OUR ARMED FORCES IN GENERAL AND FOR WORLD PEACE

Whereas, heretofore the Town Board of the Town of Cornwall recognizes the great freedoms and liberties that this great nation of our's provides, and

Whereas, the Town Board recognizes that to insure that these great freedoms and liberties exist it is necessary to provide for a national defense, and

Whereas, the Town Board recognizes that the United States Armed Forces protect and defend our country from all enemies foreign and domestic and thereby serve with great dedication, personal risk and sacrifice in the risking of their lives and sacrificing the comfort of being with their loved ones when serving on distant shores, and

Whereas, the Town Board supports our own brave men and women and all members of the armed forces currently serving and preparing to defend our liberties and freedoms and protect us from our enemies and also supports their families in these times of heightened security alert, and

Whereas, the Town Board recognizes that world peace and security is paramount and we support and pray that all diplomatic efforts to secure world peace and security will succeed, now, therefore, be it

Resolved as follows:

1. That the Town Board of the Town of Cornwall supports our residents who are serving in the armed forces of our great country and their families and support the armed services for the great sacrifices they must make in the service of our country in the name of freedom and democracy.

2. That the Town Board of the Town of Cornwall call upon our leaders and other world leaders to bring about world peace as quickly and with firm resolve as possible by whatever means necessary.

3. That the Town Clerk forward a copy of this resolution signed by all members voting herein to our congressional representative SUE W. KELLY and ask that it be read into the Congressional Record at her earliest convenience.

COMMENDING CLEAR LAKE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Clear Lake Elementary School for being named a Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School. This award is given to those elementary schools that exemplify educational excellence. It is designed to identify and give public recognition to outstanding schools that achieve high academic standards, to make available a comprehensive framework of key criteria for school effectiveness, and to communicate best practices for educational success among Michigan schools.

Through hard work and dedication, Clear Lake Elementary has met the criteria for this award. It is committed to instilling, "Competence, Confidence, and Character" in all students. Through partnerships with parents, encouragement of critical thinking and cooperation, and character education, the staff at Clear Lake Elementary provides these excellent educational principles.

Mr. Speaker, Clear Lake Elementary is to be recognized for earning the Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Award. They are an example of the tremendous potential elementary schools have to make a difference in the lives of their students. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the teachers and administration at Clear Lake Elementary for their commitment to excellence and their desire to provide students with a high-quality education. I would also like to ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them good fortune in the future.

CELEBRATING TUNISIA'S 47TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Republic of Tunisia and its people on the 47th Anniversary of their National Day of Independence. Over the last 47 years, Tunisia has been an outstanding model for developing countries. It has risen from a fledgling democracy to a nation that is at the forefront of instituting an aggressive North African free market economy.

The United States and Tunisia have maintained a strong relationship throughout Tunisia's history. During the Cold War, Tunisia was a crucial partner in the Mediterranean region. In our struggle against terrorism, dating back to the early 1990s, Tunisia has been a steadfast ally. As early as 1993, Tunisia condemned forms of Islamic extremism and terrorism. In 1994, Tunisia warned the West of terrorism's evils and spoke of the need to fight terrorism on a global level.

The relationship between our countries has only been strengthened over the past two years, as we both act to confront the scourge of terrorism. Tunisia's unwavering opposition to terrorism is no more evident than in its re-

sponse to the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Immediately following the attacks, Tunisia's President, Zine El Abidine Bel Ali, offered his country's heartfelt condolences to the American people and strongly condemned the attacks and those behind them. President Ben Ali also offered his country's steadfast support for our efforts to bring those responsible to justice. Tunisia's steadfast cooperation and support continues today.

As a friend of Tunisia, I again congratulate the Tunisian people on 47 years of independence and would like to share with my colleagues the insightful words of President Ben Ali, describing the reasons for Tunisia's success in building a democratic society:

"Tolerance is at the heart of our social traditions as well as a characteristic of Tunisia's history. Pluralism, whether religious, cultural, or political, is ingrained in our society. Tunisian Moslems and Jews have lived together under the same sky and same state for many centuries. Each contributed to the building of [Tunisia], whose greatness is based on the tolerance of its people—a tolerance which has been among the highest values governing relations between the two parties, as there was no room for hatred."

CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARY
OF TUNISIA'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the celebration of Tunisian Independence Day, a historical occasion that occurred forty-seven years ago today when the people of Tunisia officially declared independence.

Since that time, the people of Tunisia have begun building the foundation for a great democracy, a process that continues to move forward. The almost ten million citizens of Tunisia now live in a country that shares many of the democratic values that make our own nation great, including civil rights, a more open political process and a thriving culture that highlights the history of the Tunisian people.

The quality of life for the Tunisian people has been greatly improved in recent decades, largely due to trade agreements and economic development in the nation's urban areas and elsewhere. There are great economic strides still to be made, but much progress has been made in a relatively short period of time, and that progress will continue.

Tunisia has been an important friend of the United States throughout history, including serving as an important ally in the ongoing war on terrorism. Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that our relationship will continue to strengthen as Tunisia continues building onto its democratic foundation.

HONORING EMMITT SMITH

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the living legend of Emmitt Smith, the

NFL's all-time leading rusher. I was among the legions of Dallas Cowboys fans who were saddened to see Emmitt leave the Cowboys after thirteen seasons with America's Team. I would like to take this opportunity to honor this future Hall-of-Famer for both his professional success and for his tireless community service efforts. Emmitt served as the Cowboy's representative to the United Way from 1994–1995 and is the founder of Emmitt Smith Charities, providing educational scholarships to his hometown of Pensacola, Florida.

While Emmitt is only 5'10" tall, his giving heart is the size of Texas. I was only too happy to be able to watch Emmitt rush for his NFL record of 17,162 yards. When Emmitt was drafted by the Cowboys in the first round of the 1990 NFL Draft, he had left the University of Florida as a junior without his college degree. Today, many pro athletes leave college early without a degree, or don't even go to college and leave high school straight for professional sports. To his credit, Emmitt went back to the University of Florida and received his Bachelor's degree in 1996.

I will miss not being able to see #22 suit up for the silver and blue. However, I wish Emmitt Smith all the best, and sincerely thank him for all that he has done on the field, and off the field for the greater Dallas community.

IN MEMORY OF CECILIA ELEANOR
HADLEY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of Cecilia Eleanor Hadley, a warmhearted and generous woman who dedicated her life to others.

I have known Cecilia Hadley since I was a boy and her husband, Al "Skipper" Hadley, served as my Sea Scout, BSA, Scoutmaster. Cecilia died last month at age 96. Skipper died in 2000, also at age 96.

Cecilia Hadley was born in Milwaukee and moved to California as a child. She graduated from the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music and Arts and, after 6 years of courtship, married Al Hadley in 1935.

Cecilia Hadley remained active long after retirement. She volunteered as a third-grade teacher's aide for nearly a decade, tutored students in reading and math after school, and taught countless children to play the piano.

She belonged to many women's clubs and was a member of St. Peter's Catholic Community for more than 20 years. She volunteered for the Fallbrook Hospital Auxiliary, working in the gift shop and hand-crocheting baby blankets for newborns. She also made baby blankets for Birth Choice, a crisis pregnancy center she actively supported.

Mr. Speaker, Cecilia Hadley is survived her sons, Pete and David; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. I know my colleagues will join me in sending condolences to Cecilia's family, and in thanking her for making her community and our country a better place through her passion and compassion.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT M. MORGENTHAU, MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND CHAIRMAN, MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE—A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, it is my very great personal pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to Robert M. Morgenthau, New York County's District Attorney and Chairman of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Mr. Morgenthau is being honored at the Museum's Heritage Dinner, and I would like to honor him myself, today.

Mr. Morgenthau, as an elected official, an advocate, and a selfless leader, epitomizes the very best of public service. He served his country as a naval reservist and then as a distinguished naval officer during World War II, achieving the rank of Lt. Commander. He was asked to serve the Nation once again as a U.S. Attorney, appointed by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. We are most fortunate that his pursuit of justice brought him to watch over our great borough of Manhattan, where he has been the District Attorney of New York County since 1974 and has won re-election eight times.

His wisdom, his energy, and his leadership have made New York a better city. His tireless devotion to the law resulted in his establishing units that oversee the prosecution of crimes against society's most vulnerable victims, and he has pursued major cases that affect the economic and social viability of New York City.

Since 1982, Mr. Morgenthau has lent his talent and vision to the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. With the memory of those who were murdered in the Holocaust always in his thoughts, he has seen the Museum through two construction projects and helped raise millions of dollars to ensure its future. Because of Mr. Morgenthau's leadership, the Museum, which is located five blocks south of the World Trade Center site, began building its new wing on November 27, 2001, mere months after the worst terrorist attacks this nation has ever witnessed. Located across New York Harbor from the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, the new wing will incorporate centers for memory, learning, performance, and exhibitions. It will also incorporate the strength and humanity of a man who has steered the Museum through both rough seas and calm waters. Mr. Morgenthau's tireless determination, infinite supply of good counsel, and unconditional devotion are as fundamental to the Museum's existence as the foundation on which it stands. The new wing, which is just about complete, will be named for Robert M. Morgenthau on April 6, 2003.

It gives me great pleasure to honor Robert M. Morgenthau, on behalf of the people of New York City. I thank him for ensuring justice for all.

IMPRISONMENT OF DR. NGUYEN DAN QUE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the arrest of Dr. Nguyen Dan Que by the Vietnamese Communist government on March 17th, 2003. I am outraged to hear that these Communist officials detained Dr. Que at a local security station in Saigon, while they had their secret police break into his house to seize his cellular phones, laptop computer, and collection of written essays.

As you may know, Dr. Que is the most vocal and ardent advocate in Viet Nam for freedom, democracy and human rights for almost the past 30 years. When Saigon fell into Communist hands in 1975, Dr. Que refused to leave Viet Nam, and later turned down a government offer to resettle in the United States. Dr. Que could have continued a successful medical practice in America, but he consciously chose to remain in Viet Nam to speak out and defend the human dignity and rights of all Vietnamese people.

Because of his unrelenting efforts in the pursuit for freedom and human rights for Viet Nam, the Vietnamese government imprisoned Dr. Que in 1978. He remained in detention, often under inhumane conditions, for 10 years, pending formal charges and a trial. During this time, he was tortured, beaten, and placed into solitary confinement where his hands and feet were chained together. Due to the continuous intervention of the Congressional Dialogue on Viet Nam and international human rights groups, Dr. Que was finally released in 1988 after 10 years in prison.

On May 11, 1990, Dr. Que founded the Non-Violent Movement for Human Rights. He issued a manifesto appealing to all individuals and organizations inside Viet Nam and throughout the world for support of his moderate, non-violent struggle to establish human rights for all Vietnamese people. He demanded that the Vietnamese government invest in the welfare of its people, and reduce the size of its military. His manifesto also stipulated that the Communist government of Viet Nam cease its aggressive actions towards neighboring countries, and to bring about lasting peace for the region in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Que was arrested again in June 1990, and forcibly returned to prison without trial. His family received information that he was tortured and had received emergency medical care several times due to these beatings. Finally Dr. Que was released from prison in September 1998, but remained under house arrest with constant government surveillance and restrictions on any use of communication, such as phone calls and letters.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Que's arrest by the Vietnamese government comes at a time when the world is preoccupied with the impending conflict in Iraq. I believe they made this decision on the basis that we, the international community, would not likely express strong condemnation towards their actions—but they

are wrong. I urge my colleagues to join me now to collectively voice our strong opposition to the arrest of Dr. Que by the Vietnamese Communist government and demand his release immediately.

ELKS CLUBS CREATE ARMY OF HOPE TO HELP MILITARY FAMILIES

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, in a shining example of how Americans pull together in times of crisis, the Elks USA has pledged its support of the families of Reservists and National Guard Members who have been called to active duty. The Army of Hope, comprised of volunteers coordinated by the Elks, will assist families with all sorts of needs to ease their stress and financial burdens.

This could not be a more welcome and needed gesture of support and I am pleased to place the attached letter from the Elks to the President, of which I received a copy, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. We should all applaud them for their patriotism. This is a trying time for our military families. Supporting them is one of the most patriotic things we as Americans can do.

ELKS USA,

Richland, WA, February 21, 2003.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,

President of the United States of America, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: The families who have a father or mother in the military reserves or National Guard called to active duty during our War on Terrorism and the current Iraq crisis will experience severe economic burdens as well as emotional stress. As National President of the one million men and women who comprise the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, I am writing to express our organization's support of these families.

Mr. President, the Elks have mobilized the volunteers as an Army of Hope. We are teachers, lawyers, accountants and health workers. We are carpenters, electricians, mechanics, plumbers and tradesmen of every type. We are the hearts and hands of our communities. We will help with the kids, make minor home repairs and provide other assistance to these families of our service men and women as they attempt to keep hearth and home together during these trying times.

I cannot begin to stress to you our Order's willingness and preparedness to lend any further assistance as directed. We are committed to do everything you request of us and for these valiant people and their families. Mr. President, please know the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks is here for our nation.

Pledging you the full support of the men and women of the Elks, I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

ROGER R. TRUE,

Grand Exalted Ruler

(National President).

SENSE OF HOUSE THAT NEWDOW V. UNITED STATES CONGRESS IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE SUPREME COURT'S INTERPRETATION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND SHOULD BE OVERTURNED

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal's decision in *Newdow v. the United States Congress* is inconsistent with the Supreme Court's interpretation of the First Amendment and should be overturned.

The Court ruled on a case in which children were required to recite the pledge. Just as we should not bar anyone from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, we should not force anyone to recite words they do not believe.

As I have stated before, I believe the Ninth Circuit was right in ruling that the reference to "God" in the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional. It is a religious term that does not respect the diversity of faiths and opinion in America and the separation of Church and State as our Constitution requires.

This House has now been given three separate opportunities to vote on almost identical resolutions denouncing the Ninth Circuit for its rulings on this issue. Right or wrong, Congress has made its voice heard. But, it appears that many of my colleagues are not content to let the judicial branch do its job. They want to intervene, exerting as much political pressure as necessary to sway the Supreme Court to side with their far-right Christian ideology.

These same colleagues seem to forget that religious liberty, religious tolerance and freedom of thought and expression were foremost principles in the minds of the Constitution's framers. This resolution before us today states that "religious belief was central to our nation's founding"—completely ignoring these other integral ideals. As written, the resolution flatly mischaracterizes the very foundation of our democracy.

I urge my colleagues to end this effort to derail the Supreme Court's impartial deliberation on this issue. I urge my colleagues to vote no on the resolution.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID AND CHERYL VIENNA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David and Cheryl Vienna as they prepare to begin their well-deserved retirements. For more than two decades, they have served dozens of clients before the Federal and State governments and, in doing so, have maintained standards of excellence that we would do well to recognize.

In 1978, David founded a Federal Government affairs company called David Vienna and

Associates, and Cheryl joined him a year later. Together, they have made what is now known as Vienna, Gregor and Associates into one of the premier small firms in the Washington area. Among other clients, they represent several from my own State—the California State Senate, the California Franchise Tax Board, and the California Public Employees' Retirement System, the largest pension fund in the United States. My staff and I have worked with the firm many times and we know firsthand the level of knowledge, skill and integrity they bring to every task.

While operating one business successfully is enough of a challenge, David and Cheryl opened a second in 1981. Public Affairs Support Services has, for more than 20 years, filed federal and state campaign finance reports for the political action committees of some of the largest businesses and associations in the country. In this venture, as in their government affairs work, they have demonstrated the expertise and attention to detail that is the hallmark of every successful business owner.

Both David and Cheryl had extensive experience in this very building before starting their companies. David was on the staffs of two Senate subcommittees and worked closely with Senators Abe Ribicoff and Scoop Jackson, while Cheryl was director of legislation for senator Sam Nunn. In their public service, they showed the outstanding character and ability that foreshadowed their future success in the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating David and Cheryl Vienna on their distinguished careers and wishing them continued success in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. DONALD BANGASSER, PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to commend the incoming president of the California Medical Association, Dr. Ronald Bangasser. For nearly two decades, I have known Dr. Bangasser as a friend and a community leader in San Bernardino County, California, and I believe he will be a strong asset at the head of the nation's largest state medical association.

Dr. Bangasser has been a prominent member of the San Bernardino County medical community since 1977, when he began in private practice. By 1982, he had established a reputation as an expert at treating complicated wounds as director of the Wound Care Center at Redlands Community Hospital. He became Chief of Staff at the hospital in 1990 and is now Medical Director for the Beaver Medical Group in Redlands.

Known for his interest in teaching, Dr. Bangasser is a member of the American Board of Family Practice, American College of Hyperbaric Medicine, American College of Physician Executives, and is a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and

an associate Professor at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

The legions of patients devoted to Dr. Bangasser include many in the retirement communities of Yucaipa, California, and a generation of young athletes at San Bernardino Valley College, where he has given 12,000 sport physicals in 22 years as team physician for the football team. Since 1986, he has served as team physician for the local minor league baseball team, currently known as the Inland Empire 66ers.

Dr. Bangasser is well known for his leadership role in the medical community and on public policy both in California and on the national level. He has served on nine medical association reference committees, and has been a San Bernardino County Medical Society board member for 25 years. He has served in a series of top positions on the California Medical Association, and is a delegate to the American Medical Association. He is a member of the AMA Council on Medical Services, and was recently appointed to the AMA's Quality Committee for NCQA. He was named Outstanding Physician by the San Bernardino County group in 1995, and was presented with the San Bernardino Valley College Distinguished Service Award in 1999.

In the community, Dr. Bangasser spearheaded a collaborative effort between the San Bernardino and Riverside County medical associations and the San Bernardino Bar Association on domestic violence awareness. He annually sponsors and pays for travel costs of two students to AMA events, and helped cover the costs of a group of teens to attend an AMA conference on teen pregnancy. He has served on the boards of the local United Way, the YMCA, the Redlands Community Hospital Foundation and the "Just for You Volunteers" seniors group in Yucaipa.

Dr. Bangasser is not unknown to us in Washington, where he has traveled to testify in support of medical programs, and last year he was honored by President Bush in a White House discussion on senior citizen health. He has already gained a reputation as a strong advocate of health care in his role as president-elect of the 35,000-member CMA.

Along with his other accomplishments, Dr. Bangasser trained as a former Navy Diving Medical Officer, and has taught many colleagues, friends, and patients the joys of this underwater adventure. I can thank him and his wife Susan for helping me rediscover my love for this sport, and helping me to train and qualify as a SCUBA diver.

Mr. Speaker, the job of president of the California Medical Association comes with heavy responsibility, but I am certain Dr. Ronald Bangasser will perform wonderfully in the role. I ask you and my colleagues to congratulate him on his election as president, and wish him success in his future endeavors.

HONORING BENJAMIN BRISCOE, FORMER LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and celebration of the Honorable Benjamin Briscoe, former Lord Mayor of Dublin

and former prominent member of the Dail. We extend a warm welcome to you and to your wife Carol and we hope that your St. Patrick's Day journey from County Kildare to Cleveland, Ohio, proves to be a joyous and enriching experience.

For the past twenty-four years, Tim Collins and Thomas Scanlon have organized the St. Patrick's Day Party. This joyous event brings people together for an enchanted evening of renewing old friendships and discovering new ones, and serves to build a living bridge that extends from the North Coast to the Emerald Isle.

Like his father before him, Mr. Briscoe has dedicated his life to political service and social leadership and activism. Though retired from the political stage, Mr. Briscoe continues to dedicate his time promoting tourism and investment in Ireland. Moreover, Mr. Briscoe continues his significant work that focuses on helping others. He is a Founding Member and Council Member of the Bone Marrow for Leukemia Trust of Ireland; Founder of Friends of the Vocal Arts; and Council Member of the Association of Recreation Clubs for the Handicapped.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in tribute to the Honorable Benjamin Briscoe, former Lord Mayor of Dublin, for joining us in Cleveland as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Please also join me in recognition of Tim Collins and Thomas Scanlon for organizing this wondrous St. Patrick's Day Party each year for the past twenty-four years. "Ni dheanfaidh smaoinearmh an treabhadh duit—You'll never plough a field by turning it over in your mind"—Old Irish Proverb.

H. CON. RES. 103

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution supporting the members of the United States armed forces and our allies who are engaged in the war on terrorism and the war with Iraq.

More than 1.4 million men and women make up America's active and reserve forces and are responsible for our national defense. They distinguish themselves daily in selfless service to this Nation and it is a privilege to take a few minutes today to pay tribute to them.

This resolution also acknowledges the families of our armed forces. Their contribution to our Nation's freedom is appreciated and our thoughts and prayers are with them as well. It is a sacrifice to send your son or daughter or husband or wife, into harm's way.

Finally, this Resolution acknowledges the military forces of our allies. They share our commitment to democracy and global security and have joined us in our fight against terrorism, the threat of nuclear weapons, and crimes against humanity.

Regardless of our thoughts on U.S. policy, we are now united in our support to the men and women in harm's way. Each of us is now focused on the safety of deployed forces, the success of the mission, and the minimization of casualties.

I believe it is fitting that I end this statement by reading the final sentences in the Resolution I am introducing today.

It is the sense of Congress that every American service member be commended for serving with such distinction and professionalism.

It is the sense of Congress that every American family be commended for their special role in providing support for the members of our Armed Forces.

It is the sense of Congress that every allied service member be commended for serving with such distinction and professionalism.

It is the sense of Congress that all citizens of the United States pay homage to our armed forces, their families, and allied service members.

THE FAILURE OF CYPRUS TALKS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was very disheartened to learn about the failure last week of the United Nations sponsored peace talks regarding a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus. It is apparent that while the Greek-Cypriot people and their leaders are ready for a peaceful settlement to this longstanding problem, the Turkish-Cypriot leaders, and possibly the leaders of Turkey as well, are not committed to a peaceful settlement at this time.

The commitment of the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to resolving the Cyprus dispute is notable, especially considering the impending crisis in Iraq. Mr. Annan, in good faith, presented a plan to both sides that required concessions from each party. Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos, the newly elected President of the Republic of Cyprus, was prepared to submit the United Nations plan to the Greek-Cypriots as a referendum, even though he was required to make unpopular concessions in order to achieve what was believed to be a workable plan.

Mr. Rauf Denktash, the leader of the Turkish-Cypriots, on the other hand, refused to submit the United Nations plan to the Turkish-Cypriots as a referendum. This is yet another case of the Greek-Cypriots negotiating in good faith, whereby they continue to demonstrate their dedication and commitment to a peaceful resolution to the division of Cyprus, and Mr. Denktash is not willing to negotiate.

In the United States, I believe that we must continue our efforts to improve the dialogue for the reunification of Cyprus. I strongly urge Mr. Denktash, and other Turkish leaders, to view this recent breakdown of talks as a lost opportunity that cannot occur again. I also urge the Administration to pressure Mr. Denktash and other Turkish leaders to re-evaluate their opposition to a unified Cyprus, especially in light of Turkey's desire to become a member of the European Union.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Cyprus deserve to have their voices heard about the future of their country and their people, and I sincerely hope that this will happen in the near future.

WITHDRAWAL OF H.R. 1333

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to formally withdraw H.R. 1333, which I introduced on Tuesday, March 18, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I offered this legislation in an attempt to provide United States citizenship to the members of the Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona in both Arizona and Mexico. However, I withdraw H.R. 1333 and instead offer my full support for H.R. 731, the Tohono O'odham Citizenship Act of 2003, of which I am an original cosponsor.

In addition to this statement of withdrawal, I have filed a formal request with both the chairman and ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over H.R. 1333, to not take up this legislation in any hearings or markups during the course of the 108th Congress.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to further legislative proceedings on H.R. 731.

HONORING JOHN T. CORRIGAN

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give honor to a great American, John T. Corrigan, who served 34 years as the Cuyahoga County prosecutor in the great State of Ohio. On yesterday, Mr. Corrigan died at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky. He was 79.

He was my predecessor in the Prosecutor's Office. John T. Corrigan gave me the opportunity to serve as his assistant. As his assistant, I had the opportunity to work with his son, Judge Michael J. Corrigan. His support laid the foundation for my future elected public service.

John T. Corrigan was 33 and a state senator when he was elected in 1956 to head a county legal staff that was larger than most law firms. The County Prosecutor prosecutes criminal cases and serves as county counsel for all county officials and county agencies.

John T. Corrigan was the son of Cleveland policeman John J. Corrigan and his wife, Ann, both of whom were from Achill Island, Ireland. John T. Corrigan took pride in being an Irish-American. He was also a football player at St. Ignatius High School, where he graduated in 1941.

He entered John Carroll University, but his college days were interrupted by a 39-month stint as an Army infantryman in Europe and the Pacific during World War II. In 1951, he graduated from Western Reserve University School of Law and joined the Carney & Carney law firm.

John T. Corrigan is survived by his wife, Virginia H.; son, Michael of Westlake; daughters, Margaret Gaughen in Cohasset, Mass., Marlene Sanford and Martha Costello, both of Olmsted Falls, and Dr. Mary V. of Avon Lake; and 11 grandchildren.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of the 11th Congressional District, I extend my sympathies to all of the family and friends of John T. Corrigan.

47TH ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLIC
OF TUNISIA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Republic of Tunisia's 47th Anniversary on March 20, 2003. I invite my colleagues to join in extending our congratulations to the leaders and people of this important ally.

While Tunisia is celebrating 47 years of independence, our relationship with this country has roots much older. As early as 1797, The United States first signed a treaty of

peace and friendship with Tunisia. This first step was a portentous omen for the future.

Throughout Tunisia's brief history they have been a staunch ally to the United States and democracy at large. Whether it be their willingness to support the United States in World War II by suspending their own struggle with the French to lend aid to the allied cause, or their unwavering commitment to seeing terrorism vanquished through their membership in the U.S. led coalition against terror, it becomes evident that Tunisia's dedication to freedom and democracy is held in the highest regard by its people.

Not only is Tunisia a defender of democracy outside its borders, but within as well. Few are the nations that can boast of a more progressive attitude towards women's rights, enshrined in law, as early as 1956, The Code of Personal Status established a new organization of family based on equal rights through a series of provisions including the abolition of polygamy, and setting the minimum age of marriage at 17. In 1993, amendments were

adopted that went still further, guaranteeing alimony for divorced women and their children. Mothers were also given the explicit right to partake in the management of their children's affairs whether married or not.

Tunisia is also a country that values its heritage and culture. It is a proponent of the arts and its distinct, diverse culture. The government of this culturally rich country has passed laws that allow texts and musical instruments bound for cultural purposes to be imported tax free to stimulate interest and growth in this important sector of society. Tax breaks have also been levied towards investment in monuments from antiquity that might otherwise fall into ruin.

Tunisia is a country that has overcome many obstacles. From foreign powers to economic reform Tunisia has never shied from change while also preserving its unique and rich heritage. For this reason, and many others, I invite my colleagues to join in congratulating all Tunisians as they celebrate the 47th anniversary of their nation's independence.