

fishing, and recreational water use throughout the United States. My legislation will authorize funding for research to improve our response to this threat and to develop a deeper understanding of these problems.

Harmful algal blooms occur in both marine and freshwater environments, and are often referred to as red tides or brown tides. These dense mats of algae produce toxins dangerous to aquatic life and to humans, some of which are so potent that eating just one contaminated mussel could result in anything from mild nausea to paralysis, and even death in some cases.

Hypoxia occurs when an algal bloom dies and is decomposed by bacteria in the water. This process depletes oxygen to levels so low they cannot support aquatic life, which decreases fisheries production and can produce terrible odors that make the water undesirable for recreational use.

It is estimated that harmful algal blooms cost the U.S. \$50 million a year, while hypoxia causes severe conditions in many locations, including the Gulf of Mexico, where a "dead" zone the size of New Jersey develops each summer.

Harmful algal blooms and hypoxia are also causing problems closer to my home region, the Great Lakes, where these events are more frequently fouling the water. In the past 30 years, major advances were made to improve Great Lakes water quality, but recently scientists have observed an increase in both harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. The reasons for this are unclear, but may be related to invasive species changing the way nutrients are cycled in the lakes.

In 1998, Congress passed the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act. The Act created a Task Force to examine these problems and authorized \$19 million annually for research and monitoring activities related to harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. This March, the Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards, of which I serve as chairman, held a hearing on this subject and found that we need to expand our research efforts to include freshwater blooms, update our assessments of these threats every five years, and improve communication with local resource managers about these efforts. The legislation I am introducing today seeks to address these findings.

More specifically, the legislation expands the authorization of funding to \$30 million annually (over the next three years) for research and monitoring efforts on harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. It also requires the Task Force to develop research plans on previously overlooked aspects of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, such as: Great Lakes harmful algal blooms; and prevention, control and mitigation methods to reduce the impact of harmful algal blooms.

This legislation also provides a mechanism for regional and local assessments of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, because the causes of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia vary with regional water use, land use, and environment. Additionally, it increases the participation of local resource managers in this process, ensuring that our investment in research produces useful tools for the people dealing with the problems on a day-to-day basis.

The bill reauthorizes funding for programs that have been effective in improving our sci-

entific understanding of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, namely the Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (ECOHAB) program and the Monitoring and Event Response to Harmful Algal Blooms (MERHAB) program. It also requires scientific assessments of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia on a regular basis, providing a means to continuously target our resources in an effective manner.

In conclusion, my legislation provides a research framework for addressing the nationwide problem of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. It improves our ability to understand and predict harmful algal bloom events, adds the Great Lakes as an important area for harmful algal bloom and hypoxia research, and ensures the participation of local resource managers in developing research plans so that the research can be fully utilized by everyone concerned with these important issues. I have been working with my colleague from Ohio, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH, who is introducing companion legislation in the Senate today. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to pass this important bill.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOUNTAIN
CREST HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED
PLACEMENT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
AND LAW CLASS

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mountain Crest High School's Advanced Placement American Government and Law class, in Hyrum Utah, for their achievement in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition. The class won their state competition in February and is currently preparing to participate on the National level soon.

In order to compete, the students had to establish a base knowledge of the Constitution and the workings of our government. They then prepared speeches concerning different aspects of the Constitution, the amendments, and significant Supreme Court cases. The topics range from the founding ideals of the young nation, to the values and principles embodied in the Constitution, Civil Rights, and the evolution of our current republican democracy.

In addition to acknowledging the hard work and dedication of these students, I would also like to recognize the work of their teacher Margaret Obry. She is an exemplary teacher who is devoted to educating all of her students. Together they represent Utah well.

As I believe the Constitution is a divinely inspired document I feel it is important for all Americans to know and defend its principles. The "We the People" program is an excellent way to get students involved in the Constitution and compete with others from around the country. Again, congratulations to the students of Mountain Crest.

VOLUNTEER SPIRIT IN COLUMBIA,
TENNESSEE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the backbone of a strong community is the people. I am proud to say that the volunteer spirit is alive and well in Columbia, Tennessee.

It was back in 1919 when Post 19 of the American Legion was established in Columbia. The following year Legion Auxiliary Unit 19 was chartered. Since their establishment both organizations have provided the city of Columbia, in Maury County, and many of the local citizens with a true sense of pride. Unit 19 was recently honored at the National Convention for their outstanding work in providing care to veterans.

The priorities of both organizations are not just associated with assisting our veterans. They also have a long history of providing services that directly benefit many youths. In the summer they sponsor different athletic events which helps foster teamwork and sportsmanship all while giving them a sense of self worth. They send individuals to attend Boy's State and Girl's State, which teaches leadership skills. They also award scholarships to individuals using funds they raise through bake sales, breakfasts, yard sales and so on.

During the 50th Anniversary of World War II legionnaires and auxiliary members made up a committee, appointed by the County Executive, to help celebrate the anniversary. They helped bring the history of those who served abroad and in the states to those generations who weren't alive during that period in our history. They are now doing the same to highlight the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War.

Recently, when the National Guard was called up for active duty these two organizations made sure they let the troops know they supported them. On the weekend before the Guard departed they hosted a breakfast and a lunch, and on the day of departure the members were at the armory to give them a proper sendoff.

I am proud to be a witness to the actions of Post and Unit 19 in Columbia, Tennessee. They are selfless in their pursuit of making our communities stronger and improving the lives of others.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS RANDY REHN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today to honor a man tragically taken from us while in the service of his country. Sergeant First Class Randy Rehn, a graduate of Niwot High School in Colorado, was killed while serving in the conflict in Iraq. In the Army, Randy directed a crew that operated a Multiple Launch Rocket System. I am truly humbled to honor him before this body of Congress and this nation. The sacrifice of Randy and his fellow soldiers will be long remembered by our grateful Nation.

Randy was known as an athlete and a prankster. In high school, he was a football player and an all-state wrestler. He was a loving husband and the new father of a six-month-old girl. I know that Randy's daughter, family and friends take pride in the uniform he wore and the ideals for which he fought. Our Nation will long endure due to the strength and character of the men and women like Randy who serve our country.

Each generation must renew its commitment to defend our liberties. Today in Iraq, a new generation of young Americans is fighting bravely for the freedom of others. I know that those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and sacrifice will find it in dedicated servants like Sergeant First Class Randy Rehn.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express my deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice of this soldier and his family. Throughout our history, men and women in uniform have fought our battles with distinction and courage. At the dawn of this new century, the United States military has once again been called to defend our freedom against a new and emerging threat. Soldiers like Randy embody America's determination to lead the world in confronting that threat, and Sergeant Rehn's devotion to that cause will not be forgotten. Randy has done all Americans proud and I know he has the respect, admiration and gratitude of all of my colleagues here today.

REMEMBERING JOSEPH FRED
POWE

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine. Joseph Powe was a remarkable man. He was a fixture in our community and he will be missed by many. Joe passed on March 20, 2003. He leaves behind a wonderful wife, two daughters, five granddaughters and a host of friends and loved ones.

In many ways Joe was a pioneer. He was among the first African-American Certified Public Accountants. And, he was the only African-American ever to serve as Regional Audit Manager in the Department of Defense's Defense Contract Audit Agency. Joe served his country in the U.S. Air Force from 1954 through 1958. He also served on the Board of Directors of the United Defense Credit Union as well as several other positions. In 1982, he served the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) as the Regional Vice President, Western Region. I understand, as a tribute to his hard work and dedication to the CPA community, his certificate number will be retired. A terrific honor for this wonderful man.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Opalane, his daughters, Valarie and Alison, and the rest of his family. I hope they are comforted by the fond memories they have of him with a fishing pole in hand or the smile that always seemed to be on his face. He will be missed but for those who knew him, he will always remain with us.

TRIBUTE TO MILNER-RUSHING
DRUGS OF NORTHWEST ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a landmark in my Congressional District, Milner-Rushing Drugs. This pharmacy celebrated its 150th anniversary on April 25, 2003. This milestone anniversary is quite a testament to the successful practice of caring, professional, and personal service that this pharmacy has provided to residents of the Shoals for 150 years.

Milner Drugs was founded in downtown Florence, Alabama in 1833 by Joseph Milner. After numerous owners and a name change to Milner-Rushing Drugs, it was purchased by John M. Lawson in 1995. And since, it has grown from two employees at one location to more than 40 employees at 4 different locations in the Shoals area today.

From compounding special prescription needs to delivering prescriptions to shut-in patients at their homes, Milner-Rushing Drugs is not just a business, but a part of the Northwest Alabama community. This fine staff at Milner-Rushing Drugs includes a Registered Pharmacist, a Registered Respiratory Therapist, and a complete durable medical equipment staff certified by the Alabama Durable Medical Equipment Association. This exceptional staff and history of unique and personalized service keep customers coming back to Milner-Rushing Drugs, which has become a cornerstone of the Shoals area.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the pharmacy's 150th Anniversary, I rise to honor and commend this exceptional company and its staff. I send my best wishes for a happy 150th Anniversary to Milner-Rushing Drugs and for a long and successful future in the Shoals.

NO HURRY ON EXTENDING
PATRIOT ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, some of the most far-reaching provisions of the "USA PATRIOT" Act will expire at the end of 2005 unless Congress acts to extend them. That is nearly three years from now. But reports persist that some think the time has already come for an indefinite extension of those temporary provisions.

I disagree. I think the Denver Post got it just right in a recent editorial: "Not so fast."

For the information of our colleagues, here is the full text of that editorial:

KEEP PATRIOT ACT TEMPORARY

When Congress passed the Patriot Act in October 2001, it wisely included a "sunset" provision that would cause the sweeping legislation to expire on Dec. 31, 2005, unless lawmakers vote to extend it.

Now, Sen. ORRIN HATCH of Utah is leading Republicans in a push to make the legislation permanent.

Not so fast.

The legislation, passed in the emotional aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist at-

tacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, gives the government unprecedented (civil libertarians would say excessive) powers to snoop on Americans, including eavesdropping on communications, surveillance, access to financial and computer records, and other constitutionally deleterious practices.

The U.S. Department of Justice claims the Patriot Act has given the FBI the ability to respond more quickly to stop terrorists before they can act, and given the still-potent threat posed by al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations bent on doing harm to the United States, that might be a good thing. According to The New York Times, though, Justice wants the expiration date on the Patriot Act excised. And that may not be a good thing, especially considering that the Patriot Act was passed only because Democrats and moderate Republicans insisted on a sunset date.

From our perspective, the Patriot Act is an extreme measure meant to deal with a crisis—much in the same way that martial law can be proclaimed by a state's governor in time of emergency. Once the danger has passed, martial law is revoked. No one wants troops and tanks in their streets forever.

Another argument against extending the Patriot Act indefinitely is that we still don't know how its application ultimately will shake out. Will it be used to harass and intimidate unpopular groups expressing unpopular opinions? Will it be used against political enemies of this or future administrations?

Fact is, the feds have been playing their cards very close to the vest on how they've used the Patriot Act. And Congress still doesn't have a handle on how the FBI and other government agencies have used this extreme legislation that treads so heavily on the Bill of Rights.

Even if, in the final analysis, it's shown that the government hasn't abused the act, it should never become permanent. We repeat: Never.

American liberty is too precious a commodity bought at a too high price in blood and treasure to be tossed aside in a panic. What does it profit us to bring freedom to Iraq while throwing our own away?

CELEBRATING THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF ST. GENEVIEVE'S
FRIENDSHIP CLUB

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize The Friendship Club of St. Genevieve's church. On April 23, 2003, the Friendship Club celebrated 31 years of service to Chicago's Northwest side. Led by Jean Juske, the group's president of the past 17 years, the club of 550 active members has worked to educate seniors on issues important to them. Throughout the years, the Friendship Club has held bi-monthly meetings on issues such as personal finance, public safety and politics. The group also helps seniors find safe and affordable housing. My friends at St. Gens, however, say that some of their most popular activities are the social ones such as dinner theatre trips. Whatever the activity, I salute the Friendship Club for their service to Chicago. Neighborhood organizations like this one form the backbone of communities, and Chicago is a much stronger place because of