

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORIAM OF WAYNE A.
STEEN, SR.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a leader in the volunteer fire services community, Wayne A. Steen, Sr., of Delaware. This Sunday, October 5, 2003, Mr. Steen will be honored as part of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Wayne passed away in September of 2001, due to complications from an aneurysm he suffered while responding to a fatal traffic accident in 1995. Along with his family, I am pleased that Wayne will now receive the national recognition that he deserves for his dedication to the fire services community and to public safety.

Wayne dedicated 34 years of public service to the Mill Creek Fire Company where he held numerous offices before becoming Deputy Chief. Wayne was also an officer of the Delaware State Fire Chiefs Association and a life member of New Castle County Fire Chiefs Association, the Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Delaware Valley Fire Chiefs Association. In 1996, Wayne was named Honorary Deputy Chief and given the President's Award by the Mill Creek Fire Company. Such honors serve as a testament to Wayne's selfless devotion to public safety, and it is fitting that the Nation now join his colleagues at the Mill Creek Fire Company in recognizing Wayne's exceptional leadership and service record.

This Sunday, Wayne Steen, Sr.'s contributions to the fire services, along with those of 104 additional fallen firefighters will be memorialized at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, and their names will be added to the roll of fallen heroes. His commitment to public service has earned him a place in our Nation's fire services' history. Wayne's selflessness and dedication to the safety of others will always remain in our memories.

—————
CUBS WIN!

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride following last night's National League Central Division champion Chicago Cubs' first playoff victory on the road since 1945.

I am proud to represent tens of thousands of loyal and patient Cubs fans who have so patiently waited for this opportunity to compete for its first National League Pennant in almost 60 years and its first World Series title since 1908. I join the City of Chicago in cheering for

the Cubs to overcome history by this year's nearly 90 wins and first place in the Central division.

I think most long-time Cubs fans would agree that there could not have been a more exciting route to the playoffs than the 2003 season. All season long, Chicago traded first place back and forth with the Houston Astros in the major league's most competitive division. After this weekend's victory against Pittsburgh, jubilant fans remained celebrating in the stands an hour after the game as Cubs players jogged around the perimeter of the field to salute their fans and soak up the delirious atmosphere at Wrigley Field.

Those of us on Chicago's north side are especially grateful for the arrival of first-year manager Dusty Baker, his winning attitude and proven leadership on the field and in our community. Dusty and his outstanding coaching staff made believers out of the players and Cubs fans. He held our team together during some of the season's most difficult times.

We must attribute much of this year's success to Dusty's clever off season personnel moves and Sammy Sosa's great batting, including his towering 40th home run this past weekend that made him the first player in National League history to hit 40 home runs in six consecutive seasons. This historic feat was achieved on top of slamming his 500th home run earlier this season. Sammy has become as much a part of Chicago as the stuffed pizza and Navy Pier. His pride in his native Dominican Republic is but one example of the cultural diversity that makes Chicago the great city it is today, and how baseball has been woven into the fabric of our Nation's history.

When I attended one of the Cub's home victories earlier this year, I was joined by the Chaplain of the House of Representatives, The Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin, before the game to honor his 89-year-old mother, Louise Coughlin, as the Cub's Usher of the Year. Moments like these and the team's winning ways are what made 2003 such a special season and why I will always be proud to represent the Cubs in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the Cubs for their first-place finish, and I join with the entire City of Chicago and Cubs fans everywhere in wishing them continued success in the playoffs. I join Cubs fans in cheering that one of baseball's most storied franchises ends a nearly century long championship drought. Win or lose, Chicagoans will be always be proud of their Cubs.

—————
A JOB FOR THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, a recent editorial in the Denver Post calls on the Judiciary Committee to perform the oversight

function of calling Attorney General John Ashcroft to account.

The editorial evidently was prompted by the Attorney General's recent move to restrict plea bargaining in federal criminal cases. I think the editorial has it just right, and I urge the Judiciary Committee to promptly begin hearings on this and other Justice Department policies under the current administration. For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching the full text of the Denver Post editorial.

ASHCROFT'S PLEA PLOY

Attorney General John Ashcroft's scheme to make it tougher for federal prosecutors to reach plea bargains with criminal defendants is an ill-considered proposal that bespeaks an unrealistic view of the capacity of the American court system. Some observers say Ashcroft's plan is merely a ploy to make his boss, President George W. Bush, look tough on crime for the 2004 election. But all this sound-bite buffoonery accomplishes is to make the Bush administration look patently stupid. Even the greenest cub reporter on the federal court beat learns quickly that more than 90 percent of federal criminal cases are settled with plea bargains. Defendants plead guilty, often to a lesser charge or fewer counts, and this is taken into account at sentencing.

Plea bargains avoid going to trial in federal courts where dockets already are critically crowded. In exchange for guilty pleas, defendants can get some reduction in sentences, although formulaic federal sentencing guidelines adopted in the 1980s give judges very little discretion. The U.S. Justice Department says the new policy is intended to counter dangerously lenient sentencing practices by some federal judges. Utter nonsense. It's no accident our federal prisons are jammed to the rafters. And Ashcroft's claim to be acting in the interest of fairness is beyond laughable.

We recall that when the late Dale Tooley ran for Denver district attorney in 1972, he excoriated his predecessor for plea bargaining. Once elected, though, Tooley quickly realized the deals were necessary to prevent hopeless logjams in court. Even former federal prosecutors told The New York Times that Ashcroft's approach was too rigid. "A check-the-box analysis really does mask differences," said a former top Manhattan fed. "Crimes are different, places are different, people are different." Beyond being unrealistic, at times it seems that Ashcroft is intent on dismantling most of the traditional safeguards and liberties so venerated by President Bush's conservative constituency. He is the chief architect of the USA Patriot Act, which has eroded basic constitutional freedoms.

He has secretly proposed being given sweeping, arbitrary powers in the name of national security while debasing constitutional guarantees against illegal search and seizure and seeking broad powers to tap phones and other communications without court supervision. He has asked Congress for greater latitude in seeking the death penalty and to expand the crimes for which it can be imposed. He has asked his minions in U.S. attorneys' offices to keep tabs on which federal district judges mete out sentences more lenient than sentencing guidelines. He has assailed the ancient common-law concept of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

proportionality in sentencing and the concept of an independent judiciary.

Ashcroft's Machiavellian attacks on fundamental liberties under the pretext of combatting international terrorism are a betrayal of his oath to uphold the Constitution. President Bush should jerk Ashcroft's leash. Failing that, the judiciary committees of Congress should.

RECOGNIZING JOSÉ-LUIS OROZCO
FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO BILINGUAL
EDUCATION

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to José-Luis Orozco, whose commitment to bilingual education is being honored by the National Hispanic Caucus and the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) in Washington D.C.

Throughout the last quarter century, José-Luis Orozco has established himself as one of the premier bilingual educators in the United States. His accomplishments and hard work as an author, songwriter, performer and recording artist in the field of bilingual education will be recognized and commemorated in our nation's capital today.

Born in Mexico City, José-Luis Orozco discovered his love of music at a young age under the influence of his paternal grandmother. At age 8, he joined the Mexico City Boys Choir, traveling to 32 countries where he gained the cultural knowledge he shares with children through his wonderful books and songs.

At age 19, Orozco immigrated to California where he gained a bachelors degree at the University of California, Berkeley and a Masters in Multicultural Education from the University of San Francisco.

Originally a teacher, José-Luis Orozco found his true passion in sharing with children the songs and rhymes he picked up on his world travels.

Over his more than 30 year career as an author, songwriter, performer and recording artist, José-Luis Orozco has shared his work with millions of children throughout the country. He has recorded 13 volumes of *Lirica Infantil*, Latin American children's music, and written two award winning books, *Diez Deditos* (Ten Little Fingers) and *De Colores* and other Latin American Folk Songs for Children. These works have become an essential teaching tool used in tens of thousands of multilingual classrooms across the country.

José-Luis Orozco's determination to enrich the lives of children has made him a true legend in multilingual education. The world will forever remember José-Luis Orozco as the educator who has and will continue to make learning fun for millions of children through the medium of music.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a leader in the volunteer fire services community, Louis A. Rickards, of Lewes, Delaware. A tireless advocate, Mr. Rickards was a dedicated leader within the fire community. Tragically, on February 3, 2002, Louis Rickards passed away. This Sunday, October 5, 2003, Mr. Rickards' admirable life will be honored as part of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Not surprisingly at the time of his death, Louis was on his way to a Delmarva Volunteer Fireman's Association Executive Meeting in Virginia, a lasting example of the dedication Louis gave to the firefighting community throughout his 39 years of service. His level of devotion to the community is exceptional among individuals, and his record of service is exemplary.

Louis began his career with the Lewes Volunteer Fire Company at age sixteen as a volunteer firefighter, then rising in the ranks to serve as Fire Chief for seven years, and as the Company's President for thirteen terms until his death in 2002. His passion for the fire services extended beyond the walls of the fire house, and he shared this with others as the primary author of a book published on the 100th year anniversary of the Lewes Volunteer Fire Company. Louis further demonstrated his commitment to public safety as a member of the Delaware State police, retiring after 25 years of service.

This Sunday, Louis Rickards' accomplishments, along with those of 104 additional fallen firefighters will be memorialized at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, and their names will be added to the roll of fallen heroes. His commitment to public service has earned him a place in our Nation's fire services' history, and he remains in our memories as an example for those who wish to dedicate their lives to the safety of others.

THANKING SUPPORTERS OF THE
RAVENSWOOD LINE REHABILITATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to the members of the Transportation Appropriations Committee for their leadership in support of the rehabilitation and expansion of Chicago's Ravenswood Elevated Line.

Built more than a century ago, the Ravenswood Line, known by Chicagoans as the "Brown Line," is one of the City's fabled elevated trains and serves as a vital link between the area that I'm proud to represent—the northwest side—and downtown. Along the way, it winds through some of Chicago's historic neighborhoods: Ravenswood, North Center, Wrigleyville, Lakeview, Lincoln Park, and of course, the Loop.

With more than 60,000 commuters each day, ridership has increased approximately 73 percent since 1979. In the past year alone, the number of riders has increased by 10 percent, the highest rate of growth anywhere in the Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) rail transportation system.

Because of the Brown Line's age, it can only accommodate six-car trains, and not the eight-car trains used elsewhere on the CTA system. Thus, the Ravenswood Line is not able to handle the growing demand. In fact, it is not unusual for commuters to wait several full trains before being able to board a train in the morning rush hour. Clearly, the Brown Line renovation is necessary to keep pace with the rapidly growing demand for mass transit services in Chicago.

For these reasons, since arriving in Congress I have worked closely with the City of Chicago, CTA, and U.S. Department of Transportation to ensure that the Brown Line revitalization received the support it needed to continue. I was also pleased to appear before the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee to discuss why expanding the line is so important to ensure the safety of Chicago commuters and to improve its efficiency.

I am pleased that both Committees agree that the Brown Line rehabilitation is a critically necessary and worthwhile project. It was included in the original Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), and I am hopeful that it will be included in the upcoming bill to reauthorize TEA-21. On behalf of Chicago's riders, I am deeply grateful that the members of the Appropriations Committee included this project in the Fiscal Year 2004 Transportation-Treasury Bill passed two weeks ago by this body. Because of this support, the Ravenswood Line rehabilitation project will be able to stay on schedule, benefiting my district, and indeed the entire City of Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally thank all the members who supported this project crucial to Illinois' Fifth Congressional District, particularly Speaker Hastert and Congressman Lipinski for their assistance, hard work and unyielding commitment to the project. Further, I look forward to working with them in support of this project as the bill moves into conference and onto the President's desk for signature.

REMEMBERING ARIE TAYLOR

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, Colorado is poorer this week because of the death of Arie Taylor. As the Denver Post accurately stated in a recent editorial, Ms. Taylor—the first Africa-American woman to serve in our Legislature—was one of the truly great figures in Colorado politics. An outspoken champion of equality and opportunity, Ms. Taylor exemplified the tradition of collegiality that was once the hallmark of Colorado's political debates. A role model for many Coloradans, Ms. Taylor also should be an example of how we as legislators and public figures should conduct ourselves.

The complete editorial from the Denver Post follows:

ARIE TAYLOR 1927-2003, ROLE MODEL FOR ALL

Colorado politics lost one of its truly great figures with the death Saturday of Arie Taylor, the first African-American woman elected to the legislature.

Like many of Denver's African-Americans, Taylor moved to Colorado after serving in the military. The Ohio native served as a staff sergeant in the Women's Air Force from 1951 to 1955. Although she never had been stationed in Denver, she had heard favorable things about the city from an Air Force colleague and moved here in 1958. About two-thirds of her family eventually followed her from Cleveland.

Taylor, who studied at Miami University of Ohio and Case Western Reserve University, ran an accounting business for many years and also held jobs with the city.

A fervent champion of minority and women's rights, Taylor, 76, was beloved on both sides of the aisle.

A passionate warrior on behalf of causes in which she believed, Taylor was good humored and gregarious, and she genuinely enjoyed what she did.

Taylor represented House District 7 from 1972 until 1984 and won a reputation as an outspoken advocate for African-Americans, women, the poor, the elderly and other groups of people who were disadvantaged.

During the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, she castigated Southern delegations for being all white and was described by a Chicago paper as a "large, fierce black woman."

Taylor never shied away from that description. Indeed, when U.S. Rep. Scott McInnis arrived at the Colorado Capitol after being elected to the state legislature two decades ago, his 2-year-old son said, "Papa, now there's a big, fat black woman" within Taylor's earshot. The mortified McInnis proceeded to lecture the boy.

Toward the end of the day, Taylor recounted the story to the chamber, and asked the speaker of the House for an official rebuke "against Rep. Scott McInnis," noting that "his son took one look at me and called me a big, fat black woman. . . . He shouldn't lecture his son for telling the truth. The fact is, I am a big, fat black woman."

It's worth noting that when Taylor served in the legislature, there was a collegiality among lawmakers that transcended party lines. People who fought over issues tooth and nail on the floor nonetheless were good friends in private life, a tradition that sadly seems to have been supplanted in recent years by a take-no-prisoners mentality more suited to professional wrestling than good government.

"She was involved in many controversies," recalled Omar Blair, the first black president of the Denver school board. "She was a role model for a lot of young people and even a few old people like myself."

Today, Coloradans of all colors have cause to mourn the loss of the businesswoman and lawmaker with the floppy hats and a heart bigger than the Great Plains.

INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 43rd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Cyprus.

After 80 years of British colonial rule, Cyprus became an independent Republic on Oc-

tober 1, 1960. Despite a history filled with disappointment and tragedy, the people of Cyprus remain committed to the core principles enshrined in their Constitution as well as the basic rights and freedoms for all people of Cyprus—Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots and Cypriots from all ethnic and religious communities.

In recent years there have been significant advances in US-Cyprus relations and in relations between Cyprus and members of the European Union. Having signed the Accession Treaty to the European Union on April 16, 2003, Cyprus should be joining the EU in May of next year.

However, EU laws and financial benefits will apply only to the southern Greek Cypriot part of the island, which is the internationally recognized state. Unfortunately, the celebration of this historic event, as well as the anniversary of the independence of Cyprus, is clouded by the fact that 37 percent of the Republic's territory continues to be illegally occupied by Turkish military forces in violation of UN Security Council resolutions and international law.

The government of Cyprus is to be commended for its continued efforts to seek a peaceful solution to the nearly thirty-year-old Turkish occupation. I'm proud that the United States has repeatedly supported international efforts, including dozens of United Nations' resolutions, to resolve this dispute. The international community clearly is in agreement that reunification underlie any future settlement. A "two-state" solution that would make the division permanent would not only give credence to an illegal invasion and the forced displacement of over 200,000 Greek Cypriots, it would be inconsistent with Cyprus's history and constitution.

I'm proud to state that I am a cosponsor of H. Res. 320. This legislation supports the removal of Turkish occupation troops from the Republic of Cyprus and expresses strong support for the European Parliament to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, Cyprus is to be congratulated for its 43rd anniversary and for its relentless pursuit of peace. However, until reunification is complete, the people of Cyprus will be unable to truly celebrate their independence.

CONCURRENT RECEIPT

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker Congress should fully fund concurrent receipt this session. It's the right thing to do. We owe it to the soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines, who have served as a source of great pride in our Nation, to fully fund the retirement that they have earned without penalizing them because they are also disabled. For every dollar given in disability pay, a dollar is taken out of retirement pay. That is wrong.

Time and time again, our veterans' needs are being ignored. Not only do America's veterans face this issue of concurrent receipt, but VA still needs \$1.8 billion to bring the fiscal year 2004 appropriation to the level set forth by the Budget Resolution. Where are our priorities?

Right now, there are 140,000 Americans serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Now,

more than ever, Congress needs to take action and fully fund concurrent receipt. We must promise this generation of servicemembers that they will be entitled to a full retirement for a career spent in the military. Today's soldier is tomorrow's veteran. We must show today's soldier that we will take care of him tomorrow.

Last year, the Bush Administration threatened to veto any bill that contained concurrent receipt. The Administration forced Congress to compromise and our veterans paid the cost. Conferees provided for a special compensation for 35,000 veterans who could prove that they had a combat-related disability that made them eligible for this special pay. Compensating just 35,000 veterans, out of over 500,000 veterans affected, is absolutely unacceptable! Now is the time for us to correct the national embarrassment caused by the care-less treatment of America's veterans.

Any proposal that leads one to believe that it is furthering last year's authorizing of special compensation, by limiting receipt of special compensation to injuries or illnesses incurred while undertaking official military duties only, is a sham! This plan would fundamentally alter eligibility requirements for disability compensation. A proposal such as this could also affect VA health care and vocational rehabilitation because these services are based on service-connected disability status. I urge Congress to reject any proposal that amends Title 38's definition of service-connection.

The Administration will argue that there is a cost barrier to fully funding concurrent receipt. This argument shows where the Administration's priorities are misplaced. If we can come up with another \$87 billion for the war in Iraq, then we can surely find the money to bring our Nation's military retirees on par with the rest of federal employees. About \$21 billion of the \$87 billion is to rebuild the Iraqi infrastructure. If we can come up with \$21 billion to build schools and hospitals in Iraq, then we certainly can come up with the money to fully fund concurrent receipt for the men and women who fought so bravely on behalf of this great Nation.

I ask that Congress fully fund concurrent receipt this Session. I further ask that VA be given the \$1.8 billion it needs so that we can show our veterans that we respect the sacrifices they made on our behalf. We need to stop talking the talk and start walking the walk.

CONGRATULATIONS, MARTIN J. "HOOT" MCINERNEY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Martin J. "Hoot" McInerney, who will receive the 2003 Goodfellow of the Year Award at the 14th Annual Tribute Breakfast on Friday, October 3, 2003 sponsored by the Old Newsboys' Goodfellows Fund of Detroit.

The prestigious award is presented to distinguished and noteworthy people who have contributed significantly to the community. "Hoot" McInerney richly deserves this honor.

Mr. McInerney is a successful car dealer and philanthropist. He is involved in a number of organizations and charities that reflect his commitment to helping people. He is a founder of the St. Joseph Mercy Men of Mercy, the

J.P. McCarthy Foundation and the Millie Schembechler Memorial Golf Benefit. He also provides leadership and support for these charities.

In addition to founding numerous charities, "Hoot" McInerney also generously donates to many local, national and international organizations. Among the many charities he supports are several Catholic churches and schools, the Police Athletic League Tournament, Focus: HOPE, Operation Read, Special Olympics, Children's Hospital and the Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit.

The Goodfellows have given to the needy children of our community by offering emergency dental care, shoes, camperships, college scholarships and a variety of other programs to provide help through tough economic times. The program the Goodfellows are best known for is the gift packages. This year their goal is to buy Christmas gift packages for 41,500 needy Detroit area school children.

On a personal note, I know of no one who has a wider range of friendships than "Hoot".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding community leader, Martin J. "Hoot" McInerney as he receives the 2003 Goodfellow of the Year award and to congratulate the Goodfellows as they honor its 89 year-old pledge of "No Kiddie Without a Christmas."

TRIBUTE TO LAFAYETTE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to the Lafayette County Health Department which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary on October 9, 2003.

The Lafayette County Health Department has proudly served the residents of Lafayette County since 1953. In that year, a sixteen member County Health Steering Committee was appointed to analyze various health problems in Lafayette County. In 1957, the steering committee recommended hiring the first county health nurse, Catherine Boedeker Winfrey. It was also in 1957 that the county started receiving public health funds. With the funds, the Lafayette County Health Department started massive polio immunization clinics and started to dispense tuberculosis medicines. They also provided dressings to cancer patients and provided classes in home nursing, first aid, babysitting, and civil defense. Hearing and vision screening were started in the county's schools. The Lafayette County Health Department became the lead agency in coordinating disaster plans for the county.

In 1963, immunization services were expanded to include the prevention of diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and the smallpox diseases. The Lafayette County Health Department implemented Maternal Child Health programs to educate the public about prenatal and infant health issues in 1967. Mass immunizations for rubella were available in 1970, the same year that family planning services were offered for the first time. In 1973, child health conferences were started. This program offered free well child check-ups as well as other programs to promote healthy children.

Through the 1980's and 1990's the Lafayette County Health Department continued its many services. In 1980, the department added Environmental Sanitarian services to offer inspections of food establishments and public sanitation outlets. In 2000, the department developed a Mentoring Moms program for mothers in the county.

Mr. Speaker, the Lafayette County Health Department has provided valuable public health services to the people of Lafayette County for the past 50 years. I hope that the other Members of the House will join me in thanking them for their wonderful years of service.

SOUTH SALEM HIGH SCHOOL IN-
DUCTS FIRST ATHLETIC HALL
OF FAME MEMBERS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, later this evening South Salem High School in Salem, Oregon will kick off the school's 50th anniversary celebration by inducting the inaugural class into its Athletic Hall of Fame. In total, 14 athletes, three coaches, one team and two community boosters will be honored in what I am sure will be a ceremony filled with many memories of the past and pride for what the South Salem "Saxon" community has accomplished.

Lara Tiffin ('86), Athletic Director, Guido Caldarazzo, Interim Principal, and the entire selection committee should be recognized for their enormous contributions in putting together these ceremonies.

Although my district does not include Salem, as a member of the Oregon Legislature I spent much of my time in Salem, and my long time chief of staff and his fiancée are both South Salem graduates, so I feel a part of that community in many ways.

Those of us in Congress who travel extensively throughout our districts recognize the unique role high school athletics plays in our local communities. High school athletics is a bonding experience for the young men and women competitors and a powerful social environment for the student body at large. The athletic fields and gymnasiums of our local high schools are a gathering place for parents, families and community leaders, and the team's accomplishments are often a source of pride for local newspapers and media. Perhaps above all high school athletics is a forum where coaches pass on lessons of life—not just plays from a playbook.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating South Salem High School on its 50th anniversary and congratulating the inaugural class of the South Salem Athletic Hall of Fame. They include: Gary Allen ('63), Gary Barbour ('72), Phil Brus ('72), Phil Burkland ('55), Dana Collins Amack ('56), Gary Edmonds ('68), Scott Freeburn ('67), Bob Horn ('72), Dave Johnson ('63), Daniel Moore ('58), Bruce Patterson ('56), Neil Scheidel ('55), Jack Scott ('57), and Greg Specht ('58) as athletes. Dick Ballantyne (basketball '54-'70), Lee Gustafson (football '54-'60) and Marv Heater (football '61-'72), as coaches. Pappy Aschenbrenner (Principal '54-'72) and Phil

Webb ('54) as special "Community Members." And the entire 1954 football team who in their first year of existence were State co-champions.

Way to go, Saxons!

RECOGNIZING THE WESTMINSTER
AT LAKE RIDGE RETIREMENT
COMMUNITY 10TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to acknowledge Westminster at Lake Ridge Retirement Community as they celebrate ten years of community service on September 19, 2003.

The vision for Westminster started over 25 years ago when the late Myles Golbranson led a group of Presbyterians in creating a life-care community. Several years later, in 1989, Westminster was established and in January of 1993 it opened its doors as a continuing care community, making this vision a reality. Since then, Westminster has remained dedicated to its mission: to provide a continuum of housing, healthcare and related services to older adults that promote independence, dignity and personal fulfillment.

Westminster is a major Prince William County employer and provides a wealth of volunteer opportunities. The residents of Westminster have committed thousands of volunteer hours to local schools, hospitals, and civic and cultural events. For example, the Flying Fingers knit hundreds of caps and blankets each year for newborn babies at Potomac Hospital. Prince William County residents also give back to Westminster; Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and church groups make regular visits.

Today Westminster has grown to house 400 residents, and opens its doors to countless others involved in the Rotary Club, business networking meetings, support groups, community groups, and local Chamber of Commerce groups. Westminster also holds numerous special events including countywide blood drives, health fairs, and political forums.

For ten years, Westminster, in cooperation with the adult community of River Ridge, has provided invaluable living, volunteer, political and charity opportunities to the Prince William County community. In doing so, Westminster most certainly has fulfilled its mission.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Westminster at Lake Ridge Retirement Community as they celebrate their 10th anniversary. They have provided a quality retirement lifestyle for active senior citizens, and contributed greatly to the community at large. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating ten years of caring, volunteerism, and activism.

IN SUPPORT OF HOSPITALS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for hospitals, both in my

district and throughout the country. Rural hospitals have been especially hard hit, and without the support of two important provisions in the Medicare bill, their livelihood will be threatened.

I support keeping a full market basket for hospitals in HR 1. Without this annual reimbursement adjustment to keep up with inflation, hospitals could stand to lose 12 billion in inpatient payments. For my home state of Illinois, this could mean a loss of \$92 million over three years. Providers, especially those in rural areas like my district, depend on this money to stay open in traditionally underserved communities.

Restoring the Indirect Medical Education payments is another one of my priorities for the Medicare bill. IME payments go to teaching hospitals, whose role is crucial to the survival of our health care system. These payments acknowledge teaching hospitals' higher costs due to the specialized treatment provided to sicker patients. Not only do they provide unique care, teaching hospitals are also producing our next generation of caregivers. Unfortunately, these hospitals will lose more than 4 billion dollars over the next four years because of a cut last year. The reinstatement of the IME to 6.5% would enable these hospitals to continue their mission.

These important provisions will enhance the quality of care and will make a major difference for Medicare beneficiaries all over the country.

I applaud my colleagues on the Conference Committee for the hard work they have done and continue to do to reach agreements for the good of our constituents.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ASHLAND UNIVERSITY ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS CHARTER

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to stand before my colleagues in the House to pay tribute to an outstanding institution of higher education. Ashland University is marking a "Year of Celebration" on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of the school's chartering in Ashland, Ohio.

Ashland, Ohio's original settlers trace their roots back to a small group of "brothers" who emigrated in 1708 from Schwarzenau, Germany in search of religious and intellectual freedom.

Like Ashland's first citizens, the history of this vibrant institution reads as a truly American story. It all began in the summer of 1877 at a town meeting. The German Baptist Brethren Church proposed the establishment of an institution of higher education if the community could raise ten thousand dollars. The resulting fundraising campaign proved successful, and on February 20, 1878, Ashland College was chartered.

Classes started on September 17, 1879 with eight faculty members and between fifty-five and seventy-five students. From this modest beginning, Ashland's enrollment has grown to five thousand six hundred graduate and undergraduate students.

Ashland College became Ashland University in 1989. The University is and remains a lib-

eral arts institution in the finest tradition of higher education. As such, it is a teaching university, empowering its students not only with current knowledge but also with the power of deliberate reasoning to face the challenges and new horizons known only to the future.

I would note that the University's Ashbrook Center for Public Policy is a nationally recognized academic forum for the study, research and discussion of the principles and practices of American constitutional government and politics. The Ashbrook Center's programs are directed to the scholarly defense of individual liberty, limited constitutional government and civic morality, which together constitute our democratic way of life.

Mr. Speaker, truly great institutions of higher education not only educate their students, but also inspire them toward a lifetime of service as well. Indeed, Ashland University's 125 years of teaching provides our state with a rich legacy of intellectual, spiritual, social, cultural and physical development.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ashland University's "Year of Celebration," and to extend to the entire Ashland University family our very best wishes.

HONORING RAYMOND G. BOLAND

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Raymond G. Boland who served as Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs for eleven years.

Throughout his tenure, Secretary Boland initiated a number of programs aimed at bettering the lives of Wisconsin veterans. Although it is impossible to quantify all Secretary Boland has accomplished, I would like to highlight three programs that demonstrate his unyielding dedication to veterans.

The 1994 establishment of the Veterans Assistance Program made great strides towards ending homelessness among veterans. In working to better the lives of veterans and increase job accessibility, Secretary Boland implemented the Troops to Teachers Program in 1995. This important program has allowed veterans with baccalaureate degrees to obtain teaching certification at an accelerated pace. Finally, Secretary Boland's dedication to veterans was demonstrated by his 1998 creation of the Wisconsin Women's Veterans program, which continues to focus on the specific needs of women veterans.

Secretary Boland's outstanding work has not gone unnoticed. In 1997, Secretary Boland received the American Veterans Silver Helmet Award as the Civil Servant of the Year. The following year, he was awarded the Department of the Army Distinguished Civilian Service Medal. Most recently, in recognition of his commitment to ending veteran homelessness, Secretary Boland was presented with the second annual Jerald Washington Memorial Founders' Award by the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

I am proud today to stand with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans of Wisconsin in recognizing Secretary Raymond G. Boland for his outstanding work and dedication to better the lives of veterans.

IN HONOR OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DALLAS STARS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 10th Anniversary of the Dallas Stars first regular season NHL hockey game in Dallas. The Dallas Stars had a successful start to their career in Big D, as the Stars defeated the Detroit Red Wings 6-4 at Reunion Arena on October 5, 1993.

In the ten years since the Stars moved to Dallas from their previous home in Minnesota, The Stars have advanced to the playoffs eight years, with playoff berths in 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2003. The Stars won Lord Stanley's Cup in 1999 in a six-game series against the Buffalo Sabres. The championship Stars team was captained by defenseman Derian Hatcher, the very first American born Captain of a Stanley Cup championship team in the history of the NHL. The Stars then repeated as Western Conference Champions the following year.

In addition to the exceptional record of the Dallas Stars over the past ten years, the moving of the Stars to Dallas has created a huge expansion of hockey throughout our schools and communities in North Texas. Before the Stars came to Dallas, it was almost unheard of for schools to have interscholastic hockey teams. The North Texas community has not only fully embraced the Stars, but has taken a heart to the sport of hockey. Without the Stars, none of this expansion of hockey throughout North Texas would have occurred in such a rapid fashion.

Under the leadership of head coach Dave Tippett, general manager Doug Armstrong, and owner Thomas O. Hicks, the Dallas Stars are poised to start another great season. I wish the Dallas Stars all the best for their season opener against the Mighty Ducks on October 8th at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, and for the rest of the upcoming season. Congratulations to the Stars franchise on their 10th year anniversary of their move to the Lone Star State of Texas.

A PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORT TO IMPROVE CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the award-winning educational videotapes given free to our nation's high schools, community colleges, and others produced by the Committee for Citizen Awareness (CCA). In particular, I would like to focus on those Americans across the country who are working with the CCA to enable these civic videotapes to be seen free by their fellow citizens in their locale.

All Americans can agree on the need for a well-informed citizenry. The involvement of our people in our republic is the guarantee of our freedom. Surveys have shown that the information contained in these videotapes help our citizens understand and exercise their civic responsibility.

The secret to America's greatness lies in its citizens, as individuals and, when combined, in organizations. A good example of this is the local organizations cooperating with the CCA. Such support for their community's educational institutions and their citizens' civic understanding makes America a better country.

Those of us in Washington, D.C. who do all we can to make sure that our republic functions properly are particularly grateful to those who contribute from the private sector as is the case with the CCA.

John J. Bratsakis, Jr., President of Community Trust Credit Union.

Richard M. Wardrop, Jr., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of A K Steel Corporation.

Valdimir E. Ostoich, Co-Founder and Vice President of Abaxis, Inc.

Gary Jester, President of Advancial Federal Credit Union.

Karen Lambert, Chief Executive of Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital.

Marilyn Carp, President of AEGON.

Helen Jimenez Dichoso, President and CEO of Allied Health Services.

Kenneth S. Leonard, President and CEO of America's Credit Union, A Federal Credit Union.

Mr. Tippetts, President and CEO of American Airlines Federal Credit Union.

Douglas W. Kohrs, President and CEO of American Medical Systems.

John R. Gibson, Chairman, President, and CEO of American Pacific Corporation.

Dorinda M. Simpson, President and CEO of American Partners Federal Credit Union.

Bernaldo Dancel, President and CEO of Amerix Corporation.

Brenda Berry, Dean of Student Services of Andover College.

Larry C. Glasscock, President and CEO and Gray Somers, Vice-President and General Manager of Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield.

Thomas F. Gordon, J.D., LL.M., President of Avila College.

Dan Smith, President and CEO of Bay Area Hospital.

Lois B. DeFleur, President of Binghamton University.

Ronald A. Battista, President of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island.

Michael Cascone, Jr., Chairman, President, and CEO of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Florida.

David Joyner, Senior Vice President, Network Manager of Blue Shield of California.

Craig M. Ames, President and COO of BryanLGH Medical Center.

Dr. Steffen H. Rogers, President of Bucknell University.

Dr. Marilyn C. Beck, President of Calhoun Community College.

David A. Woodle, Chairman and CEO of C-COR.

Gary Oppedahl, President and CEO of Cell Robotics International, Inc.

Trudy Prince, President and CEO of Central Florida Healthcare Federal Credit Union.

Robert Young, President and CEO of Central Vermont Public Service Corporation.

Ronald L. Turner, Chairman, President, and CEO of Ceridian Corporation.

Martha W. Miller, President and CEO of Choice Community Credit Union.

Dr. Thomas W. Cole, President Emeritus of Clark Atlanta University.

Melinda Estes, M.D., CEO of Cleveland Clinic Florida.

Dr. Randal R. Wisbey, President of Columbia Union College.

J. Alan Pughes, President and CEO of Community One Federal Credit Union.

David E. Addison, President and CEO of Constitution State Corporate Credit Union.

Thomas A. Dattilo, Chairman, President, and CEO of Cooper Tire and Rubber Company.

Jim Sinegal, President and CEO of Costco Wholesale.

Father O'Connor, President of DeSales University.

David Nelms, President and COO of Discover Financial Services, Inc.

Victor A. Roque, President of Duquesne Light.

Dr. Stephen M. Jordan, President of Eastern Washington University.

Daniel A. Carp, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Eastman Kodak Co.

Rebecca Rae Stilling, President of EDFUND.

Barrett O'Connor, President of EFS Bank.

Dr. Stafford L. Thompson, President of Enterprise State Junior College.

Joseph E. O'Dell, CEO of First Commonwealth Financial Corp.

Gary Burkart, Director of Public Affairs of Flagstar Bank.

Garry Jones, President of Full Sail Real World Education.

Dr. John A. Davitt, Superintendent and President of Glendale Community College.

Aaron Dobrinsky, Chairman of the Board of Go America Communications.

Bob Ambrose, Manager of Government Affairs of Great River Energy.

Stephen W. Pogemiller, President and CEO of Heritage Community Credit Union.

Patricia J. Ellis, Chairman of the Board of Directors of HEW Federal Credit Union.

Mike Laign, President and CEO of Holy Redeemer Health System.

Dr. John S. Erwin, President of Illinois Central College.

Larry F. Altenbaumer, President of Illinois Power.

Carmella Grahm, Executive Vice President of IndyMac Bank.

Dr. Glen R. Roquemore, President of Irvine Valley College.

Craig M. Bradley, President and CEO of Kane County Teachers Credit Union.

Frank J. Perez, Chief Executive Officer, Kettering Medical Center Network and Kettering Adventist HealthCare of Kettering Medical Center Network.

Dr. Norm Nielsen, President of Kirkwood Community College.

Richard Gifford, CEO of LAFCU.

Susan Ramsey Wilson, Director of Marketing and Public Relations of Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital.

Steve Newberry, President and COO of Lam Research Corporation.

Don Logan, President and General Manager of the Las Vegas 51s.

Bob Armstrong, Vice President of Clinical Services of Lima Memorial Health System.

Susan J. Ganz, CEO of Lion Brothers Company Inc.

Dr. Algeania W. Freeman, President of Livingstonstone College.

Dr. Craig Dean Willis, President of Lock Haven University.

Charlie Etheredge, Principal of Locklin Technical Center.

Stephen Endaya, President and CEO of Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union.

Dr. Tyree Wieder, President of Los Angeles Valley College.

Dr. John A. Rock, Chancellor of LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans.

J. Dwane Baumgardner, Vice Chairman of Magna Donnelly.

Dr. Mary Cantrell, Director of Manatee Technical Institute.

Keith Campbell, Chairman of the Board of Mannington Mills, Inc.

Michael Minkos, General Manager of Mass. Municipal Wholesale Electric Company.

Martin A. White, Chairman and CEO of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

Lawrence J. Burns, VP for Institutional Advancement of Medical College of Ohio.

Alan Kaufman, Treasurer and CEO of Melrose Credit Union.

John E. Brubaker, President of Members Heritage Federal Credit Union.

David P. Benn, CEO of Memorial Hospitals Association.

Jim Roberts, Vice President, Public Affairs of Minnesota Power (aka ALLETE).

Dr. Drew Bogner, President of Molloy College.

J. Stewart Fuller, CEO of Monterey Credit Union.

Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., President Emeritus and Nigel Harris, M.D., Dean and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs of Morehouse School of Medicine.

Tim Hayward, Administrator and CEO of Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital.

Michael Leggiero, President and CEO of North Hudson Community Action Corporation.

Dr. Robert C. Ernst, President of Northcentral Technical College.

Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., President of Nova Southeastern University.

Bruce M. Elegant, President and CEO of Oak Park Hospital.

Dr. Richard Thompson, Chancellor of Oakland Community College.

Gerald D. Fitzgerald, President and CEO of Oakwood Healthcare Inc.

Dan Evans, Dean of Ohio University Southern Campus.

Gary Wehrle, President, and CEO of Pacific Crest Bank.

Bruce Markowitz, CEO and President of Palisades Medical Center.

James McNulty, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Parsons Corporation.

Chester A. Wynn, President and CEO of Passavant Area Hospital.

Dr. Ann M. Williams, Campus Executive Officer, Lehigh Campus and Asst. Dean for Academic Affairs, Burns-Lehigh Valley College of Penn State Lehigh Valley Campus.

Michael P. Falcone, CEO of Pioneer Companies.

Jeff Sterba, Chairman, President and CEO of PNM Resources, Inc.

Richard E. Yochum, President and CEO of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.

Paul Bonell, President and CEO of Premier Community Credit Union.

Earnest Gibson III, Administrator and CEO of Riverside General Hospital.

Jeffrey Philipps, President and CEO of Rosauers Supermarkets, Inc.

Sam W. Downing, President and Chief Executive Officer of Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System.

Christopher W. Evenson, President of Salt Lake City Credit Union.

Frank T. Beirne, CEO of Samaritan Hospital.

Jeffrey H. Farver, President and CEO of San Antonio Federal Credit Union.

John J. Smolinsky, President and CEO of Saugus Federal Credit Union.

Dr. Richard L. Behrendt, President of Sauk Valley Community College.

Nancy Layton, Marketing Manager of Service Credit Union.

Kelby Krabbenhoff, President and CEO of Sioux Valley Hospitals and Health System.

Vincent J. McCorkle, President and CEO of Sisters of Providence Health System.

Louis Giancola, President of South County Hospital.

Ingo Angermeier, President and CEO of Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System.

Ernest G. Clark, Executive Director of Spencerian College.

Dr. Andrew A. Lasser, Dr. P.H., President and CEO of St. Joseph Hospital.

Dr. Charles L. Cotrell, President of St. Mary's University—San Antonio, Texas.

October 2, 2003

John Maher, CEO of St. Vincent's.
Dr. Vic Morgan, President of Sul Ross
State University.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes 524, 525, and 526. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 524 and 525. I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 526.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND JOSEPH
P. SHEA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. Schiff. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Father Joseph Shea, Pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church, for receiving the Spirit of Giving Award in recognition of his selfless dedication to the Glendale Community.

Father Joseph Shea is a graduate of St. John's College Seminary where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. He is also a graduate of the Continuing Formation in Ministry Program at the University of Notre Dame. He was ordained into the priesthood in 1978. Prior to joining the Holy Family Parish, Father Shea served as associate pastor of St. Ignatius of Loyola Church in Highland Park until 1982. He was subsequently transferred to St. John Vianney Church in Hacienda Heights where he was also associate pastor. In 1989, Cardinal Roger Mahoney appointed Father Shea as the Director of the Office of Vocations. He worked in this office until 1995, promoting and encouraging vocations to the priesthood and religious life throughout the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Father Shea has been the Pastor of Holy Family Catholic Community since July of 1996. Under Father Shea's leadership, the parish engineered a Strategic Plan 2000 to build a strong vision for the new millennium. The plan's mission is for all registered parishioners to dedicate themselves to the support of the spiritual, educational, cultural, youth, and community outreach programs through active participation.

Father Shea is highly dedicated to civic affairs. He serves on the Verdugo Mental Health Board of Glendale, the Board of Directors for Glendale's Community Center, Catholic Charities Loaves and Fishes, and the Institute for Urban Research and Development. He is an active member of the Glendale Human Relations Coalition, Kiwanis Club of Glendale, and the Recreation Facilities and Open Space Committee for the city. He is a newly appointed member to the Advisory Board of Glendale's Adventist Medical Center. Additionally, he is a member of the Board of Directors for the Cardinal McIntyre Fund for Charity, serves on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Department of School Board, and Dean of Deanery 6 of the L.A. Archdiocese. Father Shea is

a remarkable man with an unwavering passion for community service and limitless energy.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in commending Father Joseph P. Shea for his commitment to service throughout the community and for his incomparable Spirit of Giving.

TRIBUTE TO 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF NURSING & HEALTH
STUDIES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. Norton. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize one of the nation's premier schools of nursing and health studies, here in the District of Columbia, the Georgetown University School of Nursing & Health Studies, as it celebrates its centennial anniversary.

In December 1903, a committee at Georgetown Hospital formally created the Georgetown University Training School for Nurses. One hundred years later, now called the School of Nursing & Health Studies, the school is celebrating its long-standing traditions as well as its continued status as a leader in health care education.

The School of Nursing & Health Studies, located in the newly renovated St. Mary's Hall, has been at the forefront of the health care field, preparing future leaders to respond to the growing complexity of health care delivery at all levels. Graduates pursue various health professions within nursing, medicine, law, health policy, health management, and public health, among many other careers. Students have an opportunity to study and intern at health care facilities and agencies throughout Washington, D.C., including Georgetown University Hospital, the National Institutes of Health, and the World Health Organization.

Both the Nursing and Health Studies majors focus on *cura personalis*—the care and development of the whole person—by educating students for a meaningful life, challenging them intensively, but also supporting them in their learning. The School embraces the Jesuit inspired principles shared by the entire University community, which emphasize the pursuit of knowledge with a responsibility to contribute to the common good.

Mr. Speaker, one hundred years have seen remarkable changes and advances in health care, yet the School of Nursing & Health Studies continues its core mission of developing exceptionally qualified health professionals who can recognize and respond to the full human experience encountered in the health field. I hope you will join me in congratulating the School of Nursing & Health Studies and Dean Bette Keltner on this auspicious occasion.

TRIBUTE TO ALTHEA GIBSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I pay tribute

to the memory of a remarkable woman who was the first black player to win Wimbledon and a pre-eminent figure in women's tennis, Althea Gibson. I would like to extend my greatest sympathy to the Gibson family by taking a moment to reflect on the rich life of this fine person.

The eldest of five children, Gibson was born in South Carolina but raised in the Harlem section of New York City. While her future opponents were developing their tennis on the courts of country clubs she was getting into trouble on West 143rd which was a play area blocked off to traffic. She learned paddle ball, a sort of poor-girl tennis with solid wooden rackets.

She was a self-described "born athlete" who broke racial barriers not only in tennis but in the Ladies Professional Golf Association. She even toured with the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team after retiring from tennis in the late 1950s.

On Aug. 28, 1950, three years after Jackie Robinson had broken the color barrier in major league baseball, Ms. Gibson became the first black player to compete in the precursor to the U.S. Open.

Ms. Gibson dominated women's tennis from 1956–58, winning 11 Grand Slam titles: five in singles, five in doubles and one in mixed doubles.

She captured the Wimbledon and U.S. championships in 1957 and 1958, and also won the French Open, and three Wimbledon doubles titles (1956–58).

After the circuit, she launched herself into the business of supporting herself. She toured with the Harlem Globetrotters. She was a proud member of a community service organization, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Gibson was known as a proud woman who for years declined to take money from friends who tried to help when she was living on Medicare and Social Security payments. Her front door bore a simple plaque: "Bless this home and all who enter."

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the honorable and gracious memory of Althea Gibson. I am certain that her legacy will endure for years to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH M.
FERRAINA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. Pallone. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of Mr. Joseph M. Ferraina, a man of true character and compassion. Mr. Ferraina is being honored as "Man of the Year" by the Long Branch Elks in New Jersey for the many contributions he has made to his community. I can think of no one more deserving to receive this award.

Mr. Ferraina's accomplishments are extensive. Through his "can do" attitude and determination he has overcome many obstacles in life. At age thirteen, Mr. Ferraina emigrated from Argentina to America. At the time, he did not know any English and found himself in third grade classes when he was the age of a ninth grader. Despite a lack of faith and encouragement from school counselors, Mr. Ferraina persevered, ultimately earning his

Bachelors of Arts Degree from Jersey City State College and a Masters Degree from Monmouth University. He has also continued to do graduate work at both Seton Hall University and Rider College.

Mr. Ferraina has had a long and brilliant career in education where it began as a Spanish teacher in the Long Branch Junior High School in 1973. By 1978, he became Assistant Principle only to be become Principle of the Middle School four years later. In 1992 Mr. Ferraina was chosen as Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent of Schools in 1994. In 2000, he was given the honor of New Jersey Superintendent of the Year for his numerous innovative programs and practices.

Mr. Ferraina is an active member in the Long Branch Rotary Club where he has served as president. He is on the Monmouth Medical Center Board of Trustees and the Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors. In addition, Mr. Ferraina is member of The Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council, the first aid squad, the Board of Directors of the Greater Long Branch Chamber of Commerce, and the Long Branch Free Public Library Board of Trustees. This is just a sampling of Mr. Ferraina's community based affiliations, and indicative of his commitment to serving the community.

Mr. Ferraina has been recognized on many occasions for his noble endeavors. In 1998 and 1999, he received a proclamation from New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman for offering BEST PRACTICES, which are outstanding and innovative school programs. Active in a variety of civic and educational organizations, he was named Principal of the Year by the Monmouth County Elementary and Middle School Administrators Association in 1991. Among many other awards and honors, Mr. Ferraina has received a Resolution of Appreciation from the City of Long Branch, the Community Involvement Award from the Knights of Pythias, the Community Service Commendation from the Superior Court of New Jersey, and the Humanitarian Award from the NAACP of Long Branch.

Mr. Speaker, it is apparent that Mr. Ferraina has and continues to be an asset to his community for his tireless devotion to educating our youth. Accordingly, I ask that my colleagues rise up and join me in honoring this most respectable man, Mr. Joseph M. Ferraina.

TAX ON DISABLED VETERANS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in condemning the gross injustice being perpetrated upon the greatest of American heroes, our disabled veterans.

Due to an antiquated law, more than 700,000 disabled veterans had been unable to receive both their compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and their military retirement pay. We ended this disgraceful treatment for some of our disabled veterans with the passage of last year's De-

fense Authorization Act. Now, veterans with disability ratings of 60 percent and higher are eligible to receive a special compensation that offsets the egregious tax on disabled veterans. But thousands more are still waiting for relief.

Veterans are the only group of federal retirees who face such a punishing offset, levied against them simply for being disabled. This penalty is simply wrong. The retirees that it affects have already sacrificed too much in service to our country to have to forfeit their VA compensation.

H.R. 303, of which I am a proud cosponsor, is just the first step. This bipartisan legislation would allow retired members of the Armed Services with service-connected disabilities to collect the full veterans' disability compensation to which they are entitled. It guarantees that disabled retirees receive a fair benefit package, and its overwhelming support, has helped bring the issue of concurrent receipt to the forefront of our legislative agenda. Yet even with 370 cosponsors, the Republican leadership refuses to bring the bill to the Floor. We have launched a discharge petition to force H.R. 303 to be considered, and still they block us. There are 203 signatures on the petition, but the Republican leadership has warned its members not to sign on, so it is going to be a fight for the last 15 signatures. I say to you that this is a fight we must win.

Now, there is even talk of redefining what "disabled veteran" means. How dare anyone attempt to cheat veterans out of the benefits we promised and they rightly earned? It is unconscionable that Members of our own body are sabotaging attempts to correct an inequity. We must resist any move to restrict veterans' access to healthcare and compensation.

It is reprehensible that a Civil War era law is still robbing our veterans of fair compensation that is rightly theirs, and I call upon my colleagues to fight this embarrassing mistake and restore to our heroes just a small amount of what we owe them.

PERSECUTION, FORCED LABOR, ORGAN HARVESTING AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN CHINA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I continue today to bring to our colleagues attention human rights abuses in China provided here by the Laogai Research Foundation. They tell a desperately tragic story of a peoples thrown into harsh and brutal labor camps—without trial—who are then forced to do dangerous work, are regularly beaten, tortured, deprived of food and sleep, or summarily executed with their organs removed without the consent of the victims or their family. Many of the Chinese government's victims are religious men and women who, simply by wishing to follow their conscience, are considered a danger to the state.

"IN THEIR OWN WORDS" STATEMENTS ON FORCED LABOR, ORGAN HARVESTING AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN CHINA PROVIDED BY LAOGAI RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Laogai is an integral part of China's economy, serving as a principal source of

cheap labor and organs. Its victims suffer from torture, arbitrary detainment, forced labor, organ harvesting, and execution.

Human rights groups have documented over 1,000 Laogai camps in China and estimate that the Laogai has a population of 4 to 6 million prisoners.

The Chinese Communist Party seeks to single out and eliminate all who "endanger state security." Thousands of political/religious prisoners are currently being imprisoned or otherwise detained, including China Democracy Party founders Wang Youcai and Qin Yongmin, Internet activists Yang Zili and Huang Qi, Tiananmen Square demonstrators, protestants, Catholics, Tibetan nuns and monks, journalists, academics, and Falun Gong practitioners.

There is little to deter those who inflict torture upon inmates of the Laogai. Confessions extracted through torture are routinely used to convict individuals in court. Forms of torture that are commonly documented in Chinese prisons include: use of electric batons, beating with fists and clubs, the use of handcuffs and leg irons in ways that cause intense pain, suspension by the arms, deprivation of food or sleep and solitary confinement.

According to conservative estimates, over 200,000 people are serving sentences in reeducation through labor (Laojiao) camps with no trial or sentencing procedure of any kind—all that is necessary is the directive of any official in China's Public Security Bureau.

All prisoners are forced to meet production quotas that are enforced through withholding of food rations. Many camps force prisoners to work 16 to 18 hours a day. Prisoners often labor in highly unsafe conditions, including work in mines and with toxic chemicals. Prisoners do not receive payment for their labor or any profit generated from the products they produce.

Forced labor is an integral part of China's economy, producing approximately \$800 million dollars in sales. Despite specific agreements that ban forced labor goods these goods continue to flow out of China. Cooperation by Chinese authorities has been characterized by the State Department as "sporadic, at best." Most requests to hold an investigation are either ignored or denied.

The Laogai's victims also suffer organ harvesting, and execution.

Despite the claims that prisoners give consent for the use of their organs for transplant, evidence suggests that an overwhelming majority of prisoners, or their families, never gave consent before execution.

Prisoners are shot in the back to preserve their corneas and shot in the head in order to preserve the heart.

Recently, China began implementing the use of mobile execution vans, similar to vans used in Nazi Germany prior to its use of concentration camps. The use of mobile execution vans will allow doctors to remove organs in a timely manner and a clean environment.

According to Amnesty International, China executes more prisoners every year than the rest of the world combined. In 2002, the State Department recorded over 4,000 executions after summary trials. Some scholars estimate that as many as 10,000–20,000 are executed yearly. According to the Chinese criminal law code there are over 60 capital offenses. Prisoners are executed for crimes ranging from murder to theft to arson to drug trafficking.

October 2, 2003

Prisoners are occasionally executed in front of crowds in fields or stadiums.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE
CARON FOUNDATION

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the Caron Foundation is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide an enlightened and caring treatment community in which all those affected by alcoholism or other drug addiction may begin a new life.

The great work of this organization began when Richard J. Caron, an industrialist and recovering alcoholic from Reading, PA, and his wife Catherine, spent hours in their home "chit chatting" with people who came to them for help.

Dick published a newsletter, which he called Chit Chat, to reach out to others who needed support and an encouraging word. In 1957, after years of opening their home to those needing a guiding hand in recovery, they established a halfway house. Before long, this too proved to be inadequate to accommodate the many individuals who sought their counsel.

In 1959, the Carons purchased a historic resort hotel on South Mountain in Wernersville, PA, and opened Chit Chat Farms—a facility that has gained an international reputation for excellence as one of the first and foremost chemical dependency treatment centers in the United States.

Now in its fifth decade of providing quality services, Caron offers a full spectrum of gender-specific chemical dependency treatment programs to meet the needs of everyone—from adolescents to seniors. Today, the Caron Foundation, rooted in the "Chit Chat" tradition, stands as a beacon of hope to individuals and families whose lives have become unmanageable because of chemical dependency.

The Caron Foundation, one of the Nation's oldest and largest not-for-profit chemical dependency treatment providers, is located in a serene mountain setting in Berks County, PA. The Foundation is nearing completion of a 4-year \$16 million master campus improvement and renovation project. This facility will enable Caron Foundation to continue to serve thousands in need of help.

On Sunday, October 19, 2003, the Foundation will host an official campus dedication ceremony, appropriately themed, A Celebration of Growth and Change. John Schwarzlose, President and CEO of the Betty Ford Center will be the keynote speaker; among the honored guests will be the well-known philanthropist, Mrs. Leonore Annenberg.

This celebration will allow Caron's Board of Directors and leaders to recognize the many donors whose generosity and support made this project possible.

It will also provide Caron with an opportunity to showcase the newly constructed buildings, as well as the beautifully restored historic buildings that have been part of Caron's history for more than 45 years.

It's time that we pay proper tribute to the people and organizations that make such a profound difference in the lives of people in

desperate need to hope. The Caron Foundation has given so many the opportunities to make a new choice and start a new life.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, commemorating the extraordinary contributions that Hispanic-Americans have made to our country throughout history. During this one-month period of celebration and tribute, we honor the culture and achievements of the Hispanic community, all of which have played a historic role in our Nation.

I am proud, honored and privileged to represent a region in Congress that is extraordinarily diverse and home to many citizens who are of Hispanic heritage. To commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month, I would like to highlight the remarkable accomplishments of an organization in my district committed to serving its neighbors.

Founded in 1946, La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center is a family community ministry serving 5,800 clients per year, ranging from infants to the elderly. La Casa is unique in that it is a centrally located facility addressing the multicultural needs and interests of its diverse community—primarily Hispanic and Native American working poor—in their efforts to overcome the barriers of underemployment, poverty, inadequate housing, limited education, and lack of medical care. These efforts on behalf of the community have been extraordinary.

Today, with an estimated Hispanic population of over 38 million in our country, we must also recognize that our efforts to commemorate Hispanic culture should not be limited merely to a one-month period.

In addition to recognizing great accomplishments, we must also demonstrate our commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity for all Americans. Specifically, we must ensure that educational resources are readily available to all Americans. Since the future of our children is perhaps one of our most vital priorities, educational programs such as Head Start need to be supported and funded, rather than cut from our minority communities. We must also support economic empowerment and provide economic security for all Americans and work to ensure access to health care for the uninsured and underserved.

Cesar Chavez once said, "We need to help students and parents cherish and preserve the ethnic and cultural diversity that nourishes and strengthens this community and this Nation." As we reflect on Mr. Chavez's words and on this month of festivities and celebrations to honor Hispanic-Americans, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to civil rights for all Americans and promote increased representation in Government from all facets of our diverse country.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Wayne Public Library, which this year celebrates its 80th anniversary of service to the people of Wayne, Michigan.

Founded in June, 1923, and tucked within the Morrison and John Shoe Store on Michigan Avenue, the library was run by Ms. Emma John, the shoe store owner's daughter, who lent out the initial stock of 500 volumes to some 886 registered patrons in-between waiting on shoe customers.

My, how times—and shoe styles—have changed.

Today, the Wayne Public Library operates in a state-of-the-art facility of 24,000 square feet, which houses both Adults' and Children's reading rooms; meeting rooms; reference services; and numerous special events and classes for the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking the Wayne Public Library for their 80 years of outstanding service to the people of Wayne, Michigan.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
WEEK 2003

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mental Health Awareness Week. With the Census Bureau reporting yesterday that the number of people without health insurance shot up last year by 2.4 million, the largest increase in a decade, raising the total to 43.6 million, showing there is no hiding that our Nation is facing a health crisis. The reason behind this remarkable increase has been blamed on soaring health costs and many workers losing coverage provided by their employers. Although it is usually a misconception that those who are uninsured are also unemployed, the number of full-time workers without health insurance rose by 897,000 last year, to 19.9 million. Among people living in poverty, 49 percent of those worked full-time were uninsured. Beside a lack of information and education about mental illness, being uninsured plays a significant role on whether an individual reaches out for help or even receives treatment.

In our Nation, one percent of the population has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, one percent has been diagnosed with manic depression and between 5–10 percent of Americans will experience at least one episode of major depression. This gives us a base number of about 14–24 million individuals. If you add in the millions who suffer with panic attacks or Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, and include the more than four million who suffer with dementing illnesses, such as Alzheimer's Disease. Then if we include substance abuse and other addictive disorders, we reach a number that includes a quarter to a third of the American public who suffers with some form

of mental illness. During any one year period, up to 50 million Americans, more than 22 percent, will suffer from a clearly diagnosable mental disorder. These numbers demonstrate the need for mental health care and coverage. Yet, instead, services are disappearing and many, specifically minorities, are backing away from the services that still remain.

Minorities in America face severe economic, cultural, linguistic and physical barriers for treatment of mental illness. According to a report from the U.S. Public Health Service, these difficulties prevent thousands from being properly treated. The study explains that minorities are no more likely than whites to suffer from mental illnesses. However factors often keep African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Native Hawaiians, and Asian Americans from getting the help they need and when they do, the treatment may be substandard or too late.

For Asian Americans, studies have shown that they underutilize mental health services much more than other populations. The National Research Center found that Asians were underrepresented in the outpatient system, and they were more likely than African Americans, Whites, and Hispanics to have psychotic disorders. Although overall rates of mental illness among Hispanics roughly equal that of whites, young Hispanics have higher rates of depression, anxiety disorders, and suicide. The study also found that Hispanics born in the United States are more likely to suffer from mental illness than those born in Mexico or living in Puerto Rico. With African Americans being overrepresented in populations at high risk for developing mental illness—namely, the homeless, prisoners and children in foster care—the need for mental health treatment is generally higher. All three of these particular cultures have stigmas attached to mental illness along with social battles preventing treatment from being obtained. Even research on the mental health of minorities is sparse considering it was only in 1994 when the National Institute of Health started to require that its funded studies include minorities and that studies indicate a subject's race.

The research that does exist is startling. About 25% of African Americans do not have health insurance and many who do are more likely to receive care from a primary health provider rather than a mental health specialist or end up in the emergency room looking for help. As I mentioned, African Americans are over-represented in high-need populations that are particularly at risk for mental illnesses. One population group is the homeless, of which African Americans make up about 40% of the homeless population. Another is the prison population that is comprised of nearly half of all prisoners in State and Federal jurisdictions and almost 40% of juveniles in legal custody are African American. African American children and youth constitute about 45% of children in public foster care and more than half are waiting to be adopted. African Americans are also more likely to be victims of serious violent crime. One study reported that over 25% of African American youth exposed to violence met diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder. When compared to whites who exhibit the same symptoms, African Americans tend to be diagnosed more frequently with schizophrenia and less frequently with affective disorders. In addition, one study found that 27% of blacks compared to 44% of

whites receive antidepressant medication. Moreover, the newer SSRI medications that have fewer side effects are prescribed less often to African Americans than to whites. And while the rate of bipolar disorder is the same among African Americans as it is among other Americans, African Americans are less likely to receive a diagnosis and, therefore, treatment for this illness.

One of the high-risk populations that overly effect the African American population, the prison population, is of an extreme concern of mine. This year an estimated 600,000 exoffenders will be reentering communities across the nation. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, about 283,000 people who are incarcerated on any given day in the United States are known to have a mental illness, with almost 550,000 others on probation. The rate of mental illness in the jailed population is four times greater than that in the general population. The Cook County Jail in Chicago has become, by default, the largest psychiatric facility in the state of Illinois. At least 10% of the Facility's 10,000 detainees are on psychiatric medications. Because the jail is overcrowded, prisoners must be released every day, whether they are ready or not, to make room for new arrivals. Unfortunately, our prison system's purpose is social control, not treatment. This means most of the detainees who have a mental illness are released with just a prescription and the address of a mental health facility and receive very little follow-up.

Mr. Speaker, we have made much progress in mental health awareness—we are talking about it today, which would have been unheard of 15 years ago. But we have so much to do. In our recent budget crisis, states are cutting mental health funding first and not realizing the cost it will be on our society later. Education and breaking down misconceptions that many cultures face need to be improved. We need to ensure that our citizens are receiving the help they need by providing equal mental health services to all.

HONORING HUGH LEE "H.L."
CULBREATH, JR.

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Hugh Lee "H.L." Culbreath Jr., one of Tampa Bay's most influential and charitable business leaders. H.L.'s passing last weekend is a tremendous loss for our entire community.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, H.L. served our country in the Navy for 10 years. His final assignment was as a staff member to President Dwight Eisenhower at the White House and as officer in charge of Camp David.

In 1957, H.L. returned to his native Tampa to begin working for TECO Energy. Over the course of his 40 years of dedicated service to TECO, H.L. worked his way up the ladder to become chief executive officer and chairman of the board. Along the way, H.L. instilled in TECO the idea that giving back to the community is good for business.

H.L.'s contributions, civic activities and honors are countless, but his life long endeavor to

improve the quality of life for Tampa Bay residents and bolster our city's reputation is clear. In an effort to enrich downtown Tampa, he fought to establish the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center and served as its inaugural chairman and trustee. H.L. fought to bring a National Football League franchise to Tampa, and our Buccaneers justifiably rewarded him for his efforts by winning the Super Bowl this year.

H.L. served as chairman of the Board of Governors of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the Committee of One Hundred, a member of the Mayor's Downtown Advisory Committee, a board member and chairman of the Hillsborough County Hospital Authority, a member of the Florida Council of 100, which gave him the Hall of Fame award. He was active in the United Way and honored for his contributions to Boy Scouting by the Explorers of the Boy Scouts of America, Gulf Ridge Council. The Tampa Civitan Club named H.L. Citizen of the Year in 1979 and the Hillsborough County Bar Association gave him a Liberty Bell award, in recognition of his community service.

H.L. personified the attributes of leadership and service to an exemplary level, rarely seen in our community. For members of the Tampa Bay community, H.L.'s impact is as far as the eye can see and will endure for countless generations. On behalf of our community, I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COLE
WOOD—A 6TH GRADER WHO UN-
DERSTANDS FREEDOM

HON. MARIAN BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cole Wood, a young man whose definition of freedom won him the "Spring 2003 Essay Contest" at the Sixth Grade Academic Center in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, when Cole Wood was asked to define the word freedom for the essay contest he chose to focus on the Bill of Rights, the Constitution and, "the great presidents that have brought this nation through times of thick and thin."

Freedom, for so many Americans, is still taken for granted. While Mr. Cole's essay rightfully draws our attention to the founding father's legacy, it should also call to mind those men and women who have fought so bravely to ensure that our freedom endures. More importantly, it should evoke our sense of duty to those veterans and remind us that they deserve our support as well as our respect.

Mr. Wood also recalled the tragedy of September 11th as he described the meaning of freedom: "At first I was scared, but when I saw all the people donating and sticking together, I didn't feel sad anymore, I felt proud and strong. I was proud to be an American, proud to know I was free."

That pride is what makes this country great. It is the pride that inspires young people like Mr. Wood to be responsible leaders of our nation. It is the pride that should infect every decision we make as elected representatives.

October 2, 2003

On behalf of Congress, I extend congratulations to Cole Wood for winning this essay contest and for reminding all public servants why we are here today.

MOBILE MACHINERY TAX
FAIRNESS ACT

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressman POMEROY and 79 original cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, to introduce the Mobile Machinery Tax Fairness Act. This legislation is designed to preserve the longstanding exemption of special mobile equipment, or "mobile machinery," from federal highway excise taxes.

Mr. Speaker, since the highway trust fund was originally created almost 50 years ago, it has been the policy of the federal government to exclude from taxation certain vehicles whose primary purpose is to perform an off-road function. Mobile machines, such as mobile cranes, concrete pumbers, and mobile drill rigs, bucket trucks, and digger derricks, only use the public highways to travel back and forth from the job site, and sometimes stay there for weeks or months at a time.

However, in June of 2002, with little debate and no input from Congress, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) proposed a complete elimination of the mobile machinery exemption.

If adopted, the IRS proposal would force businesses that use mobile machinery to pay the vehicle excise tax (12 percent of the chassis price) and, the motor fuel tax (18.4 cents per gallon on gas and 24.4 cents per gallon on diesel), as well as the tire excise tax and heavy vehicle use tax.

This change would cost the affected businesses tens of millions of dollars each year in increased taxes. Furthermore, a significant majority of the firms that would be paying this tax are smaller businesses in economically sensitive industries such as commercial and residential construction, oil and gas production, and timber harvesting.

Finally, the IRS proposal would undermine current economic policy by counteracting, and in some cases eliminating, the depreciation bonus for new equipment enacted by Congress as part of the "Post-9/11" economic stimulus package.

IRS has since delayed its regulatory proposal. However, it is now using two recent Federal court decisions to effectively deny nearly all claims for mobile machinery-related tax refunds.

Only Congress can head off IRS's actions and restore the exemption which has served industry for 26 years. My legislation simply preserves the current regulatory exemption in statutory form and I ask my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF WARTRACE, TENNESSEE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of one of the friendliest towns you will ever find—Wartrace, Tennessee. Established as a railroad depot, the town was chartered by Bedford County on October 3, 1853.

Early frontier settlers endured fighting between British and French soldiers and attacks by hostile Indians. Legend even has it that the town was named after an old Cherokee Indian war trail. But as the frontier moved westward and the area became more civilized, industry and tourism flourished with the railroad.

Today the town has settled into a less hectic pace of life. Wartrace is now a small Middle Tennessee community with a strong sense of unity and a desirable quality of life. I congratulate its leaders and Mayor Donald Gallagher for developing Wartrace into a safe, neighborly community. May the town's next 150 years be as prosperous and successful as its first 150 years.

HONORING KERRY G. NEIS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CIVILIAN FIREFIGHTER

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district in Alabama who gave his life in the line of duty. Kerry G. Neis of Enterprise died last December as a result of an accident during a training mission at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Neis, a Department of the Army Civilian firefighter stationed at Fort Rucker, leaves behind a wife, Katherine, and their daughter, Sarah.

Neis' dedication to duty has earned him the respect of not only his comrades at Fort Rucker and across the Wiregrass, but among his peers around the nation. He will be honored along with America's other fallen firefighter heroes during the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Memorial Weekend conducted this October 4 and 5 in Washington, DC.

The following in an excerpt from a tribute to her late husband submitted by Katherine Neis for the Memorial Weekend ceremony.

At 31 years old, Kerry was shockingly taken from us on December 4, 2002 in a tragic accident, when his firetruck jumped out of gear and ran away. No one, not his crew, his captain, or fellow firefighters could have expected it, and it was over before any of them even knew what had happened. But even in death, Kerry's life of service and dreams of helping others in need continue. New training procedures have been implemented and new safety mechanisms have been installed on the trucks. Kerry is still working hard to ensure the happiness and security of us all.

On behalf of this House, I offer my condolences to Kerry Neis' family as we remember the life and sacrifice of one of America's heroes.

TRIBUTE TO IRA AND KATHY GRIBIN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my good friends, Ira and Kathy Gribin, who are being honored by the Hope Through Housing Foundation with the prestigious Founder's Award. Their commitment to providing affordable housing for low-income families in Southern California has earned them this recognition.

I have had the privilege of working with Ira for many years and know first-hand of his strong work ethic and legendary accomplishments. Ira has been a leader in the real estate business since 1946 and has been an active member of numerous national and local realtor associations for many years. He served as President of the National Association of Realtors, the Realtors National Marketing Institute, the California Association of Realtors and the San Fernando Valley Board of Realtors. Additionally, he has served as a board member of many real estate and non-profit organizations and is co-founder of Gribin von Dyl, Realtors.

Ira's vast knowledge on issues related to real estate, financing and management has helped him become a renowned and sought after authority in these fields. He has taught at the University of Southern California and California State University Northridge, and has also served on the University of California President's Advisory Committee. The demand for Ira's talents has transcended the private sector into the public service arena as well. He served as Commissioner of Transportation and Commissioner of the Housing Authority for the City of Los Angeles.

I have known Kathy for many years, and can attest to her invaluable service and outstanding contributions to the Hope Through Housing Foundation. Prior to her arrival in California, she enjoyed a fruitful career as a school teacher. Once in California, she became a successful real estate broker. In 1992, she expanded her career, earning an M.A. in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling. Her education and experience made her keenly aware of the acute need for affordable housing in Southern California and prompted her to dedicate time, energy and resources to creating affordable housing for low-income children, seniors and families. She used her business acumen and extensive knowledge of the industry to positively impact numerous low-income families. Kathy is currently President of Desert Horizons Women's Club, a member of the Board of Directors of Desert Horizons Owners Association and an avid golfer.

On a personal note, both Ira and Kathy are wonderful human beings, delightful to be with and deeply committed to humanitarian ideals. I think it's particularly noteworthy that Ira—as a leader in the California Association of Realtors 39 years ago—played a decisive and public role in fighting an initiative designed to repeal California's Fair Housing law. It took great courage to take a view not widely held by his professional colleagues at that time, and he put himself into considerable potential risk to his business endeavors, but Ira nonetheless steadfastly affirmed his opposition to racism and his commitment to the American dream of affordable housing for all people.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking Ira and Kathy Gribin for their many outstanding contributions and to wish them continued success.

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING
THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS
OF ALTHEA GIBSON, H. RES. 386

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a profound sense of pride that I rise today in support of the Resolution, sponsored by Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD, commemorating the life and achievements of the great African American tennis legend, Althea Gibson. This trailblazer died on Sunday, September 28, 2003 at the age of 76. I stand here today to pay tribute to her fighting spirit.

Mr. Speaker, long before there was a Venus or Serena Williams there was Althea Gibson. As we celebrate the impressive records accumulated by these two tennis stars we often forget that it was just a little over 50 years ago that tennis was an all-white sport.

Born on August 25, 1927 in Silver, South Carolina, this 5-foot-11 black woman boldly challenged the conventional wisdom of the day. Overcoming the depths of racism and adversity, Althea Gibson's pioneering efforts to integrate the sport paved the way for the likes of Arthur Ashe, Venus and Serena Williams, Tiger Woods, and future generations of aspiring African American athletes. America owes her a tremendous debt.

Her list of accomplishments is impressive. Breaking the color barrier in the 1950s, Althea Gibson became the first African American woman to compete at and win the Wimbledon and U.S. national tennis titles. She was also the first African American player on the Ladies Professional Golfers Association Tour. Between 1956 and 1958, Althea Gibson captured the Wimbledon and United States championships and won the French Open and three Wimbledon doubles titles. In 1957, she was the first African American to be voted by the Associated Press as its Female Athlete of the Year. She won that honor again in 1958.

Ms. Gibson attended Florida A&M University where she was initiated as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She died as a "golden soror" of this elite organization after being a member of the sorority for over 50 years.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I leave you with words that are attributed to this great first lady of tennis— ". . . here stands before you a Negro woman, raised in Harlem, who went on to become a tennis player . . . and finally wound up being a world champion, in fact the first black woman champion of the world."

Mr. Speaker, again it is my honor and privilege to lend my wholehearted support to this important resolution—which honors and commemorates the life and achievements of this great African American woman. I urge all of my colleagues to support the Resolution, H. Res. 386, which honors the indomitable spirit of Althea Gibson.

SUPPORTING GOALS OF IMMIGRANT
WORKERS FREEDOM
RIDE

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, hundreds of immigrant workers all over the country converged in Washington on their way to New York City as part of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride. They are here to raise awareness about the plight of immigrant workers.

Over the years, the United States has been called a nation of immigrants. The fact that we are a melting pot for so many different cultures, races and religions makes us unique in the world. It has helped mold our national character. For more than 300 years, various ethnic, cultural, and social groups have come to our shores to reunite with their loved ones, to seek economic opportunity, and to find a haven from religious and political persecution. They bring their hopes and dreams and in turn, contribute, enrich and energize America.

In my home state of Minnesota, immigrants have worked hard to establish a rich culture and strong economy.

Many immigrants in my state become American citizens. In 2002, over 5,400 immigrants became American citizens in Minnesota. Sixty-five percent of immigrants in my state who are eligible for naturalization become citizens.

These new Americans work hard, pay taxes and make indispensable contributions to our economy. Through their tax payments, they help finance the costs of schools, health care, roads, welfare payments, Social Security, and the nation's defense.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of a resolution introduced by my colleagues Representatives HILDA SOLIS and MIKE HONDA supporting the goals of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride: to create a clear road to citizenship for all immigrant workers, allow workers to reunite their families, ensure immigrants' civil rights and liberties, and protect the rights of immigrants in the workplace.

Our country was founded on the strength of our immigrant communities. A strong immigration system is a sign of a confident and successful nation, and we should welcome those who, in that spirit, seek to make the United States their home.

IN HONOR OF DR. JOAN PATON
ACOSTA

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Dr. Joan Paton Acosta, an outstanding educator, a passionate advocate for our youth, and a wonderful friend and confidant. Dr. Acosta will retire this Thursday, October 2, 2003, after 38 years of exceptional service to the students and families of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

A Los Angeles native, Joan is a product of the very school district to which she committed

her professional career. She is a proud alumna of 68th Elementary, Audubon Junior High, and Dorsey High School. Her public education served her well on the path toward achieving a masters from California State University at Los Angeles in 1968, and a doctorate from Claremont Graduate University in 1978.

Joan has become such an indispensable asset at LAUSD, with so many accomplishments, that her curriculum vitae is not stored on its computer database, but within the veteran microfiche files. She began her career with the school district on February 1, 1965, as a third grade teacher at Ford Boulevard Elementary School. Since that initial teaching position, Joan has worked as a special education teacher, an advisor and administrative coordinator at the Office of Legislation and Government Affairs, an administrator at the Office of Chief Advisor, and as an administrator in legislation and grants for the Division of Special Education. In 1984, Joan received the prestigious Theodore Bass Memorial Teacher in Politics Award, for her political activism and contribution to education.

Los Angeles families are forever indebted to Dr. Acosta for her instrumental role in the pursuit of an accurate Census for the year 2000. Her work organizing LAUSD's "We Count" outreach campaign targeting typically undercounted and highly mobile minority families ensured that thousands of Angelenos were counted, many for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, most of us wake up in the morning and, after subduing the regular aches and pains of life, move on to enjoy another day. We take for granted that simplicity of life. Joan Acosta understood how precious and complex living each and every "next day" could be, especially for our children. Joan leaves her work in Los Angeles and our nation's capitol, Washington D.C., as a true champion for disabled students. I am personal witness to—and willing victim of—her tenacious advocacy for increased funding for special education programs and reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act.

In addition to her hard work and dedication to the students of LAUSD, Joan has also fought for the teachers of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Joan was one of the initial organizers of United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA), which today represents the 44,000 teachers, counselors, psychologists, and nurses in LAUSD. Widely recognized by the teaching community as a leader, Joan has been elected by her fellow educators to represent them on the Board of Directors of UTLA, all the way to the 2.7 million strong National Education Association (NEA), where she served as the alternate to the NEA Board of Directors from California, and as a member of the body's Resolutions Committee.

Regardless of what department or position Joan has served, she has always left a lasting mark, thanks to her professional demeanor, devotion to education, and cheerful disposition. Her smile is infectious, and I have never known her to start a day without it. Joan has rightfully earned her reputation as a dedicated public servant, committed educator, and advocate for the rights of all students and employees of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Joan's retirement marks the final chapter in a distinguished career in education that began and ends in Los Angeles. I wish her much luck and leisure in the days to come when she

October 2, 2003

can enjoy her cherished pastimes of wine tasting and traveling. However, if I know Joan, I am sure we have not witnessed the last of her talents. She will always be a powerful and unyielding voice for children.

Mr. Speaker, as family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate Joan's many accomplishments, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this exceptional woman. May we all be fortunate to wake up for many days to come and appreciate the simplicity of a better life that Dr. Joan Paton Acosta has secured for our children.

NEW FREEDOM COMMISSION ON
MENTAL HEALTH RESOLUTION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my resolution regarding the report by the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and adopt the goals and recommendations of the Commission's report. As we commemorate Mental Illness Awareness Week, we must take steps to implement these goals and ensure affordable, accessible, and high quality mental health care for all Americans.

I commend the Commission for their insightful and informative report. Almost one quarter of all Americans currently suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder, but a only small fraction of them actually receive the treatment they need. This is unacceptable. The Commission's report provides us with six key goals and corresponding recommendations that will help ensure that all Americans who need mental health services receive them in an effective manner.

The goals of the Commission are as follows:

- (1) To help all Americans understand that mental health is essential to overall health;
- (2) To make mental health care consumer and family driven;
- (3) To eliminate disparities in mental health services;
- (4) To make early mental illness screening, assessment, and referral to services common practice;
- (5) To ensure delivery of excellent mental health care and acceleration of mental illness research; and
- (6) To use technology to access mental health care and information.

It would be a tragedy to ignore the Commission's report and its sensible recommendations. Every year we lose approximately 30,000 lives in the U.S. to suicide. Every year we lose millions of dollars in lost productivity due to mental illness. Many of these lives and dollars could be saved if high quality mental health services were accessible to all.

I call upon all of my colleagues in Congress and my friends in the Administration and in the mental health advocacy community to work together and take the necessary steps to implement the Commission's goals and dramatically improve mental health care in this Nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAIWAN
ON FORTHCOMING NATIONAL DAY

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Taiwan on its forthcoming National Day. In recent years, Taiwan has impressed the world with its spectacular economic and political accomplishments. Even though Taiwan has many challenges ahead, I am confident Taiwan will continue to prosper both economically and politically now and in the future.

HONORING WAYNE AND JO
HITCHCOCK

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two wonderful individuals who dedicated their lives to defending America and helping those who fought for our freedom.

Wayne and Jo Hitchcock were long-time constituents and close friends of mine. Wayne was an Army Air Corps tail gunner who flew missions over Hungary during World War II. He was shot down during his 14th mission and subsequently spent 13 months as a prisoner-of-war in Stalag 17B, which was liberated by Patton's Third Army in May of 1945. Wayne received the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf, the European Campaign Medal with four stars, and the Prisoner of War Medal for his heroism.

Wayne returned to his native Indiana after the war and became a homebuilder, land developer, and real estate broker. He also returned to government service and retired after serving as a postmaster for 23 years. He then moved to Florida where he and Jo devoted themselves to helping ex-prisoners of war.

I met Wayne and Jo before I was first elected to Congress. I am glad I did. They helped educate me about the many issues important to those who served our country in uniform, especially ex-prisoners of war. They brought to my attention an inequity which penalized the survivors of veterans who were completely disabled at the time of their deaths but whose deaths were not the result of their service-connected disability. To receive the benefits to which they were entitled, these widows had to meet requirements far above those of their counterparts whose husbands died as a result of their service-connected disability. I introduced legislation, which eventually became law, to fix this problem after Wayne and Jo brought it to my attention.

Wayne and Jo were actively involved with the American Ex-Prisoners of War, serving on various committees and posts at the department. Wayne eventually served as the Senior Vice Commander and as the National Legislative Chairman and Legislative Reporter. He became National Commander in 1997. He also was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans.

In addition to their work for ex-prisoners of war, Wayne and Jo also were very active in

many volunteer and charitable organizations in the community. Wayne was a forty-year member of Lions International and was Boy Scout Master for more than 20 years. Jo spent her time running from meeting to meeting of the many charitable organizations to which she belonged. After Wayne's death in 1999, she also served as president of a local Ex-POW chapter until her death earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, Wayne and Jo Hitchcock were two outstanding individuals who loved their country and those who fought for it. They made this country better for ex-prisoners of war and for the many people with whom they came into contact. I miss them both, as do the many people who are forever indebted to them.

SUPPORTING THE IMMIGRANT
WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give tribute to the Immigrant Freedom Ride. These immigrants have crossed the country to ask Congress to allow them a process for naturalization, increase the number of visas for family reunification, and to protect the civil and labor rights of immigrants.

Immigrants need a process to earn legal status. These immigrants work hard, pay taxes, and want to be productive legal members of our society.

Many immigrants live in solitude. Work and send their money home so that their children and families can survive. That is why immigrants need more visas so we can reunite families. No parent should be forced out of necessity to miss out on the life of his or her child.

And, we must protect the civil rights of all immigrants—including the undocumented. Too many immigrant workers are fired if they speak up about labor violations. Labor protections should apply to all workers, not just citizens. These demands are just.

Immigrants break their backs picking our fruits and vegetables, building our homes, and making our clothes. But, they will no longer be silent. They demand fair treatment.

This is a wakeup call. Immigrants are angry and will not be silent anymore.

I support the ideals of the Immigrant Freedom Ride and aim to help immigrants achieve these goals.

HONORING DOCTOR DAWOOD
FARAHI

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Dawood Farahi on his inauguration as the seventeenth president of Kean University. Dr. Farahi was inaugurated on Tuesday, September 30, 2003, at the Wilkins Theatre on the campus of Kean University.

On February 24, 2003, the Kean University Board of Trustees unanimously elected Dr.

Dawood Farahi to be the seventeenth president of Kean University. Dr. Farahi has been described as the embodiment of Kean University for his commitment to educational quality and affordability for its students. His leadership will undoubtedly bring Kean University to an even higher level of academic excellence.

Dr. Farahi was recently special assistant to the president of Kean University for both operations and technology. During this time, Dr. Farahi was responsible for the supervision of budget management, position control, enrollment services, and the office of computers and information systems. He created and implemented the Technology Institute, which provides training for faculty and staff in order to integrate computers into the curriculum and begin developing distance-learning courses.

Dr. Dawood Farahi has worked closely with state, county, and municipal officials in problem solving and technical capacities. Dr. Farahi developed and implemented a strategic information plan for the City of Elizabeth, New Jersey. As a result, the Elizabeth Police Department has been lauded as one of the 10 best in the nation. Working with the Elizabeth public school system, Dr. Farahi created the Vision 2000 Strategic Plan, which is now used as a model for many urban schools in New Jersey and throughout the nation.

Dr. Farahi was a Fulbright Scholar, and received a Ph.D with honors from the University of Kansas. He has been a full-time professor at Kean University since 1989, teaching Quantitative Methods, Management Information Systems, and Strategic Management, and was honored in 1993 as the Graduate Teacher of the Year, and was named Teacher of the Year in 1996.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Dawood Farahi on his appointment as the seventeenth president of Kean University.

H. RES. 384, A BILL HONORING THE
IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM
RIDE

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 384 that celebrates the successful journey of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride.

Inspired by the Freedom Riders of the 1960's Civil Rights Movement, a broad coalition of individuals including immigrants, union officials, religious leaders, and civil rights activists set out on September 20, 2003 from ten major U.S. cities to educate the public and elected officials about immigrant rights and the injustices of our country's current immigration policies. Over the last 12 days, 900 freedom riders in 18 buses have visited more than 100 cities, towns, and work places.

The freedom riders have educated communities across America about the hardships faced day after day by immigrant workers and their families. Immigrants work in every industry in America. They are construction workers, doctors, nurses, janitors, meat packers, farmworkers, engineers, and soldiers. They care for our children, tend to our elderly, pick and serve our food, build and clean our houses,

and what they ask for in return is a fair and equal opportunity to achieve the American dream. Yet, our broken immigration system impedes many because they are unable to live and work freely. Far too many immigrants are exploited by their employers, separated from family, and unprotected by our laws. The Immigrant Workers Freedom Riders have renewed the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement in order to draw attention to the needs of this marginalized community.

But that is not where their effort ends. They have a plan of action—a solution to many of the hardships encountered by so many immigrants in this country. Their plan has four key proposals: a new legalization program for undocumented immigrants; the right of immigrants to reunite with their families; the protection of immigrants in the workplace; and civil rights and civil liberties for all.

To bring their plan to the attention of our national leaders, the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride arrived in Washington, D.C. on October 1, 2003. I welcome, and congratulate them for embarking on this historic journey.

I particularly want to acknowledge the two buses of freedom riders from Los Angeles. Several of the participants are my constituents who have taken time from their jobs and left their families and children behind in order to make the long journey to Washington, D.C.

I met with a group of them on Thursday, October 2. What they told me was truly inspiring. Some have been in this country for several years while others have only recently arrived, but they all have a love and appreciation for America. They don't want or expect handouts. They believe in hard work and doing their part for our country. What they do want, Mr. Speaker, is what we all want—the opportunity to prosper and to obtain a good life for themselves and their families. They want to be full participants in every aspect of our society.

I applaud the Immigrant Workers Freedom Riders and commend the organizers for helping to ensure that immigrant voices are heard. I am encouraged by the support they have garnered across the country, and I hope that their tour will serve as a catalyst for fair and meaningful reform of our nation's immigration laws. Our immigrant community deserves greater protections under the law, and Congress has an obligation to provide it.

In the words of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.: "Let us therefore continue our triumphal march to the realization of the American dream . . ."

In keeping with Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, we are reminded today that the struggle for civil rights continues for many. The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride is a renewal of a struggle for fairness and equality for all. I am hopeful that my colleagues and all of America will embrace it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 30, 2003, I was absent attending a meeting in my Congressional District in Ohio and missed the votes on Roll Call Number 524, the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1, the Medicare

Prescription Drug and Modernization Act; Roll Call Number 525, the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1308, the Tax Relief, Simplification and Equity Act; and Roll Call Number 526, on H. Res. 357, Honoring the Life and Legacy of Bob Hope.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on Roll Call Number 524, "Nay" on Roll Call Number 525, and "Yea" on Roll Call Number 526.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM
EXTENSIONS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues, Representatives JOHN A. BOEHNER, GEORGE MILLER, and LYNN WOOLSEY, I am introducing legislation to extend for one year provisions in the Child Nutrition Act, the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, and the Commodity Distribution Reform Act that are vital to our Nation's effort to ensure that low income children have access to safe and nutritious food in school, after school, and during the summer months.

Members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce are busy preparing legislation to reauthorize and improve all the child nutrition programs included in the Child Nutrition Act and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, including the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, known as WIC, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the After School Snack Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. I have been pleased with this effort and the progress made in preparing a bill for introduction.

Despite our progress, Committee Members do not want to draft such important legislation in haste and so need additional time to ensure that any changes to the current law best serve the interests of the children whom these programs are intended to reach. Without the extensions included in this legislation, millions of needy children could lose access to healthy meals and snacks that are critical for their healthy growth and development and academic success in school.

This legislation includes a very important provision that allows children of our Armed Forces to continue receiving free- or reduced-price meals at school if they meet eligibility requirements. Without this legislation, families living in privatized military housing could not exempt their housing allowance from the income amount used to determine their children's eligibility for free- or reduced-price meals, like those living in military-owned housing currently can. Taking school meal subsidies from children when many of their mothers and fathers are fighting for our nation's security at home and abroad would have a devastating effect on these families.

Also included in this legislation is a provision that would continue the ability of for-profit child care centers to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. This program provides meals and snacks to children in for-profit centers when at least 25 percent of the children meet the income eligibility criteria for free- and reduced-price meals.

Additionally, this legislation would extend the authority for schools, churches, and community organizations to operate Summer Food Service Program sites, and in 14 states, continue operation of special pilot programs that reduce paperwork requirements and thereby increase the number of low-income children who receive free meals and snacks during the summer months.

Finally, this legislation ensures that until a child nutrition reauthorization bill is signed into law, commodity distribution to schools will be maintained at sufficient levels and that schools will have funds available to replace commodities that pose a potential health or safety risk to students.

The child nutrition provisions that would be extended through this legislation benefit America's most vulnerable children. It is our duty as lawmakers to ensure that these at-risk children and their families can continue to receive the benefits for which they have been deemed eligible until the House and Senate complete work on legislation reauthorizing both the Child Nutrition Act and Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act in their entirety.

**PREVENT PRICE GOUGING DURING
A DISASTER—SUPPORT THE
P.I.G. ACT**

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, as we have just seen following Hurricane Isabel, some vendors charged residents exorbitant rates for essential goods and services following the storm. A recent Washington Post article reports that in one instance, a tree-cutting firm wanted \$17,000 to remove five trees that had already fallen to the ground. The same article refers to gasoline being sold for over \$3 a gallon and bottles of water sold for \$5 apiece.

While most merchants are honorable and help their neighbors by providing at a reasonable cost the products or services during a crisis, others seek to take advantage of these people in their time of need. Today I am introducing the Permanently Inhibit Gougers (P.I.G.) Act that would prohibit vendors from increasing prices on goods and services widely needed during a declared disaster.

Specifically, prices could not be increased by more than 10 percent in excess of the average price of a product over the last 90 days. This restriction would apply for the seven days before a foreseeable event and for the 90 days following a disaster. Increases in excess of 10% would be branded an unfair or deceptive business practice under the Federal Trade Commission Act. Reasonable exceptions would be made for vendors allowing them to raise their prices proportionally when their cost of doing business or acquiring wholesale goods increases during a crisis.

Additionally, violators would be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$250,000. People who are the victims of price gouging would be able to sue the purveyor for damages up to three times the amount they overpaid.

Congress must act to prevent unscrupulous vendors from taking advantage of consumers during an emergency. We need to make it clear that such despicable behavior, which is

as shameless as looting, will be punished severely in order to ensure that our constituents are not gouged at the worst possible time. I urge my colleagues to send gougers a strong message by signing on as cosponsors of this legislation.

HONORING CONSULEGIS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an important semi-annual conference that will be taking place in my district over the span of four days in October. Becker & Poliakoff, a highly respected and diverse commercial law firm based in Hollywood, Florida, has been chosen to host the Fall meeting of Consulegis, an international network of law firms.

Consulegis, an international association of independent law firms, was first founded in Germany to provide cross-country services when numerous restrictions once were in place that hindered commerce between many countries in Europe. Members of this organization include law practices that achieve the hallmark of being independent, commercially minded, and possessing the highest professional standards. Since its initial inception, the organization has grown rapidly, once encompassing more of Europe and then later expanding to include members from other continents of the world.

The founding principles that guide this exemplary international group are based on the premise that within our globalized commercial framework, cooperation and cohesion amongst a strong network of firms will bring forth the ideal results for their respective clients. Simply by working together, Consulegis and its independent firms can rely on a number of resources and a solidified level of trust to achieve their goals.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a special occasion to rise today and honor this event. Not only am I proud of the respected law firm in my district, Becker & Poliakoff, which has proven worthy as a member of Consulegis to host this crucial conference, but I am encouraged by this organization's efforts to bridge gaps in the international community. Indeed, forming a reliable network of professionals all seeking to help their clients and spur growth in our international commercial framework only has proven to be positive in every sense. From partnerships such as Consulegis and the cooperation they foster, these firms have been trailblazers in understanding and harnessing the beneficial context of the international economy.

TRIBUTE TO CALVIN HOPPER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen. Calvin Hopper has worked for many years in the field of nu-

clear safety. His dedication and hard work has earned him widespread recognition, including the Outstanding Achievement Award from Colorado State University—Pueblo. Calvin is well accomplished in his field, and I am honored to recognize his achievements today.

Calvin is a distinguished Senior Development Engineer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he works in nuclear criticality safety process analysis and program management. Prior to his current work, Calvin held many positions in the field, including helping to develop the Department of Energy Standard Practices Guide for criticality safety projects for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In addition, Calvin has served as the Deputy Advisor and Technical Expert to the U.S. Nuclear Technical Advisory Group and is a member of the American Nuclear Society, where he serves as chairman of several committees. Outside of his professional life, Calvin works to give back to his community through involvement in the Habitat for Humanity and the Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra and Band.

Mr. Speaker, Calvin Hopper is a dedicated scientist and active citizen. His distinguished professional achievements and commitment to his community are truly an inspiration to us all. I am honored to join with my colleagues in recognizing Calvin here today.

**ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF
BOB MURPHY**

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, back home in New York, Mets fans are coping with the retirement of New York Mets announcer Bob Murphy. Murph was an original Met, having called Mets games since their inception in 1962, 42 seasons ago. He saw, and brought home to us, every peak and trough in between.

It's hard to explain the special bond that Mets fans have with Bob Murphy. But it is akin to a long-term friendship that begins in early childhood, suffers with you through adolescence, struggles with you through young adulthood, and triumphs with you through maturity. Friends who spend every summer day and night together, and whose hearts ache to be reunited during the long, cold winter.

As children, Bob Murphy tucked us in to bed at night. He sat with us in the classroom as we smuggled a radio into school. He rode with us as we sat in traffic. No matter what else was transpiring in our life, we could always turn to Bob Murphy bringing us a routine game in the middle of June, and be put totally at ease. Bob Murphy had that calming effect on us. Chicken pox, report cards, girlfriends all came and went—but through the years, Bob Murphy never left our side. He shared those moments with us all while bringing us to the edge of our seat, sharing with us the emotional roller coaster that comes with being a Mets fan.

He brought us laughter; he brought us tears (in the early years, often at the same time). In their history, the Mets have won two World Series and four pennants. But, nestled between those accomplishments, they have suffered at some of the leanest years that baseball has ever seen. All the while, our emotions

likewise ran the gamut; and there was Bob Murphy to share them with us.

His work behind the mike was as good as they come. One of my favorite calls remains the wild pitch thrown by Bob Stanley in the sixth game of the 1986 World Series. Everyone remembers the Bill Buckner error from that game. But, in truth, the biggest moment of that inning came a few pitches earlier, when Stanley's pitch to the backstop allowed Kevin Mitchell, the tying run, to score. Murph's succinct call was perfect. The excitement in his voice was unmistakable, and he let his brevity and his repetition indicate the profoundness of the moment.

"Gets away! Gets away! Here comes Mitchell! Here comes Mitchell! Tie game! Tie game . . .!" And with that last "tie game" his voice trailed off—or maybe it was drowned out—to the loudest eruption that Shea Stadium has ever heard.

We're going to miss him. Bob Murphy gave a lot to us, more than we can ever thank him for. But today, on behalf of my colleges in the House of Representatives, I wish Bob Murphy the happiest of recaps to a tremendous career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. McCOLLUM. Ms. Speaker, due to a scheduling conflict on September 25th, I was unable to vote on rollcall vote 522 and 523.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 522, the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act. It is vitally important that the Medicare Conferees accept the Senate-passed provisions requiring a federal "fallback" prescription drug benefit; agree to the best provisions improving Medicare payments to health care providers in rural areas; and reject the cut in payments to hospitals in the House bill which will adversely affect hospitals in rural areas.

I would also have voted "yes" on rollcall 523, the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1588, the Defense Authorization Act. At a time when we are asking more from our Reservists and National Guard than ever before, it is only fair that we provide these heroic women and men with the proper health care they need to care for themselves and their families. I will continue to support efforts toward a strong health care system for all our military women and men, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

RUFINO MENDOZA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding elementary school in my district. As a former school teacher, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Rufino Mendoza Elementary School in Fort Worth, TX. Re-

cently, Mendoza was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a national "Blue Ribbon school."

Rufino Mendoza Elementary was recognized for outstanding academic improvement, and Mendoza has worked very hard to achieve this honor. Mendoza has overcome incredible odds to offer the very finest education possible. Ninety-seven percent of the students at Mendoza Elementary school are of a minority background, and 87 percent of those students come from low-income families. In fact, most of the students qualify for the free lunch program, and 56 percent speak Spanish as their primary language.

In the past 4 years, Mendoza has moved from being simply "acceptable" to being an example of excellence for all schools across the Nation. Mendoza recognized its educational challenges 4 years ago and designed a plan to directly meet those challenges. Mendoza Elementary called together school administrators, teachers, and school district officials in a cooperative agreement to study the needs of each student. The result is an education system that is based on the needs and potential of every student.

I am very proud of the students, parents, teachers, and administrators at Rufino Mendoza Elementary. Thanks to their hard work, Mendoza is a symbol of hope and achievement for students in our community and across this Nation.

Rufino Mendoza Elementary, congratulations on being named a Blue Ribbon school.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 25, 2003, I voted against the Kind motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1, the Medicare Modernization Act, when I intended to vote in the affirmative. The rollcall vote was 522. Let the record show I intended to vote "yea" on the motion.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES HALL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen. Dr. James Hall of Livermore, California is a dedicated research scientist who diligently works to improve the safety of all Americans. James is a graduate of Colorado State University—Pueblo and is being recognized by that institution for his outstanding work in the field of science with their Outstanding Alumnus award. James is well accomplished in his field, and I am honored to recognize his achievements here today.

James is a Principal Investigator at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in Livermore, California. His work includes utilizing nuclear technology to screen luggage and air cargo. James is a leader in his field,

publishing over 60 articles, and he is a member of the American Physical Society. In the past, James worked with the U.S. Underground Nuclear Test Program and was selected by the Department of Energy to serve as their representative to the Eighth Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission in association with the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).

Mr. Speaker, James Hall exemplifies a life devoted to science and technological advancement. Through his hard work and dedication, James has worked to improve lives through scientific discovery. For his many accomplishments, I am honored to pay tribute to Dr. James Hall here today.

INTRODUCTION FOR THE KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, there is a tragedy going on across our country every day in which parents are being forced to turn over custody of their severely emotionally disturbed children to state child welfare agencies or the juvenile justice system as their only means of obtaining desperately needed mental health services. These instances of child custody relinquishment happen when families are uninsured or have inadequate health insurance to pay for treatment of their child's illness. Because this nation's social safety net is not designed to help these families stay together, parents are being forced to turn their child over to the state in order to get the medical attention they so desperately need.

The "Keeping Families Together Act" which Senator COLLINS, Senator PRYOR, Representative RAMSTAD and Representative KENNEDY, and I are introducing today will help end this barbaric practice of child custody relinquishment.

The problem is widespread. In a report we requested, the U.S. General Accounting Office report found that parents placed over 12,700 children in 19 states and 30 counties into the child welfare system or juvenile justice system as their only means to assure that these children could receive vitally needed mental health services.

The GAO report looked at a limited number of states and acknowledged that the number of families impacted nationwide is much higher. To add further credence to that finding, a recent survey conducted by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) found that 25% of parents of children with serious emotional disturbance reported being advised to relinquish custody of their child in order to access needed mental health services.

According to another report by the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, the situations that cause parents and guardians to give up their seriously emotionally disturbed children to state agencies include the following:

The family has either exhausted their private health insurance benefits or their benefits do not cover required mental health services (e.g. Residential Treatment Program).

The family lives in a state or jurisdiction in which Medicaid services do not adequately address mental health needs and agency

placement provides access or priority status for entry into needed care.

The family lives in a state or jurisdiction in which children are deprived of federally mandated mental health services through the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) as a result of an exceedingly restrictive definition of serious emotional illness. That is, these schools often label these children as solely "discipline problems."

The family lives in a state or jurisdiction in which the local child welfare system erroneously interprets federal law (Title IV-E of the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Program) as requiring relinquishment of custody even for temporary out-of-home placements.

As all of these reports highlight, families are acting out of desperation to get immediately needed mental health services for their children. In essence, the juvenile justice and child welfare systems have become the mental health providers of last resort for far too many families.

Both the child welfare system and juvenile justice systems are ill equipped to meet these children's needs. Even worse, the psychological bond between parent and child is unnecessarily disrupted. These children feel abandoned and their parents feel guilty over their parental rights and decision-making authority and to a state agency. The stigma is real—to families themselves and to those around them. Good parents don't have their children taken away. But, in fact, the need to relinquish custody in these instances doesn't have anything to do with parenting skills. It has everything to do with our system being broken and continuing to allow these children with significant mental health needs to fall through the cracks.

We have known about this problem for many years. In fact, I first introduced legislation in 1995 attempting to address this issue. Since then I have been working with my colleagues to educate the public and other members of Congress about this issue and to find a bipartisan solution.

Our legislation, the "Keeping Families Together Act" is the result of this bipartisan and bicameral process. Our bill provides new funding to states that are willing to develop systems that assure these children get the mental health services they need without pulling apart their families.

It provides \$55 million in new family support grants to states that are willing to end the practice of child custody relinquishment and cover all these children's mental health services under Medicaid, CHIP or any other health program of their choosing. These monies can then be used to improve access to mental health and family support services that keep families together. They can also be used to create statewide care coordination programs and to deliver mental health care and family support services for these families.

Additionally, the bill establishes a federal interagency task force that is responsible for monitoring the family support grants and working with representatives of affected families to make recommendations to Congress to improve mental health services and to foster interagency cooperation in order to remove barriers that have caused child custody relinquishment. The task force is also required to provide biannual reports to Congress on its progress in improving the delivery of mental health services to seriously ill children.

The bill also provides states with the option of moving children out of hospital-based psychiatric care and into home and community based care options, which will allow them to remain with their families.

The Keeping Families Together Act is an important first step toward eliminating child custody relinquishment. I look forward to working with my colleagues to quickly enact this legislation so states can develop innovative new programs that address these children's mental health needs while keeping their families together. Once we've learned what has effectively worked at the state level to restructure these programs, we will need to return to this issue at the federal level and enact broad legislation to end the practice of forced child custody relinquishment nationwide.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. Speaker, the term "family values" can be politically loaded, but there is nobody in this body who doesn't want to strengthen families. Likewise, I am confident there is nobody in this body who would not be horrified by the prospect of parents being forced to turn custody of their children over to state bureaucrats as a condition of meeting their basic health needs. Nevertheless, each year thousands of families are broken up because parents are forced to relinquish their custody rights to the state in order to obtain mental health services for their children.

Forty years ago, my uncle, President Kennedy, signed legislation intended to allow people with mental illnesses to gain their dignity back, and to get out of warehouse-like institutions and back into the communities where they belong. The bill my colleagues, Mr. STARK, Mr. RAMSTAD and I are introducing today, the Keeping Families Together Act, is submitted in the same spirit.

Services to treat mental disorders in children are expensive and private insurance tends to run out after a few months, leaving parents unable to afford the cost. Without any other way to get their kids the treatment they need, parents all too often must choose between custody and care. The General Accounting Office reported in April that parents in 19 states were forced to place 12,700 children in state welfare or juvenile justice agencies in 2001 in order to obtain mental health services for them. Unfortunately, this estimate is considered to be low, because 31 states did not respond to the survey.

The problem is not about resources per se; the fact is, we're still spending lots of money, but instead of spending it to keep families together, we're tearing families apart. Clearly, we already have enough broken families in this country—the last thing we should be doing is breaking up more. It's cruel and barbaric to force children out of their families and it's inhumane to give a mom or dad the Hobson's choice between their child's health and safety or custody. It is unconscionable that we frequently reward the parents who make this ultimate sacrifice by treating them like com-

mon criminals. The current situation is not only awful for the parents. It's also hard to imagine any more counterproductive thing to do to children with serious emotional disturbances than to make them feel rejected by their parents.

The Keeping Families Together Act will provide competitive grants to states to help eliminate the problem of forced parental custody relinquishment of such children. Ultimately, it will facilitate the design of care for these most desperate children, so that when a moment of crisis occurs there is an alternative to the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. It will build on existing resources to develop an improved system of care through a collaborative process including required state and private partners, as well as other entities that the governor of the state determines appropriate.

In proposing the community mental health services act in 1963, President Kennedy said that our long history of neglect of the mentally ill must end, "if our Nation is to live up to its own standards of compassion and dignity." As long as we continue to pull families apart as a condition for receiving mental health care, we are failing our own standards. I look forward to working with my colleagues in both Houses, from both parties, to end this blight.

HONORING SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMANDER PAUL DEVAUL'S COMMITMENT TO AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the longtime dedication of Junior Past County Commander Paul DeVaul to the American Legion and veterans across the country. As Suffolk County Commander for the past two years, Mr. DeVaul has exemplified true commitment to Legionnaires and has proven to be a hero to veterans everywhere. I commend the American Legion for bestowing a well-deserved Testimonial on Mr. DeVaul.

As a member of Bay Shore Post No. 365 since 1990, Paul's steadfast devotion to our veterans community serves as a benchmark for what can be accomplished through an allegiance to history and experience as a community activist. Mr. DeVaul has formed a lasting bond between the American Legion and the Long Island community by establishing recognition programs for groups who support veterans and their organizations. As the current recording Secretary for the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Committee, Paul has successfully aided his Post to take full control of the post home.

Mr. DeVaul is not only dedicated to improving the lives of our veterans but our youth as well. In creating a scholarship for outstanding music students in high school marching bands and developing an awe-inspiring Flag Day celebration for Commack elementary school, Paul has demonstrated the positive roles that our veterans organizations have in our communities.

Paul is an effective advocate for our veterans population and has a wealth of knowledge about American history. He is well-known in the community and can be counted on to deliver consistently heartfelt and moving

addresses which comforted the grief stricken Long Islanders in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

After having spent time with Mr. DeVaul I consider him a true patriot and am proud to rely on his valuable insight as a member of my Veteran's Advisory Committee. I look forward to continuing my work with Paul on initiatives that advance the goals of the American Legion and all veterans. His commitment is exemplary and I have no doubt that Paul DeVaul will continue his great works for many years to come.

IN HONOR OF STANLEY FRIEDLANDER, RESIDENT OF THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF OHIO AND PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN LAND TITLE ASSOCIATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Ohioan whose career and service deserves recognition. Stanley Friedlander is the outgoing president of the American Land Title Association (ALTA). The American Land Title Association is composed of 2,400 title insurance companies, their agents, independent abstracters and attorneys who search, examine, and insure land titles to protect owners and mortgage lenders against losses from defects in titles. Many of these companies also provide additional real estate information services, such as tax search, flood certification, tax filing, and credit reporting services. These firms and individuals employ nearly 100,000 individuals and operate in every county in the country.

Stanley's entrepreneurial spirit is inspiring. While attending Kent State University, Stanley started his first job in the title insurance industry and within a year had launched his own title agency. Currently, Mr. Friedlander is the president of Continental Title Agents Corporation, which he co-founded 30 years ago, based in Cleveland, OH. Stanley's four-decade career has been committed to helping the American dream of homeownership come true. It is no surprise that Stanley became president of the American Land Title Association.

As a title agent, Stanley insures that a property bought by a consumer comes with all ownership rights or a "clean title." When purchasing a home or other real estate, one actually does not receive the land, but rather a title to the property, which may be limited by rights and claims asserted by others. Problems with title can limit one's use and enjoyment of real estate, as well as bring financial loss to both the individual purchaser and the mortgage lender.

Protection is available through title insurance. Title insurance, unlike other types of insurance, offers protection against loss arising from hazards and defects already existing in the title. The common types of problems include: deeds, will and trusts that contain improper vesting and incorrect names, outstanding mortgages, judgments and tax liens,

easements or incorrect notary acknowledgments. Specifically, a previously undisclosed heir may make a claim against a property or a forged deed was used in the transfer of title making it invalid. Title insurance offers financial protection against these and other hazards through negotiations by the title insurer with third parties, payment for defending against an attack on title as insured, and payment of claims.

As President of ALTA, Stanley is committed to guiding his industry through a time of potential challenges and recently testified before the House Financial Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity.

Mr. Friedlander is also a leader in his community. He has served on the Moreland Hills Community Council and is currently involved as a member of the community's Planning Commission and the Cuyahoga County Bar Association's Grievance Committee. He is also involved in Cleveland's Hebrew Free Loan Association whose mission is to provide interest free loans to those in need. Stanley has been active in the Ohio Land Title Association (OLTA), where he chaired the Education Committee, served on the Board of Governors, and as OLTA president.

Mr. Friedlander is married to Cheryl Karner, a common pleas court judge. Together they have two children, Jennifer and Joey both in their early twenties.

I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I congratulate Mr. Friedlander on his service to ALTA during the past year and wish him continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DANA PERINO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen. Dana Perino of Washington, D.C. is a talented and dedicated public servant. Dana is a product of Colorado State University—Pueblo and is being honored by that institution with its Outstanding Alumna award. For her dedication and hard work to her nation, I am honored to recognize Dana here today.

Dana has dedicated many years to the field of communications. She is the Director of Communications for the White House Council on Environmental Quality, which oversees implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act by all Federal agencies. Dana acts as one of the administration's primary spokeswomen with regard to environmental issues, taking complex issues and making them understandable so the message can get out to concerned citizens. Prior to her work with the White House, Dana served as press secretary for former Congressman Dan Schaefer and a staff assistant in my office. From that humble beginning, Dana has gone on to do great things.

Mr. Speaker, Dana Perino is a committed and hard working public servant. Her years of service to the citizens of Colorado and the Na-

tion at large are truly an inspiration to us all. I am honored to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to Dana here today. Congratulations and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

HONORING ZURETTI GOOSBY, JR.,
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Zuretti Goosby, Jr., an extraordinary citizen of Humboldt County, California who has devoted his life to public service. He is being honored for his dedication to the highest and best principles of our democracy and for his contributions to the community.

Zuretti Goosby, Jr., who serves as Field Representative for State Senator Wesley Chesbro, has been a respected leader dedicated to empowering the economically disadvantaged. He was the Executive Director of the Redwood Community Action Agency which provides a broad spectrum of services to those in need. He has tirelessly committed his time, knowledge and considerable skills to enhancing health care services to those who are underserved and continues his service on various community policy and planning committees and boards of directors, including the Community Open Door Health Centers and St. Joseph's Hospital Advisory Committee. In addition, he served as President of the Board of the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center and Vice President of the Board of the Volunteer Center of the Redwoods Advisory Council.

Zuey Goosby, former Executive Director of the Yurok Tribe, has devoted himself to protecting the civil and human rights of all people, recognizing that many of our fellow citizens are still victimized by racism and poverty. He continues to contribute his efforts on behalf of indigenous cultures. He is committed to protecting the natural resource treasures of Northern California. He is a member of the City of Eureka Trails Committee and a member of the Board of Governors of the North Coast Regional Land Trust, the Humboldt Arts Council, Mainstreet Media Project and the Arcata Community Recycling Center.

A highly regarded member of the North Coast community, Zuey Goosby was born in Oakland, California and grew up in San Francisco. He and his late wife Sara came to Humboldt County and raised their two daughters, Jenckyn and Dara with care and devotion. He is a master gardener, kayaker and active walker.

Zuey Goosby is being recognized this year for his outstanding contributions to the political process by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as the Democrat of the Year 2003.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Zuretti Goosby, Jr. for his unwavering commitment to the ideals and values that sustain our great country.

October 2, 2003

THE HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET
AMENDMENTS TECHNICAL COR-
RECTIONS ACT OF 2003

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3038, the Health Care Safety Net Amendments and Technical Corrections Act of 2003. This bill makes small but significant technical changes to the Health Care Safety Net Improvement Act that I co-sponsored in the 107th Congress.

As a co-chair of the Community Health Centers Caucus, I would like to recognize a fellow co-chair of the Caucus, and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, Mr. BILIRAKIS, as well as the Ranking Member, Mr. BROWN, for their work in bringing this bill to the floor.

In the 107th Congress, this body passed the Health Care Safety Net Improvement Act of 2002 with strong bipartisan support, demonstrating a continuing commitment to the work of community health centers and the National Health Service Corps. The technical amendments in this bill ensure that the original goals of that legislation will be realized.

It is fitting that we consider this bill today, as new Census Bureau figures released this week show that the number of uninsured Americans has increased at an even greater rate than anticipated. Community health centers play an invaluable role in serving this medically underserved population.

In addition, a recent study by the George Washington University confirmed what many of us who have personally witnessed the work of health centers in our districts have long known, that the presence of community health centers in medically underserved communities reduces racial and ethnic disparities in key measures of community health. Researchers showed a clear association between the high penetration of community health centers in a state and narrower rates of disparity in infant mortality, access to prenatal care, and total death rates.

The Health Care Safety Net Amendments and Technical Improvements Act will ensure that this essential work can continue. I urge my colleagues to support community health centers and vote yes on H.R. 3038.

GONE WITH GLOBALIZATION

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 30, one of our nation's most thoughtful commentators on public policy, E.J. Dionne, Jr., published a very important article about globalization. E.J. Dionne is an enlightened and sophisticated student of world affairs, and he has been a consistent voice against isolationism, xenophobia, or any other prejudice against the rest of the world. So it seems to me particularly worth noting when he questions some of the assumptions that have long governed the opinion of many of the most highly educated people in this country about globalization. E.J. Dionne is not

an opponent of increasing global economic integration, but like many of us who understand the inevitability of this, in this column he makes some extremely important points about how it has played out, and, what thoughtful public policy ought to be to deal with the downside of globalization. Indeed, the very fact that he here describes that downside makes this an important article, because too many of those who have embraced international economic integration have done so through an excessively rosy set of glasses.

It is not coincidental, Mr. Speaker, that both Mr. Dionne and I have a very important connection to the city of Fall River, Massachusetts. He was born and grew up there, and his family remained an important part of that city's cultural, religious and educational life for decades after he moved to Washington. I have had the privilege of representing Fall River in this body since 1982, and he and I have thus both had a chance to see first hand what the downside of globalization has been among many of our more vulnerable, hardworking citizens.

The balanced view of globalization which E.J. Dionne takes in this article is one that is sorely lacking in many quarters, and because this is one of the most important public policy issues confronting our country, I ask that E.J. Dionne's article be printed here.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 30, 2003]

GONE WITH GLOBALIZATION

(By E.J. Dionne Jr.)

Except for the saints in our midst, everyone has prejudices including the well educated and well-to-do: But when upscale folks have prejudices, they usually call them ideas, convictions or principles.

So how can you tell when a principle is merely a prejudice? When someone keeps making an argument even though the facts suggest it no longer holds up.

It is time to ask whether the overwhelming support for free trade and globalization among well-off, highly educated people is more a prejudice rooted in their own self-interest than a matter of high principle.

Okay, maybe that's too harsh. So try this: Even if globalization made a lot of sense during the buoyant 1990s, shouldn't the troubling economic developments since 2000 force people to modify their views? Is it not now undeniable that globalization has serious costs that are not merely "transition problems" and that these costs are borne disproportionately by certain parts of the country and the society?

Now, I don't want to be accused of prejudice myself, so let me stipulate that most educated folks really believe on principle in free trade. They can rely on reams of writing by intelligent economists to support their view.

Moreover, no one likely to hold power in our country would return us to the days of William McKinley and high tariff walls. The globalizers are right when they argue that too many Americans are now reliant on the global economy for such policies to work.

But it ought to be equally obvious that the globalizers in both political parties were too carefree when they asserted in the 1990s that, well, yes, there are "losers" from globalization, but there are so many more "winners" that we really shouldn't worry. Those who lost out in this grand process would eventually find their footing, the argument went, and government could help them make the transition. By the way, where was all that help? In any case the prophets of our bright future said the United States shouldn't

worry about "old" industries such as steel or apparel. It should worry about leading the way in all that is "new" and "high tech."

Having grown up in Fall River, Mass., a place whose job base was once rooted in the apparel industry, I've always felt that writing off an industry as, "old" is a lot easier for people who never depended on it. Maybe, that's an "old economy" prejudice on my part, especially since my home town has been remarkably inventive in giving birth to new enterprises.

Still, it's not a form of prejudice to cite statistics showing that the sharp decline in manufacturing jobs over the past few years has been accompanied by a decline in overall family incomes.

Consider the Census Bureau's report for 2002 showing that U.S. household incomes had declined for the third year in a row and that the number of Americans living in poverty had increased by 1.7 million in a year. The old manufacturing states—including Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, and Missouri—were among those hit, the hardest. (Politicians take note: These are swing states.)

The economists reassure us that the poverty rate is a "lagging" indicator and that a robust recovery will start lifting people up again. But will it? Is it not just as plausible to worry that the flight of jobs to China and elsewhere, courtesy of globalization, has combined with big improvements in productivity to create an economy that leaves many of our fellow citizens behind even in flush times?

The Institute for Supply Management, which keeps some of the best numbers on manufacturing, pleased the stock market earlier this month with report showing that economic activity in manufacturing grew in August, as it had in July. But its manufacturing employment index actually fell and remained below the 50 percent break-even point for job creation for the 35th consecutive month.

If supporters of globalization really do hold principles and not prejudices, they should admit that the facts make it increasingly difficult to say that everything will eventually get better for everyone and that changes in the system will only make it worse. Worse for whom exactly?

Our tax and social policies are supposed to respond to inequities as they arise. But our current approach seems based mostly on begging China to fix its currency and praying for 5 percent growth. Michigan, as it sometimes has in the past, will just have to rely on a pass and a prayer.

The evidence suggests that we're not in the New Economy anymore but in a New New Economy with problems that weren't supposed to arise. The real lagging indicator is our economic thinking.

IN MEMORY OF BARRY BERINGER,
CHIEF SCIENCE COMMITTEE
COUNSEL, 1989-2003

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Barry Beringer, Chief Counsel of the House Science Committee, who passed away last week at the age of 57.

Originally from New Jersey, Barry graduated from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in political science.

He received his law degree three years later from American University Law School in 1971. After working for several years in the Reagan Administration as Associate Undersecretary of Economic Affairs in the Department of Commerce, Barry began working for the Science Committee in 1989.

I met Barry when I came to Congress in 1993. Like many Congressional freshmen, I was eager to go to work on getting many of my ideas incorporated into Federal policy, but I had little understanding of the politics and processes of Capitol Hill. It was Barry who in many ways served as my mentor as I learned about policymaking in the House. He was always available to answer questions, and was an extremely patient and knowledgeable resource for members. He had the highest respect of members of Congress and his colleagues in the House. More importantly, Barry was a caring man and a great friend to all of us who knew and worked with him.

I want to extend my heartfelt sympathy to Barry's wife Bonnie and their two children during this difficult time. He will be deeply missed by all of us.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LOLA SPRADLEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this Nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Lola Spradley of Beulah, Colorado is a dedicated public servant and a good friend. For years, Lola has worked to meet the needs of the citizens of the great State of Colorado through her work in the Colorado General Assembly, where she currently serves as Speaker of the House. For her dedication to Colorado, Lola is being recognized by Colorado State University—Pueblo with its Outstanding Service to the Community Award. She is a valuable public servant, and I am honored to pay tribute to Lola here today.

Lola is a true pioneer in Colorado politics, serving as the first female Speaker in the Colorado State General Assembly. For years, Lola has represented the needs of her district, working tirelessly to ensure that their voice is heard in the State Capitol. Before her term as Speaker, she served as the House Majority Leader from 2001 to 2002. In addition to her work in the State House, Lola has served on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Technology and as Chair of the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Lola Spradley has dedicated many years of service to the great State of Colorado. As Speaker of the House and as Representative of District Sixty, Lola diligently meets the needs of her constituents. I am honored to join with my colleagues today in paying tribute to Lola Spradley here today. Congratulations on your recognition, Lola, and I wish you all the best.

AMI SEMICONDUCTOR INITIAL
PUBLIC OFFERING

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate AMI Semiconductors on their initial public offering of common stock on the Nasdaq National Market. AMI Semiconductors began trading publicly on the Nasdaq on September 24, 2003, under the name AMIS.

AMIS is a leader in the design and manufacture of customer specific integrated mixed signal semiconductor products. The company focuses on the automotive, medical and industrial markets, which have significant analog interface requirements for real world applications.

Two years ago, AMI Semiconductors moved its headquarters from San Diego, California to Pocatello, Idaho, where it opened a new engineering and research center in the city. In 2001, the company appointed Christine King as its CEO and President. AMIS forged new territory by making Ms. King the first woman in the world to be named as the president of a semiconductor company.

While its headquarters are located in Idaho, AMIS maintains a global presence. It keeps sales offices and technical support centers throughout Asia, Europe and the USA. AMIS employs over 2,400 people worldwide, and about 1,100 of those employees work at their company headquarters in Pocatello. AMI Semiconductors has been a real asset to Idaho's local economy and business development. It is now the largest private employer in Pocatello, bringing new jobs and new economic growth to the area. In the past six months alone, they have created 130 new jobs in the region.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate AMI Semiconductors on their initial public offering. I look forward to following their accomplishments in the business world and working with them over the coming months and years.

IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM
RIDE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express how thrilled I am to honor the immigrant workers for making their courageous journey across the country to fight for equality and civil rights. Modeled after the 1961 Freedom Rides of the U.S. civil rights movement, today's Immigrant Workers Freedom Riders are converging in Washington, D.C., after having visited cities and towns across America to raise awareness about the plight of immigrant workers.

This country was founded and built by immigrants. They are still the backbone of our country and we must continue to fight for their civil rights and immigration reform. Like countless Americans throughout our history, the Freedom Riders visiting our nation's capital today are seeking to fulfill their American

Dream. They work hard and contribute tremendously to our country, and to our economy. They deserve fair and equal treatment.

We must come together to continue to educate our communities about the plight of these workers, and to end the injustices and indignities these immigrants face daily.

The Immigrant Worker Freedom Ride is sponsored by a large coalition of religious groups, labor unions, immigrant advocates, and civil rights organizations. State legislators and political leaders across the country have endorsed the Freedom Ride, including the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Black Caucus.

There are many members of Congress like myself, who support efforts for meaningful and long overdue reforms such as: Providing a "Road to Citizenship" for immigrant workers, reuniting families in a timely fashion by streamlining our outdated immigration policies, and protecting and restoring workplace rights for immigrants.

Together, we will ensure that our message of equality and human dignity is heard. We will educate other members of Congress, and convince them to join our efforts.

HONORING DISTINGUISHED LATINO
WRITERS

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the National Book Festival sponsored by the Library of Congress and First Lady Laura Bush, I rise today to honor three distinguished Latino Writers.

Jose-Luis Orozco is in many respects a multi-cultural teacher and musician and is recognized across the country for his contributions to bilingual education and literacy. His recordings and books share and transmit Latin American traditions and culture to millions of children. As a children's author, songwriter, performing artist, he has recorded 13 volumes of *Lirica Infantil*, Latin American Children's Music. He has also written two award winning books, *De Colores* and *Other Latin American Folks Songs for Children* (Dutton 1994) and *Diez Deditos, Ten Little Fingers*. (Dutton 1997).

Mr. Orozco was born in Mexico City. At the age of ten he traveled the world with the Mexico City Boys Choir. In 1970 after graduating from Mexico City School of Music, he moved to the United States. Initially, on a two week visit, Orozco permanently stayed and completed his master's degree in Multi-cultural Education from the University of California, Berkeley.

Jose-Luis Orozco continues to perform for children around the country at concert halls, libraries, and schools. He is a recognized expert in children music is a featured speaker and presenter at numerous educational conferences for teachers, parents, and librarians. Mr. Orozco is a valued resource for all who seek to use music as a multi-cultural learning tool. His passion and dedication to multi-cultural education through music has impacted countless of individuals throughout the country.

Pam Munoz Ryan is the author of the novel *Esperanza Rising*, winner of the Pura Belpre Medal, a the Jane Addams Peace Award, and the American Library Associations' Top Ten Books for Young Adults and the Americas Award. In addition, her novel *Riding Freedom* has also gained wide recognition winning the Willa Cather Award and the California Young Readers Medal. Pam Munoz Ryan is also recognized for her picture books for young and older readers, such as the award winning *Amelia and Eleanor Go For A Ride* and also her work, *When Marian Sang*, is a recipient of the American Library Association's Sibert Honor, including the National Council of Teachers in English's *Orbits Pictus Award*.

Pam Munoz Ryan was born and raised in California in the San Joaquin Valley. She is the oldest of three sisters. She grew up surrounded by her aunts, uncles, and grandparents. During her childhood many hours were spent at the local library where her love of literature was cultivated. After receiving her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from San Diego State University, she became a teacher, an administrator, and after the encouragement from a friend a writer. Through her life's passion, as writer Pam Munoz Ryan has touched many lives.

Judith Ortiz Cofer is an English and Creative Writing Franklin Professor at University of Georgia. A native of Puerto Rico, her lectures center on biculturalism and the creative processes. She is driven by a deep belief in freedom of expression and the necessity to disseminate the literature and art of the many people contributing to the culture of the United States.

Her literary work is respected through the country being awarded The Anisfield Wolf Award for The Latin Deli, a collection of essays, short fiction, and poetry. In addition, she was awarded the first Pura Belpre Medal by Reforma of the American Library Association (1996) for her book, *An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio*, which also garnered the American Library Association Best book of the Year 1995-96. She also is the author of *Line in the Sun*, a novel, a collection of personal essay and short stories, and her work *Silent Dancing* was awarded a PEN/Martha Albarnd Special citation for nonfiction.

Judith Ortiz Cofer has been awarded several fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and Witter Bynner Foundation For Poetry. In 1998 Judith Ortiz Cofer was awarded Paterson Book Prize for her work, *The Year of Our Revolution: New and Selected Stories and Poems at Passaic County Community College*; additionally, she was the recipient of Christ Janner Award in Creative Research from the University of Georgia. The Rockefeller Foundation also awarded her residency at the Bellagio, Italy Conference Center in 1999.

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and The National Book Festival, I hope we take time to recognize the contributions of these and many other fine Hispanic authors. America's people come from rich and diverse cultural backgrounds. Literature is at the root of America's culture. These three authors have added tremendously to our diverse American cultural fabric

NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS
REDUCTION PROGRAM REAU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2608. This bill is the result of excellent bipartisan work by my colleagues on the Science Committee. I commend my colleagues, Congressmen SMITH and BAIRD, and Congresswoman LOFGREN for their leadership on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, the reauthorization of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program will promote good science and intelligent planning, and it will save lives. It is a smart investment in the future of this nation. This program rallies all the resources available in the federal government with expertise in earthquake response and damage mitigation, and focuses them on the task of readying ourselves for the next "big one." It brings together FEMA, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the OMB, in a concerted effort to assess our needs and to make preparations.

The bill will enable us to develop effective measures for hazards reduction, and will encourage implementation of those hazard reduction measures by Federal, State, and local governments through grants, standards development, and information sharing. This is a solid approach.

I was particularly pleased that an amendment I offered in Science Committee markup was accepted unanimously and is in the bill before us today. That amendment will ensure that the research that stems from this program taps into the great expertise and resources at this nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as well as those that serve predominantly Hispanics, Native Americans, and other populations under-represented in the sciences. This will also ensure that our federal programs are inclusive of all Americans, not exclusive as they have been too often in the past.

Again, this is an excellent bill that resulted from strong bipartisan work. I was pleased to be a part of that process, and am pleased to support it today.

RECOGNIZING OF NATIONAL FIRE
PREVENTION WEEK

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the observance of National Fire Prevention Week beginning Sunday, October 5, 2003. Celebrated every year since President Calvin Coolidge's official proclamation dedicating this week to educating the public on the benefits of practicing basic fire prevention measures, National Fire Prevention Week has undoubtedly given many the informational tools essential to saving lives and preventing unnecessary fire damage.

This week begins with the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg,

Maryland to honor those heroes that lost their lives in the line of duty. To honor those that gave the ultimate sacrifice, I authored legislation, that became public law in 2001, to lower all flags on federal buildings to half staff on this day of remembrance.

During National Fire Prevention Week we must all educate and learn to protect ourselves and others. I urge all individuals to take the proper steps to ensure the safety of their families and loved-ones by installing and routinely checking smoke detectors, developing and practicing home evacuation plans, and identifying potential fire hazards throughout the home.

This year's National Fire Prevention Week theme is "When Fire Strikes: Get out! Stay out!" As a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I know the vital importance of this message. In the United States nearly 6,000 people die each year in their homes, nearly 80 percent of all fire fatalities. Tragically, many fires and can be prevented if only individuals practice the proper preventative measures.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the National Fire Protection Association for their work each year in commemorating Fire Prevention Week. I also would like to thank the fine men and women of our fire and emergency services teams for the outstanding job they do in fighting fires and saving lives. I ask my colleagues to join me in urging all Americans to take the basic precautions that could save their lives.

WHITE HOUSE RECERTIFIES AN
ILL-DESERVING GUATEMALA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, a memorandum on Guatemala's many problems from the highly respected Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA) was placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The following timely memorandum authored by William McIntire, a research fellow at COHA, is a continuation of COHA's analysis of the ominous situation in Guatemala. COHA, a non-partisan organization that has long been committed to addressing issues associated with human rights, democracy and economic justice throughout the Western Hemisphere, has been referred to by Senator EDWARD KENNEDY a number of years ago as "one of our Nation's most respected bodies of scholars and policymakers."

WHITE HOUSE RECERTIFIES AN ILL-DESERVING
GUATEMALA

(By William B. McIntire, COHA Research
Fellow)

On Monday, September 15, the White House recommended to Congress that their certification of Guatemala, which was previously revoked due to failure of that country's authorities to be faithful allies in Washington's war on drugs, be renewed. This move, a stunning reversal of a Bush administration decision made last January to decertify for reasons of non-performance, qualifies the country to receive U.S. financial aid to fight drug traffickers. Applied to Guatemala, however, U.S. recertification remains a largely symbolic action as Washington waived all sanctions against Guatemala last January and

never halted the flow of aid to that country. Guatemala will now, nevertheless, gain the prestige of being a U.S. ally when it comes to the drug war, when the whole process is actually a sham. Alongside similar actions against Burma and Haiti, the State Department's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) announced its original decertification decision last January, which was a reflection on the escalating ineffectiveness of Guatemala's counter-narcotics efforts, as a result of President Alfonso Portillo's lackluster performance. The quantity of drugs seized by the Guatemalan government, which was rising annually until Portillo took office, plummeted in 2000 to only 13 percent of the amount seized the year before. In 2002 the Guatemalan police reportedly embezzled more than twice the quantity of drugs than they confiscated. The government's patently spurious commitment to the UN-brokered 1996 peace accords was also cited as a basis for Washington's decision to decertify last January. By its present action, the Bush administration graphically shows Latin America that when it comes to Washington's much touted war against drugs, there is no doubt that trade comes first.

WHITE HOUSE HOPES TO CHANGE GUATEMALA'S WAYS

In his briefing on the president's certification determination, INL Acting Assistant Secretary Paul Simons observed that last year's "suspension of assistance to Guatemala would result in further deterioration of precisely those Guatemalan institutions that are essential to combating the influence of organized crime." As a result, the State Department decided that, despite its decision to decertify Guatemala, financial sanctions that would normally accompany such a decision would not be exercised because they would only further undermine the country's already highly delicate democratic institutions.

More directly, President Bush's decision to rescind last January's largely symbolic decertification will be an obvious effort to woo Guatemala, which has the region's largest population and economy, into supporting a Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). CAFTA is a prototype of Washington's Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) scheme, which has been one of its highest priorities, and because of Guatemala's economic significance, it is a prime target for Washington's courtship. As a result, Bush's drug war is being crucified on the cross of free trade. Thus, it comes as no surprise that the Bush administration would not permit a small matter like Guatemala's abysmal drug interdiction record of late to jeopardize the achievement of CAFTA. As negotiations for the trade pact continue, Washington has also received criticism for not pursuing strong labor and environmental regulations as part of its core.

CAFTA: IS IT WORTH THE SACRIFICE?

To the chagrin of some in Washington, Guatemala's Constitutional Court recently gave former dictator Efraim Rios Montt its blessing to run for the presidency despite a constitutional provision that bars all coup participants from doing so. Rios Montt rose to power during a military coup in March 1982 and promptly set about a "scorched earth" campaign, murdering thousands of Mayan peasants. U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala John R. Hamilton has publicly warned that U.S. relations with Guatemala would be compromised if Rios Montt made his way back to power. Still, in the face of reaching a free trade accord, the recertification of Guatemala reveals the true stripes of Washington's foreign policy, and the insignificance it accords to the anti-drug war and the

rising human rights toll in Guatemala. In the name of Washington's free trade blitzkrieg, the White House has sacrificed the integrity of its professedly unwavering commitment to fight corruption and drugs in the very same Central American countries in which it allegedly endeavors to expand democracy, while promoting its all-important trade accord.

MORE HOLES THAN SWISS CHEESE IN WHITE HOUSE RECERTIFICATION OF GUATEMALA

On Monday, September 15, the White House, using doctored information and skimpy statistics, recommended to Congress the recertification of Guatemala, reversing a Bush administration decision made last January in response to the dramatic evidence of Guatemala's failure to meaningfully cooperate with Washington's anti-drug efforts. Recertification would normally qualify the newly reaccredited country to receive U.S. financial aid. However, for Guatemala, it remains a largely symbolic action, since Washington originally had waived all sanctions against the country, maintaining the flow of bilateral aid in the interest of preserving what meager anti-narcotics operations that remain active in the country. Shortly after the original decertification, 21 members of the U.S. Congress asserted that, until Guatemala was recertified as the result of a dramatically improved drug interdiction record, they would not vote to ratify the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

In his Monday memorandum to the State Department President Bush, using self-obfuscating language, touted Guatemala's "willingness to better its counternarcotics practices," but shied away from coming forth with any evidence to support it. Instead, the country was merely omitted from a section of the memorandum listing nations that had "failed demonstrably . . . to adhere to their obligations under international counternarcotics agreements." Whereas Guatemala, Haiti and Myanmar had been blacklisted in January, only the latter two remained in the September 15 statement. The Bush administration, understandably sheepish when it came to recertifying Guatemala only months after decertifying it, and with no tangible evidence to justify doing so, camouflaged the announcement in the memorandum, hoping not to draw too much attention to its actions. The underhanded nature of this decision represents a massive downgrading of the authenticity of both Washington's and Guatemala's supposed anti-drug efforts. Guatemala would certainly not qualify for certification if actually put to even a minimally objective test. In making its determination, Washington proved once again that its certification process was little better than a total sham.

A WHITE HOUSE DECEPTION

Since the White House decertified Guatemala last January, the DEA observed that the country had become the "preferred Central American location for storage and consolidation of drug loads," and boats and light aircraft regularly bring drugs into the country. The official White House report had to acknowledge that Guatemala's alleged improvements were only the "initial steps" that had to be taken and the "permanence of these improvements had yet to be determined." In other words, no significant steps have been made to curtail the flow of narcotics through Guatemala. Meanwhile, the White House is concerned mainly with fulfilling its free trade aspirations in Central America and realizes that they would not likely be achieved if Guatemala remains uncertified. Thus ignoring the true deficiency of Guatemala's anti-drug efforts, the Bush administration is trying to slyly sweep its failed anti-drug campaign in the country

under the rug, caricaturing the entire certification process just as the Clinton administration did with Mexico in 1997. As with the present Bush administration, free trade logistics, specifically the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), rather than a faithful evaluation of that country's anti-drug performance, were the order of the day.

President Bush expects "Guatemala to continue its efforts and to demonstrate further progress in the coming year," apparently hoping that recertification will self-prophetically lead to increased cooperation with his war on drugs, a trend he claims erroneously in the memorandum has already been manifest in the recent attitude of Guatemalan authorities. Interestingly, only hours before the White House announcement, Guatemalan officials announced that they had just seized record quantities of drugs, perhaps hoping to gull some ingenuos into believing that interdictions had reacquired past levels. Suspiciously, no arrests had been made, nor statistics cited, to reinforce this claim. Some allege that previously seized drugs had been recycled and "seized" again to create the false pretense of successful interdiction.

By spinning the facts of Guatemala's performance (pointing to the country's supposedly renewed dedication to counter-narcotics efforts) and continuing to use the certification process as a political weapon, the White House risks further disenchanting its remaining hemispheric allies in its fading war against drug traffickers.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PAUL SMITH

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Dr. Paul Smith of Pueblo West, Colorado is a dedicated physician who has worked tirelessly to improve the care given to our veterans. An alumnus of Colorado State University—Pueblo, Paul is being recognized by that institution with their award for Outstanding Service to the University, and I am honored to recognize his achievements here today.

Paul was instrumental in the creation of the Eastern Colorado Health Care System, which merged with the Southern Colorado Health System of the Veterans Administration and the Denver VA Medical Center. He serves as the Associate Chief of Staff for Community-Based Care, where he is responsible for overseeing seven Veterans Administration clinics in central and southern Colorado. In addition to his dedication to our nation's veterans, Paul has remained active in the Colorado State University—Pueblo community by serving on search and screening committees, advising on the restructuring of the Student Health Services, and donating his time to the university's health clinic.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Smith is the kind of dedicated and devoted citizen who makes our communities a better place. His tireless work has improved the lives of countless veterans and members of the community at large. I am honored to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to Paul Smith here today. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.