

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON PASCAL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Hamilton Pascal for his accomplishments in the business world for which he has earned the Thomas R. Fortune Business Award.

Hamilton was born and raised in Trinidad where he attended public elementary school and later, Burke High School. After graduating from Burke High School, he went on to obtain his license in Electrical Installation from Victoria Institute.

In 1976, Hamilton came to the United States and settled in Brooklyn, New York. He decided that he wanted to further his education in building maintenance and repairs, obtaining his license as a real estate salesperson.

Wanting to become more involved in civic affairs and learn more about politics in the United States, Hamilton became a member of Unity Democratic Club in the early 1990's. By joining Unity Democratic Club, he became involved with the Men's Council and took an active role in several of the activities held by UDC.

For the future, Hamilton is planning to own a home improvement store along with his son Eric Pascal, who currently resides with him.

Mr. Speaker, Hamilton Pascal has worked to improve his business skills and has shown a genuine interest in becoming actively involved in his community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable individual.

FREEDOM FOR BERNARDO AREVALO PADRON

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of a Cuban prisoner of conscience. I rise today in honor of Bernardo Arevalo Padron.

Mr. Arevalo Padron founded the Cuban independent news agency Linea Sur Press in October 1996 to condemn the atrocious human rights violations committed by Castro's tyrannical regime. Mr. Arevalo Padron's insistence on reporting about the deteriorating plight of the Cuban people under Castro's machinery of repression led directly to his arrest.

Bernardo Arevalo Padron was jailed for six years in November 1997 for "insulting" Fidel Castro and calling him a "liar" for not keeping his promises about democracy and so many other matters. Mr. Arevalo Padron was sentenced to six years behind bars because he dared to print the truth about a government that ruthlessly represses any kind of dissent.

After five years of sadistic cruelty in Castro's gulag, Mr. Arevalo Padron has been diagnosed with leptospirosis, which is spread by rats. According to a report issued by Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Arevalo Padron should have been freed on parole in October 2000, but the government refuses to release him because he has not cooperated in the so called re-education program.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Arevalo Padron has been slowly festering in Castro's inhumane dungeons since 1997 because he called Fidel Castro "a liar". Has ever a man been through so much for a single word of truth?

One of the key reasons why I bring the plight of Mr. Arevalo Padron to the attention of Congress is because there is no independent press in Cuba. None, Mr. Speaker.

Here in the United States we often say, "the truth will set you free"; in Castro's deplorable dictatorship the truth will set you in the gulag for six years. I implore my colleagues to stand for truth, democracy and decency and call with one voice for the instant release of Bernardo Arevalo Padron.

HONORING ROBERTA R. GOLDMAN

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding individual, Roberta R. Goldman who will be receiving the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award from the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee.

Mrs. Goldman has worked for years to improve her community in many different ways. In 1982, she joined the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee, which she has served on ever since, and currently serves as chairperson of the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Awards program and vice-chairperson of the town committee itself. In 1998 Mrs. Goldman was elected to the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee, of which she is now an elected representative from the Second Worcester Senatorial District and a member of the State Committee's Rules Committee. During Michael Dukakis' term as Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Mrs. Goldman was Director of Education Reform in the Office of Educational Affairs. Her efforts helped to create the Education Reform Act of 1985, an act that she helped to pass when she was a representative of the Eleventh Worcester District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. As State Representative, she served on the committees on Education, Human Services and Elder Affairs.

Although Mrs. Goldman generally concentrates on helping Democratic candidates in Massachusetts, she has also ventured outside of the state frequently to campaign in New Hampshire as well as spending a summer in Texas, working for Ann Richards, who was running for Governor. Mrs. Goldman has also

worked in Wisconsin partaking in the Dukakis presidential campaign and has given much time to aid former President William Clinton in New Jersey.

In addition to Mrs. Goldman's many political endeavors, she is an enthusiastic teacher, working for the Shrewsbury school system since 1971. In 1987, Mrs. Goldman began working at Shrewsbury High School as a social studies teacher. In the early 1990's, Mrs. Goldman established the Political Action Group, a non-partisan organization at Shrewsbury High School, which has enhanced many students' interests in politics and current events.

Finally, her contributions to improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities are significant. She is in her sixth term as President of the FOR Special Friends, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating my friend, Roberta Goldman.

A TRIBUTE TO HUGH ERROL BOSTON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Hugh Errol Boston for his accomplishments in the business world for which he has received the Thomas R. Fortune Business Award.

Hugh was born to Mr. & Mrs. Samuel and Ruth Boston of Bush Lot, Essequibo, Guyana. Hugh, the fourth of seven children, immigrated to the United States of America in December 1974.

He attended the Anna Regina Primary School and then continued his education by attending Burnette High School. After graduation, Hugh Errol became a member of the Guyana Police Force, where he was employed for four years.

Throughout his years in America, Hugh worked in various enterprises including the construction industry. He also worked at Pfizer Pharmaceuticals as a Quality Control Inspector and a mailroom supervisor at Philip Holtzer and Associates. However, Hugh never lost sight of his goal to establish himself as an entrepreneur. He would eventually realize his goal, opening Boston Shipping Enterprises at 506 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, NY.

He is committed to giving back to the community and has followed his motto of "making a difference in anyone's life," to assist whenever possible. This is demonstrated by his numerous contributions to his community. He built a Church in honor of his mother at Bush Lot in Guyana where he sponsors a Vacation Bible School every summer, providing meals and organizing field trips. He also distributes toys to children at the community block party near his residence. Additionally, he offers part-time employment to youngsters who live within the vicinity of his business.

Hugh is married and is the proud father of four daughters.

• 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.

Mr. Speaker, Hugh Errol Boston has achieved his life ambition in establishing his own business and has used his success to give back to his community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable individual.

TRIBUTE TO OYSTER BILINGUAL
SCHOOL

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, as the Hispanic Heritage Celebration—2003 draws to a close, I rise to pay tribute to Oyster Bilingual Elementary School, a pearl right here in the Nation's Capital. For over 30 years, Oyster School has proudly served the Hispanic community in Washington, DC.

The Oyster School, named after former D.C. Public Schools Superintendent, James F. Oyster, first opened its doors in the 1920's.

By 1970, the Oyster School was home to many immigrant families from Central America who began to settle in the Adams Morgan neighborhood in the District of Columbia.

These new parents along with community activists pushed for the creation of a bilingual program, one that would best instruct their children, whose first language was Spanish.

In the spring of 1971, the D.C. Public School Board approved a two-way bilingual program at the Oyster School. From the beginning, the Oyster School program was a partnership effort.

In addition to support from D.C. Public Schools, Oyster Bilingual Elementary School received Federal funding and a grant from the Ford Foundation for teacher training, curriculum development, and program evaluation.

As a result, a generation before the "No Child Left Behind Act" weaved "scientifically-based research" into the education lexicon, Oyster School put into place a scientifically-based model for teaching children to achieve to high standards in two languages—Spanish and English.

At the Oyster Bilingual Elementary School, approximately half the students speak Spanish as their first language and half the students speak English.

Students come from diverse ethnic and socio-economic groups. This year, 35 percent of Oyster's students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. All students are expected to master the D.C. Public Schools content in both languages. Oyster students measure up and test well in both languages, consistently placing Oyster Bilingual Elementary School in the top ten of the over 100 elementary schools in the District of Columbia.

The Oyster Bilingual Elementary School is a model for the Nation. It has received numerous accolades, including a citation for excellence from the U.S. Department of Education and an Exemplary School Award from the National Association for Bilingual Education.

Perhaps a more significant measure of the value of the Oyster Bilingual Elementary School experience is the fact that until D.C. Public Schools introduced a lottery system for admission, hundreds of parents would camp out for days in order to get a coveted "first come, first serve" slot at the school.

Oyster Bilingual Elementary School has fostered a sense of community and shared values between the immigrant community and the largely upper-middle class residents of the Woodley Park neighborhood. When the school faced closure in the early 1990's because of its dilapidated facilities, the community rallied and formed the 21st century school fund.

Through this community-public-private partnership, the financing was made available to build the first new school building in the District of Columbia in 20 years—a beautiful new facility that will serve both the growing Hispanic community and the D.C. community at large.

Oyster Bilingual Elementary School's long-term success is a product of community involvement and public-private partnerships.

The school has produced many distinguished alumni who serve as role models and continue to serve the Hispanic community in our nation's capital. Among them are:

Mirna Amaya, a child development specialist who works at Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care in D.C.;

Nathaniel Beers, a doctor at Children's Hospital Medical Center;

Olga Artiga, a kindergarten teacher at Oyster. Her sister Connie Artiga Oliver runs the after-school care program at Oyster; and

Cecilia Arce, a library assistant and a parent of three children at Oyster.

As Oyster Bilingual Elementary School begins to serve a new generation of students I commend it for staying true to its mission, which states:

"We believe that native Spanish-speaking children will learn to perform better in English in an environment that respects their native language and provides continued growth in their native language. In addition, we believe that the education of English speaking children will be enriched by achieving competency in a second language at an age when achieving such competency is easiest."

Mr. Speaker, the administration at Oyster School is fulfilling this mission and I urge my colleagues in Congress to commend them for their efforts.

HONORING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL
DAY

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. speaker, I rise today to belatedly mark the occasion of Taiwan's National Day, October 10, 2003. It nonetheless gives me great pleasure to report that Taiwan is a thriving democracy that guarantees and protects essential human rights of all its citizens.

Taiwan stands as a remarkable testament to what humankind is capable of when freedom and democracy combine to fuel the economic engine. Even with only 23 million citizens, Taiwan remains one of Asia's strongest economic "tigers". With the world's 17th largest economy and the world's 15th largest trade volume, Taiwan has made significant contributions to the global economy.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan remains a critical U.S. ally, and it is my hope that Taiwan will continue to serve as a beacon for freedom and democracy throughout East Asia.

Today I would like to extend my solidarity to the 23 million freedom loving citizens of Taiwan and their democratically elected leader, President Chen Shui-bian in commemoration of Taiwan's recent National Day of celebration.

A TRIBUTE TO ROY KING

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Roy King for his dedication to his community which has earned him the Thomas R. Fortune Exemplary Service Award.

Roy was born in Georgia and at the age of 6 months he and his family moved to Far Rockaway, NY, where he still resides.

Roy attended public elementary school and junior high schools and graduated from Far Rockaway High School. After high school, he attended Queens Borough Community College, receiving a degree in physical education.

As someone who loves to be around children, Roy applied for a position in security and was hired by the New York City Board of Education where he worked for several years. In 1977, Roy was hired as a counselor for the New York City Department of Social Services—Youth Division where he still works as a child care specialist at the Atlantic Diagnostic Center.

Roy was introduced to the Unity Democratic Club by J.J. Johnson, where he also is an active member of the Men's Council.

He has been a member of St. John Baptist Church in Rockaway Beach, NY for over 20 years where Elder J.D. Williams is the Pastor. He is a faithful member of the Usher Board and the Men's Ministry.

With his wife Anne, Roy has a beautiful home in Rockaway Beach, where they are raising three girls and two grandchildren. All his children and other children around him call him "Pa Pa". Roy feels blessed to have his mother and five siblings living in the Far Rockaway area as well.

Mr. Speaker, Roy King has shown that he is committed to his community through both his professional choices and participation in the Unity Democratic Club. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable individual.

URGING THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR
TO THE UNITED STATES TO
HELP RESOLVE A LONG STAND-
ING DISPUTE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Saudi Ambassador to the United States to help resolve a long standing dispute between another Saudi Prince—a cousin to the Ambassador—and a resident in my home state.

Nearly 20 years ago, Prince Abdul Aziz, son of Prince Salman, the current Governor of Riyadh, borrowed \$1.7 million from Bob Burch in Colorado.

In 1991, an independent accounting study confirmed the debt. Regrettably, after promising to honor the results of the study, Prince Abdul Aziz never paid up.

Bob Burch had been a great friend to the Royal family, supporting them through medical and personal crises, college degrees and even a plane crash.

This is a time of great challenge in the U.S. relationship with Saudi Arabia. Never before have we asked the Saudis to work so closely with us to fight terrorism. It is in that spirit of cooperation that I urge the Saudi Ambassador to work to put this longtime dispute behind us.

INTRODUCING THE AFFORDABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 2003

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for the Affordability in Higher Education Act, legislation I authored to address the college cost crisis that is facing our Nation. This bill moves beyond the rhetoric, and offers real solutions that will hold colleges accountable and empower consumers as we all work together to keep higher education affordable.

For decades, the cost of higher education has been rising dramatically. Tuition increases have far outpaced increases in the rate of inflation and the growth in family incomes, and these skyrocketing costs are having a devastating impact on American students and families. This is not a new problem. Over half a decade ago I stood here and voiced these same concerns. And several years before that, Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG was leading a similar charge to keep college affordable. Yet in all that time, we have been unable to find solutions, and the cost of college just keeps going up.

According to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, cost factors are preventing 48 percent of college-qualified low-income students from attending a four-year institution, and 22 percent from having access to any college at all. At the rate we are going, by the end of the decade 2 million students will lose out on the chance to achieve the dream of a college education. This is unacceptable, and I believe we can no longer stand idly by while our Nation's students, the future of our country, are being priced out of the promise of higher education.

The Affordability in Higher Education Act is simple in its purpose, but monumental in its potential to help struggling students and families. The bill proposes to empower the consumers of higher education—students and parents—with significant information on higher education, and hold colleges and universities accountable for the dramatic cost increases that are hampering our Nation's ability to make the dream of higher education a reality for needy students.

The bill establishes a "College Affordability Index," a standard measure by which the consumers of higher education can understand and compare tuition increases in real terms. Using data already being reported by colleges and universities, the U.S. Department of Edu-

cation will make information about college costs, including the College Affordability Index, publicly available through a user friendly website.

The bill provides colleges and universities with ample time to meet the challenge of affordability, and beginning in 2008, schools will begin to be held accountable for their cost increases. Using the College Affordability Index, schools that increase their tuition and fees by more than twice the rate of inflation over a three year period will be required to provide more information and undertake actions to improve affordability.

I believe one of the most important factors in addressing the college cost crisis is the need to empower consumers. Parents and students simply do not have access to adequate information necessary to make informed decisions in the higher education marketplace. And as we empower consumers and encourage accountability, we must also embrace innovation.

That's why the Affordability in Higher Education Act includes a demonstration program that will encourage schools to look for innovative strategies to hold down costs without sacrificing quality. The bill would grant waivers to schools which apply and are chosen to participate—allowing these institutions to have the freedom to find new ways to improve affordability and ultimately, increase access.

The face of higher education has changed significantly in recent years, and while college costs are a formidable barrier, the fact is, today's students face other obstacles as they work to reach their higher education goals. One of the most needless and often frustrating obstacles is an inability to transfer credits among institutions.

Recent data from the Department of Education tells us that over half of the nation's postsecondary education students attend more than one college or university. Yet many of these students struggle to transfer their credits, and as a result must retake coursework which costs both time and money. The bill recognizes that students deserve to have freedom and flexibility, and would make it easier for students to transfer credits. Let me be clear—the bill does not mandate coursework, nor does it require that particular credits be accepted to or from particular institutions. It simply makes it clear that credits cannot be denied based solely on what organization accredited the institution, so long as it is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Such territorial or political practices are harming students, and must not continue.

As colleges and universities strive to meet the challenge of affordability, I also believe we must also do our part at the Federal level to make that possible. Schools often tell us that they are burdened by voluminous and often unnecessary regulations and paperwork requirements. We must ease that burden by eliminating such cumbersome requirements. Last year, through the FED UP initiative, we made great strides in reducing red tape and eliminating unnecessary and costly regulations. The bill I'm offering today will continue that effort, and help institutions as they work to increase affordability.

Taken together, the reforms in this bill will make a real difference to the millions of students and families who are counting on us. The future of our Nation—today more than ever—depends on our ability to educate our

students. We cannot allow the continued explosion of college costs to go unchecked. The time has come to find solutions, and today, I believe we are taking a step in the right direction.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important measure, Mr. Speaker; and I look forward to a higher education system that is accessible to every single American student who strives for it, regardless of financial circumstances. Our students, and our Nation, deserve nothing less.

TRIBUTE TO DUB RITER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly great American, great leader and dear friend—A.W. "Dub" Riter of Tyler, Texas—whose passing on September 23, was mourned by friends and admirers from East Texas to the White House. Dub was admired and respected not only for his many civic contributions and professional success but also for his goodness, compassion and humility. Dub truly cared about people and wanted to make life better for everyone. He gave selflessly of his time, talent and financial backing to countless civic, business and educational causes locally, statewide and nationally, and in doing so he sought to help others—not call attention to himself.

Dub was my dear friend and advisor for many years. He was a highly recognized and successful banker, retiring from his 50-year banking career as senior chairman of the Board of NCNB in Tyler (now Bank of America) in 1988. Throughout his career and after his retirement, he was tirelessly devoted to a host of community and State activities and organizations.

Education was particularly important to Dub. In 1997 Gov. George W. Bush appointed him to serve as a member of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System for a six-year term ending Feb. 1, 2003. Gov. Rick Perry then asked him to extend his term through the legislative session this year. He was a vice chairman of the board and a member of the Finance and Planning Committee, Facilities Planning and Construction Committee and the Student, Faculty and Staff Campus Life Committee. Dub was currently serving as a member of the Governor's Select Task Force on Public Education.

Dub and his wife, Betty Jo, also were devoted to The University of Texas at Tyler, where Dub served as chairman of the development board. Dr. Rodney Mabry, UT Tyler President, said that Dub was the "heart and soul" of the university the past several years. Dub and Betty Jo donated a \$1.35 million gift to UT Tyler to create the Dub and B.J. Riter Millennium Carillon Tower and Plaza and were involved in many activities at the university.

Dub also served as chairman of the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler Development Board and was a past president of the

UT Tyler Educational Foundation, Inc., and the Texas Chest Foundation. At one time he served as president of the East Texas State Fair Association, East Texas Hospital Foundation, East Texas Symphony Association, Mother Frances Hospital Foundation, Texas Rose Festival Foundation, Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, Tyler Economic Development Council, Tyler Industrial Foundation and United Way. He was a board member of the East Texas Communities Foundation, East Texas Medical Center Regional Healthcare System, Regional East Texas Food Bank, Salvation Army and Tyler Junior College Foundation.

As a testament to his lifetime of service, he received the W.C. Windsor Award as Tyler's Most Outstanding Young Man of the Year in 1958 and the T.B. Butler Award as Tyler's Most Outstanding Citizen of the Year in 1968. In 1987 he received the Patriot of the Year award from UT Tyler, and in 1994 he and his wife received the All Saints Episcopal School Flame of Excellence award. This year he received the Business Hall of Fame honor from Junior Achievement of Greater Tyler, of which he was a charter member.

At the State level, Dub was a life board member of the Texas Research League, serving as treasurer for six years, and served two terms as president of the Texas Association of Taxpayers. He was a past board member of the Texas Chamber of Commerce, which named him East Texan of the year in 1992. In 1989 Gov. Bill Clements appointed him to the Texas Growth Fund Board of Trustees, and in 1990 he was appointed to the Teacher Retirement System Board of Trustees. He was a member of the Governor's Business Council Executive Committee and the Executive Committee of the Chancellor's Council for The University of Texas System.

This legacy of outstanding achievement speaks to the dedication and leadership of this incredible man—and underlying his remarkable lifetime of service was his basic goodness and kindness. His gentle spirit, positive attitude and belief in others were evident in all that he did. Dub inspired, guided and served as a mentor to so many. He had an abiding faith in God and was a leader in the First Presbyterian Church of Tyler, where he served as elder, trustee, deacon and Sunday School teacher.

There was an outpouring of sympathy following Dub's death. The President and Mrs. Bush sent their condolences. National, State and local dignitaries attended his memorial service, and hundreds in the community expressed their love and support to his family—his beloved wife of 53 years, Betty Jo; son A.W. "Whit" Riter III and daughter-in-law Cynthia; daughter Melinda Shoemaker and son-in-law Tom, six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Dub touched and enriched so many lives, and in his absence there will be a void that will be difficult to fill. But Dub also leaves a powerful legacy of service and selflessness that will be felt for years to come. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us join his family and many friends in celebrating and honoring the life of this great Texan and great American—A.W. "Dub" Riter—whose exemplary life we will remember and cherish.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall votes Nos. 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, and 531 during the week of September 30 through October 2. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

Rollcall vote No. 524: Sandlin Motion to Instruct on H.R. 1—"no"; rollcall vote No. 525: Pallone Motion to Instruct on H.R. 1308—"no"; rollcall vote No. 526: H. Res. 357—"yes"; rollcall vote No. 527: Dicks Motion to Instruct on H.R. 2691—"no"; rollcall vote No. 528: Case Motion to Instruct on H.R. 1—"no"; rollcall vote No. 529: Davis (AL) Motion to Instruct on H.R. 1308—"no"; rollcall vote No. 530: Adoption of the Conference Report on S. 3—"yes"; rollcall vote No. 531: Obey Motion to Instruct on H.R. 2660—"no"; rollcall vote No. 532: H. Con. Res. 274—"yes"; rollcall vote No. 533: Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1—"no"; and rollcall vote No. 534: Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1—"no."

HONORING LAURA BERG

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I rise today to honor one of my constituents from Santa Fe Springs, California, Laura Berg, who has recently been named to the U.S. Olympic Women's Softball Team. Laura has been a member of this team in the 1996 and 2000 Olympic games, winning gold medals both times. She is one of four two-time Olympic champions on the current team which will compete in the 2004 Olympic games in Athens, Greece. Berg started as a centerfielder in all 10 games in the 2000 Olympics and will play outfield for the team in 2004.

Berg has been a part of the USA Softball national system since 1994 when she was member of the USA Team that captured gold at the ISF Women's World Championship in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. In addition to her Olympic glory, Laura has won numerous accolades for her softball skills at the high school, college, national and international levels, including two gold medals at the Pan American Games and three World Championship gold medals. A graduate of Santa Fe High School and Fresno State University, she is of three players at Fresno State to ever boast 300 or more career hits and post a 160-game defensive errorless streak. She also spent 4 years as an assistant coach for the Fresno State Bulldogs team.

Laura firmly believes in setting challenging goals for herself and working hard to achieve them, whether she is practicing softball and studying in school. Her commitment to her sport, positive attitude, and strong work ethic have led to her extraordinary success and make her a role model for other young women.

Laura began playing softball as a child, tagging along to a program in which her parents

had enrolled her twin sister, Randi. She continues to be inspired by the challenges of the game and has become a veteran leader for her teammates.

Laura is married to Rob Peterson, the Assistant Athletic Director at the University of South Dakota. The two met when Peterson was Director of Facilities at Fresno State.

For the next 11 months, Laura and her teammates will be working hard in preparation of defending their Olympic title. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Laura and the other outstanding women who make up the team and in wishing them great success.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. HELENA HOSPITAL IN ST. HELENA, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the St. Helena Hospital of Napa County as it celebrates its 125th Anniversary.

On June 1, 1878, the Rural Health Retreat opened its doors to the public. 125 years later, the Rural Health Retreat has a new name and a new look but its commitment to quality healthcare remains the same. Today, the St. Helena Hospital is the world's oldest continuously operating Seventh-day Adventist hospital.

The hospital has grown substantially over the years, both in its ability to heal and in its physical space. What began as a small two-story building has matured into a state-of-the-art facility, which includes a 24-hour emergency room, a heliport, and top-of-the-line surgical suites.

Mr. Speaker, among other services, the St. Helena Hospital offers a wide range of facilities to assist our community members in overcoming their illnesses including additions. Specifically, the hospital has a mental health unit, an alcohol and chemical recovery program and it houses wellness programs such as the Nicotine Addiction Program.

In 1974, a team of surgeons performed the first open-heart surgery in the North Bay, paving the way for St. Helena Hospital to become a leader in cardiac care. Today, history continues to be written and St. Helena Hospital has been named among the Top 100 Cardiovascular Hospitals in the country.

Mr. Speaker, during its 125 years of existence, the St. Helena Hospital has been a medical sanctuary for thousands of people from both in and out of our community. The hospital has a wonderful tradition of providing for the sick. Regardless of who you are or where you are from, you will receive the best medical assistance possible at the St. Helena Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, for maintaining such a high standard of excellence and for healing our community for over 125 years, it is appropriate that we honor the St. Helena Hospital as they recognize their 125th anniversary.

HALF-EMPTY, HALF-FULL

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the October 5, 2003, an editorial from the Omaha World Herald, which is entitled "Half-empty, half-full." As the editorial correctly notes, Iraq remains a country "full of positive potential but also fraught with danger."

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Oct. 5, 2003]

HALF-EMPTY, HALF-FULL

Gene Taylor, a Democratic U.S. representative from Mississippi, recently returned from a trip to Baghdad. He struck the right note when he said the situation in Iraq "is neither going as well as the administration says it's going nor as badly as the media say it is going."

Indeed, the situation is decidedly mixed. That hasn't stopped diehard partisans on either side from trying their best to highlight only one facet of the matter, however.

The catalog of challenges is well known. Saddam Hussein loyalists and outside terrorists have succeeded, for the time being, in rattling people's nerves about security. Enemies of the U.S. campaign have assassinated one member of Iraq's Governing Council and murdered a Shiite cleric who advocated tolerance for the American presence. They have used pinprick attacks to kill and would U.S. soldiers at a slow but relatively steady rate that has diminished support for the Iraq operations among many Americans.

Meanwhile, saboteurs continue to hobble the electrical grid and oil-pipe network. Large numbers of Iraqis remain without jobs. Mafia-style gangs have become a serious concern in Baghdad. Ethnic tensions simmer among Iraq's Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds, sometimes erupting violence.

The United States has come up short, so far, in gaining financial assistance from foreign governments. And a variety of uncertainties beset the ambitious endeavor to move Iraq's political system toward a constitutional republic.

And yet, much is going right. A vivid description of the progress came in an opinion essay written by Julie Flint, a veteran Middle East journalist, for a Lebanese newspaper. Media depictions of Iraq as trapped in bottomless turmoil are wrong, she argued:

"Outside Baghdad, in the Shiite south, the mood was overwhelmingly upbeat. In Basra, ordinary people gave the thumbs-up at the mere sight of a Briton. . . . In Amara, streets were buzzing well after midnight. . . . Shops are overflowing with imported goods; food prices are lower than they were during Saddam's last years. Approximately 85 percent of primary and secondary schools have reopened. . . . All Iraqi cities and 85 percent of its smaller towns have fully functioning municipalities."

Similarly, Pamela Harris, a United Press International writer praised for her wartime reporting, noted in a recent good news/bad news analysis how she had seen "happy children running out to greet Marines when they walk through downtown Hillah without body armor or rifles because they have worked long and hard to win the trust of the townspeople, and they have succeeded."

USA Today recently noted that, thanks to U.S. policy that as tapped \$1.7 billion in Iraqi assets frozen during the Gulf War of 1991, government workers in Iraq have received major pay increases. The article described a police officer whose monthly pay has gone from \$25 before the war to \$275 now.

This leap in the purchasing power of many Iraqis, combined with a tariff-free influx of imported products, has spurred a dramatic flurry of consumer spending, not least on major items such as refrigerators and ovens. (The average price for home appliances has fallen by 41 percent from prewar levels)

Iraq, in short, is in the middle of a momentous time of transition—full of positive potential but also fraught with danger.

As the debate rages over whether the glass is half-empty or half-full, one thing is certain: The United States cannot cut and run. Together with the Iraqi people and whatever support can be mustered from the international community, we will have to see this through—without minimizing how difficult the task will be.

TRIBUTE TO DAVIS HELBERG

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Davis Helberg's leadership with the Northeast-Midwest Institute. Davis has been an Institute director for the past eight years and ably led the board's nominations committee. With his effortless management style, he ensured that the Institute balanced the region's needs for economic vitality and environmental quality. But this should surprise no one.

If there is one word I could use to describe Davis, it is "passionate." A native Minnesotan who grew up on a family farm in a small Finnish community where hard work was considered a hometown value, Davis has been a passionate worker and leader throughout his varied careers. Living near Lake Superior, it's not surprising that in 1959, at the age of 17, Davis worked his first paying job as a deckhand on a lake steamer. After a few years as a newspaper reporter, he returned to his maritime career, working as a vessel agency employee, port public relations director, president of a stevedoring company and, until his retirement earlier this year, Executive Director of the Seaway Port Authority of Duluth. For more than forty years, Davis has tirelessly, served Duluth, the broader Great Lakes community, the national maritime industry, and the northeast and midwest States. It is said that Davis Helberg's name is synonymous with the Great Lakes maritime industry in many national and international circles. I couldn't agree more. Might I add that I believe he is the most passionate Finn I have ever met.

I have known Davis for almost three decades. During that time, I have been the recipient of much of his passionate maritime advocacy. But his many accomplishments are attributable to more than just passion. Davis succeeded in his many endeavors because of solid leadership, vast knowledge, unparalleled experience and energetic dedication, not to mention his legendary storytelling ability. He served 24 years as executive director of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority—the longest serving in the Great Lakes, and he has been a frequent chairman of the American Association of Port Authorities. After eight years, his invaluable service at the Northeast Midwest Institute will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I was a founder of the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition. The

Coalition and the Institute long have provided valuable analysis on an array of economic and environmental issues. They have worked hard to ensure bipartisan cooperation among Midwestern and Northeastern lawmakers. Davis Helberg, with his unique talents and unwavering passion, has improved that tradition. He made a difference. His contributions to the Northeast-Midwest Institute are much appreciated.

PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FROM PAYING SUBSISTENCE CHARGES WHILE HOSPITALIZED

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strongest possible support for H.R. 2998, and urge my colleagues to join me in passing this important legislation.

I am extremely pleased that the leadership has brought this bill to the floor today, but I am thoroughly confused as to why the Department of Defense has even made this legislation necessary. It is absolutely mind-boggling that they charge military personnel for meals while they are hospitalized with injuries suffered while in combat or training.

Mr. Speaker, on September 24 we passed the conference report for the FY04 Defense Appropriations bill, which provided appropriations for the DoD totaling \$368 billion dollars. This figure marked an increase of approximately \$13 billion for the DoD. I voted in support of this conference report because I felt that it provided important funding for our troops and for the war on terrorism, but I cannot believe that the DoD, with around \$355 billion in funds for FY03, could possibly charge these men and women for the meals they eat while they recover from injuries. This is unconscionable, and I thank Mr. YOUNG for introducing his legislation to remedy this outrage.

I am a cosponsor of this legislation and I will most certainly be voting in support of its passage. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of our troops and to correct this ridiculous situation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ARMENIAN VICTIMS INSURANCE FAIRNESS ACT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Armenian Victims Insurance Fairness Act"—legislation to provide states with the authority to assist survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

At the end of the 19th century, major American and European insurance companies began expanding their operations into the Ottoman Empire and thousands of Armenians in the area purchased life insurance policies as a form of savings and investment for the

future. By 1915, it is reported that one French-based company had sold more than 11,000 policies in the area. Almost all of these policyholders were massacred when a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing was launched, killing more than 1.5 million Armenians.

Over eighty years later, insurance companies still have not paid the benefits due on the thousands of policies sold. Some families have tried for years to obtain owed benefits, but insurance companies have demanded that the survivors produce non-existent documents, such as death certificates.

In order to provide victims with the justice they deserve, California enacted legislation to assist both Armenian victims and Holocaust victims in recovering outstanding insurance claims. In addition to providing a right of action for claims arising out of such policies, California enacted an additional law requiring insurance companies doing business in their state to disclose information about Holocaust-era insurance policies. A similar requirement was omitted from the Armenian victims legislation because of a pending Supreme Court challenge of the Holocaust disclosure law.

In a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court in *AIA v. Garamendi* recently struck down the California disclosure law, citing Administration efforts to settle Holocaust insurance claims and stating that "Congress has done nothing to express disapproval of the President's policy [with respect to settling such claims and preempting state efforts in this area]."

Although no similar Administration efforts have interfered with the settlement of Armenian claims, it is important for Congress to speak clearly on this issue. Private settlement negotiations between insurance companies and families have been slow with no final resolutions reached to date. Families should not have to wait any longer for disclosure of policyholder lists.

I have introduced two pieces of legislation to specifically allow states to collect insurance information for victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust. The Armenian Victims Insurance Fairness Act specifically provides states with the authority to pass disclosure laws related to insurance policies in effect at any time between 1875 and 1923 that were issued to persons domiciled in the Ottoman Empire, such as Armenians, Greeks, and Assyrians.

The Armenian Victims Insurance Fairness Act, and my companion legislation the Holocaust Victims Insurance Fairness Act (H.R. 3129), specifically provide states with the authority to pass policyholder disclosure laws and explicitly express Congressional disapproval of any Executive branch policy or agreement that preempts State efforts in this area. Please join me in this effort to finally provide justice to those who have been denied it for so long.

RECOGNIZING PANCREATIC
CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of recognizing Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. This resolution

comes at a fitting time for me and other Members and staff in the House. I recently lost a good friend and former aide, Barry Beringer, to pancreatic cancer.

Barry was a remarkable man, a warm friend and a consummate counsel. His love of history permeated his work as a Committee General Counsel. His warmth and gently inclusive approach to difficult negotiations and situations made him a friend to all, even to those who may have disagreed with him. His pure motives earned him universal respect and admiration from his friends and colleagues.

Barry served as my General Counsel during my tenure as Chairman of the House Science Committee. His sage advice, thoughtful perspective, and his respect for the history of the institution guided many a decision. His counsel was invaluable and will be missed greatly not only by me but by all who worked with him and around him. His warm humor and collegial approach to everything is unique in this institution . . . and will be missed.

In addition to being a loving husband and father, Barry was a loving human being who left us all richer for having known and worked with him.

Congressman Platts introduced this important resolution to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer. Unfortunately, no one knows the exact causes of pancreatic cancer. Doctors are rarely able to explain why one person gets pancreatic cancer and another does not. I am pleased that the House is acknowledging this deadly disease and raising awareness of pancreatic cancer so others may not suffer the same fate as my friend Barry.

HONORING TYLER MATTHEW
PINCHOT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tyler Matthew Pinchot, a 23-year veteran of the Buena Park Police Department.

Tyler was raised in my district in the city of Garden Grove and he was a graduate of Golden West College's police program in 1979.

He was the only Buena Park police officer to win the Officer of the Year Award two years in a row in 1991 and 1992.

When not on duty protecting citizens, he volunteered his time for his community. He was a Special Weapons and Tactics team member, station house Santa Claus and a tactical officer at Fullerton College's police reserve academy.

Sadly, on June 13 Tyler was trying to catch up to a traffic violator when a car struck his motorcycle. He later died as a result of his injuries.

Tyler was a great citizen. He was a man who devoted himself to his community. His hard work and dedication will serve as an inspiration to others.

RECOGNIZING CITIZENS FINANCIAL
GROUP FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Citizens Financial Group on being recognized with both the "Seven Seals" and "Pro Patria" awards.

In response to the U.S. military actions in Iraq, this Rhode Island business implemented an enhanced military leave policy in February of 2003 that included matched pay, continuance of insurance coverage, job guarantee upon return, and support to employees affected by a family member's call to duty. Due to this comprehensive policy, the Office of the Secretary of Defense awarded Citizens the New Hampshire Committee for the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve "Seven Seals" award, and the Rhode Island Guard and Reserve gave the company its "Pro Patria" award. The "Pro Patria" award honors the most outstanding employer of reservists.

Citizens Financial Group should be commended for the work they have done to help ensure an employee will not undergo financial or emotional hardships after he or she is called upon to protect our country. It is my hope that other businesses will follow in these noble steps to show much-deserved gratitude for members of the National Guard and Reserves.

I hope our colleagues will join me in congratulating Citizens Financial Group on its achievements.

TRIBUTE TO THE MASHANTUCKET
PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as cochairmen of the Congressional Native American Caucus, my colleague Congressman J.D. HAYWORTH and I would like to ask our colleagues to join us in paying tribute to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation on the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Mashantucket Pequot Indian Land Claims Settlement Act. This landmark legislation settled the Tribes' land claim and granted federal recognition to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.

Mr. Speaker, for thousands of years, this land has been home to the Mashantucket Pequots and their ancestors. Centuries before the arrival of Columbus, the Pequots had a sophisticated understanding of their land, which stretched across present-day South-eastern Connecticut.

Like other northeastern Tribes, the Pequots had developed a rich and complex culture. Their language, medicine, rituals, horticulture, trade, government, and social organization defined what it meant to be a Pequot. Within two decades of contact with the white settlers, smallpox and other diseases killed more than half of the Pequots and devastated the social structure of those who survived. Then, in 1637, the settlers in colonial Massachusetts

and Connecticut waged war on the Tribe. In a little more than an hour, hundreds of Pequot men, women and children died. The survivors were dispersed, and the settlers took their land.

As a testament to the bravery and resiliency of the Pequot people, these tragic events did not bring about the end of the Pequot Tribe. Rather, the past three centuries has marked a period of strife, conflict, and a determination to regain its land and bring its people home.

Mr. Speaker, two important themes run through the Pequot history: a persistence to maintain a tribal identity and a struggle to hold onto tribal land. By the mid-17th century, the Mashantucket Pequots had already returned to the land from which they had been banished. In the decades that followed, they were relocated to an area within their historic territory, but then were slowly and wrongfully deprived of most of that land as well. Throughout the centuries, the reservation's population dwindled as Tribal members were forced to seek jobs and housing elsewhere. For many years, the State of Connecticut blocked the return of Tribal members to their land. Still, the Tribe endured.

Finally, in 1983, after years and years of struggle, the Congress enacted the legislation that settled the Tribes' land claim and provided federal recognition to the Tribe. The legislation transformed all aspects of the Tribe's existence and was critical in the Tribe's dramatic economic resurgence. Through the years, Tribal members have worked to re-establish a community and are achieving self-sufficiency by providing employment, health care, social services, education and infrastructure to their people.

A primary concern of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation continues to be the preservation of Pequot history and culture. To accomplish this, the Nation maintains a Cultural Resources Department and a Historical and Preservation Committee made up of Tribal members. The Tribe has also worked to protect important archaeological sites within its territory.

Mr. Speaker, in a short twenty years, the Mashantucket Tribal Nation, led by their elected leaders, have done so much to protect and enhance the tribal sovereignty of their people. They have persevered as a Tribe for centuries under the harshest of conditions and their status as a federally recognized Tribe has been long overdue. Today, the Tribe is an economic catalyst in their community and they employ over 13,000 people, mainly non-Indians needing jobs and opportunity.

The Mashantucket Pequots are also responsible neighbors. Over the last 20 years, the Tribe has generously donated to the Connecticut Special Olympics, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the Mystic Marine Life Aquarium, the United Way and many other organizations. Additionally, their revenue sharing agreement with the State of Connecticut has provided State coffers over \$1.5 billion in additional revenue.

We ask our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join us in congratulating the Mashantucket Pequots on the 20th anniversary of the passage of this legislation and wish them continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATING DR. TONDA
HUGHES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Dr. Tonda Hughes, who was recently named to the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame for her scientific contributions and advocacy in lesbian health.

Dr. Hughes has spent over a decade conducting research on the health needs of lesbian women. She is currently conducting the first long-term assessment of lesbian women's drinking patterns, the results of which will have important policy implications for treatment and prevention. Lesbian health has been largely ignored by scientists, and Dr. Hughes' work represents much-needed efforts to better the lives of lesbian Americans and all Americans.

Dr. Hughes is an associate professor of nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is the director of research for the University's Center of Excellence in Women's Health. She has published professional journal articles, book chapters, and government monographs. In addition to her scholarly work, Dr. Hughes serves on advisory boards for several Chicago-area health foundations.

Each year since 1991, the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame has honored members of the Chicago lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. The only municipal hall of fame of its kind, the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame recognizes members of the Chicago community whose volunteer and professional activities have enriched the lives of gay and lesbian residents and the city of Chicago as a whole.

I congratulate Dr. Tonda Hughes for this honor and applaud her important research and the beneficial effects her work has had on the well-being of lesbian women in Chicago and beyond.

FIFTH ANNUAL RACE FOR THE
CURE IN TEMECULA, CALIFORNIA

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, there will be an estimated 21,100 new cases of female breast cancer in California this year. Breast cancer is the second most frequently diagnosed cancer in women in the United States. Every 3 minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer.

All of us know someone who has been touched by this disease. That is why I am proud to announce that this Sunday, October 19, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation will sponsor the fifth annual Race for the Cure in Temecula, CA.

All the funds raised during the event will go to support breast cancer research grants, meritorious awards, educational and scientific conferences and local breast health and breast cancer outreach programs.

Mr. Speaker by supporting such private efforts as the annual Race for the Cure, we pay

tribute to the victims and survivors of breast cancer. We also honor those whose efforts will one day eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY
COMMONS NURSING CARE CENTER

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the city of Worcester in celebrating the University Commons Nursing Care Center's 10 years of service. During the week of October 20–25, 2003, the Center will celebrate its anniversary with events honoring residents, staff, and families.

Affiliated with the University of Massachusetts Health Care, The University Commons Nursing Care Center is a 164-bed facility that provides skilled, sub-acute, and long-term care services. Residents benefit from an environment that provides expert rehabilitation and medical services. Residents also benefit from social and cultural activities that are designed to maximize opportunities for stimulation and growth. Moreover, the University Commons Child Care Service offers educational day care services to children of employees as well as the community at large. This provides residents with an on-going intergenerational program.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating the University Commons Nursing Care Center for its 10 years of service to the community.

SECTION 8e LEGISLATION

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, Washington state the largest pear and sweet cherry producing state in the nation. In recent years pear and cherry growers in Central Washington have invested time and resources into developing the market for high quality fruit.

Under federal marketing orders U.S. fruits and vegetables are held to certain grade, size and quality standards. The bill I am introducing today simply holds foreign grown pears and cherries to these same standards.

My bill would add pears and cherries to Section 8e of the Agricultural Adjustment Act. Section 8e lists certain imported fruits and vegetables that are held to the same federal requirements as domestic produce.

Agriculture is at the heart of Central Washington's economy and our farmers are working harder than ever to produce some of the world's finest products. My bill would ensure that our pear and cherry farmers are able to compete more fairly and aggressively with foreign growers in the U.S. marketplace.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MOTHER
TERESA OF CALCUTTA

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of Mother Teresa, who began her decades of service to humanity with the simple goal of helping the less fortunate and grew to be a symbol for human rights all over the world.

At the age of eighteen, Mother Teresa became a Roman Catholic sister, the beginning of her life as an educator, a leader, and a servant of God. Perhaps her greatest accomplishment was the establishment of the religious order, Missionaries of Charity. With over 5,000 sisters, the goal of Missionaries of Charity is to help the poor in all aspects of life, providing food, clothing, and shelter to millions of the world's most destitute. Additionally, Mother Teresa initiated countless relief projects, international peace-keeping missions, and medical assistance projects for the needy. Later in life, even as her own health deteriorated, she pressed on with new projects, including the creation of hospice programs for those living with AIDS.

A well-deserving recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the impact of this remarkable woman will last forever. I could not be more pleased to join in remembering Mother Teresa of Calcutta as a shining example of selfless dedication to human kindness. She was an inspiring example for us all.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL—BUT IS IT SECURE? AN EXAMINATION OF INTERNET VULNERABILITIES AFFECTING BUSINESSES, GOVERNMENTS, AND HOMES

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Chairman DAVIS and Ranking Member WAXMAN for calling this important hearing on Internet vulnerabilities and security threats. One such vulnerability is computer viruses and I know first hand how tedious and cumbersome computer infections can be. In the past year, I have had several computer viruses and they are costly and time consuming to fix.

Through my Washington Update, I regularly email my constituents about what's happening in DC. When I wrote to my constituents about today's hearing and requested that they share with me some of their experiences with computer viruses, the response was immediate and resounding. I was immediately inundated with e-mails about the economic, social, and personal toll computer viruses have on the lives of my constituents.

Let me share a sample of these stories with you today to highlight the impact viruses can have on our daily lives.

Mark Patton, Vice President of American Remedial Technology, a small company in my community, wrote in and said:

Our business was victimized by a number of computer viruses on one occasion. We had hired an IT consultant to provide maintenance of our network, but unfortunately they were not keeping up with our virus protection. As a result we had to replace our server, upgrade our system, and subsequently fire our IT consultant. This episode cost our small business over \$10,000 without considering the lost time we incurred. Viruses are a threat to all businesses. . . . The lesson is buyers beware when hiring an IT consultant, but more importantly as businesses become more dependant on the Internet, Internet security becomes a very important issue.

Mission Hills Mortgage Bankers/Gateway Business Bank wrote in and said:

During the height of the virus-infected e-mail, Mission Hills Mortgage Bankers/Gateway Business Bank webmail site was swamped with thousands of virus-laden e-mails a day in August and September. Fortunately, our firewall and virus software caught and cleaned up the e-mail, but the sanitized e-mail was passed through to the individuals to whom it was addressed. Personally, I was deleting 30 to 50 e-mails a day, both annoying and time consuming.

What I didn't know was how vulnerable a home computer with DSL or cable access is without a firewall even with virus-checker software. I wasn't aware that viruses can come thru to your computer in ways other than on an e-mail until I got one. That was a month ago. I purchased and installed a firewall right away. But I am still experiencing a problem with my computer. Apparently, the damage to files can remain after the virus is cleaned up.

This problem has not only affected businesses. Rio Hondo College wrote in and said:

We were hit hard by the "worm" at Rio Hondo College during the first week of our semester this Fall. Our mainframe computer and every desktop computer on campus were unusable for a week. We could not register students, certify athletic eligibility of athletes, process financial aid requests, conduct many classes, or function in any capacity for a whole week. Eight weeks later we are still trying to get computers and printers and e-mail functioning for every one.

Diane Schumacher wrote in and said:

I had a virus in September of this year. It was the SO/BIG Virus. I got it when I purchased an item over the Internet that came with an attachment. I have been laid-off. The last thing I needed was to be out of contact with not only EDD, the Employment Development Department, but also with my job search and support groups. Not to mention the expense of repair.

If the stories could not get any worse, this particular antidote affected me the most, Mark Calt wrote in and said:

I'd like to take pictures of my daughter who currently is 2 years old. I used my digital camera to take a picture of her from the moment she was born and every single month until she reached her first birthday. I stored all those pictures in my hard drive so when I am ready, I'll sort them all out and have them developed and make a nice album that I can show to my daughter when she grows up and maybe play a slide show during her debut (18th Birthday Party). But my computer was hit by the virus just before I got them developed . . . my one year worth of project, my dream, and my gift to my daughter are all gone together with the pictures. I would pay—no matter what the price—if I could retrieve all those pictures . . . they were priceless . . . you cannot bring back the hands of time!

The stories I've shared with you today underscore the prevalence of computer infections. Furthermore, computer viruses are a "real problem" not just for businesses, but home users are also affected by this costly burden. An unemployed constituent, a community college, a bank and a father, all have been victimized by computer viruses. Computer viruses affect all of us.

There is much work ahead of us to eradicate threat, so I thank each of the witnesses for being here today to discuss this important topic and I look forward to your testimony. Again, I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for having this hearing.

INTRODUCING THE MARINE MAMMAL PRESERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT (MMPRA) OF 2003

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, when the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) was enacted in 1972, it was with a vision of protection and precaution. It was created to right the ecological wrongs caused by generations of slaughter driven by our collective greed for the products that marine mammals supplied. The founding goal of the MMPA was to provide a broad moratorium on the taking of marine mammals in order to maintain and rebuild healthy populations of whales and dolphins, seals and sea lions, and other marine mammals.

To a noteworthy extent, protection and precaution have paid off. We should celebrate that some marine mammal species have recovered to estimated pre-harvest levels. But we should not be lulled into a false sense of complacency. Many populations, such as North Atlantic right whales and bowhead whales in the Arctic, remain endangered. We also cannot ignore that the full breadth and intensity of human activity in the ocean, including shipping, oil and gas exploration, and military activity, has a profound effect on marine mammals, even if we do not seek to kill them outright.

It is for these reasons that I introduce this bill today that would reauthorize the Marine Mammal Protection Act in a way that preserves its precautionary intent. Summarizing key provisions, the bill would:

Provide a refined definition for the term "harassment" that is consistent with the recommendations of the National Research Council and accounts for the cumulative, as opposed to merely incidental, effects of behavioral changes in marine mammals.

Enhance protections for marine mammals in captivity, including the establishment of a new advisory committee to encourage the promulgation of regulations by the Secretary of Agriculture for captive care and maintenance, an updated and publicly accessible captive marine mammal inventory, and elimination of all marine mammal traveling exhibits.

Provide increased funding opportunities for the development of fishing gear that would decrease harmful interactions with marine mammals.

Authorize research and grant programs to study methods of non-lethal deterrence and

control of nuisance seals and sea lions, whose robust populations have been of growing concern in coastal California.

Reauthorize and improve the John H. Prescott funding assistance program to allow an improved nationwide response to stranding and entanglement events.

Clarify the provisions regarding the import and export of Native marine mammal handicrafts.

Modernize the system of penalties and fines for violations of the Act for the first time in 30 years.

Expand the list of fisheries included in the take reduction team process to include both commercial and non-commercial fisheries using comparable gear.

Contrary to the efforts of others in this Congress to weaken the MMPA through strategic piecemeal amendments, I have always urged that the MMPA deserves nothing less than a comprehensive reauthorization.

The Resources Committee Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, to the immeasurable credit of Chairman WAYNE GILCHREST and his predecessor, the former Chairman JAMES SAXTON, invested significant time and resources over the past 4 years in conducting a series of oversight hearings regarding implementation of the Act and needs for reauthorization. This substantive analysis has not been squandered and has, in fact, been incorporated into this legislation.

This bill also reflects the best of the ideas forwarded by the Administration in their proposal regarding priorities and recommendations for reauthorization of the Act. Moreover, this bill incorporates the best ideas offered by a wide range of stakeholders ranging from the sportfishing and public display industries to the animal welfare and environmental communities.

Maintaining protection for marine mammals need not be a contentious or partisan issue. I urge support of this comprehensive and precautionary-minded reauthorization of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

ALLEN-BRADLEY BRAND MARKS
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on January 30, 2003 Rockwell Automation, a world-leading provider of industrial automation power, control and information solutions, began a year-long celebration of the centennial anniversary of the Allen-Bradley Brand. This outstanding company has a rich history and has made major contributions to the automation industry. Allen-Bradley has also played a significant role as a major employer and contributor to the economic and cultural growth of the city of Milwaukee.

The extraordinary transformation story of Allen-Bradley starts with the humble beginnings of two young Bradley brothers starting their business in an office over a delicatessen located on Milwaukee's near south side. Today, Rockwell Automation International Inc. has become a \$4 billion industry leader with more than 22,000 employees in 450 locations around the world—serving customers in more

than 80 countries. This story typifies the American dream and a dream realized beyond expectation.

In 1893 Lynde Bradley at the age of fifteen invented a compression rheostat that had the capability of regulating electrical current. His friend Dr. Stanton Allen offered to invest a thousand dollars to develop a prototype crane controller, which would use the newly invented rheostat control, and a business was born. Subsequently Lynde Bradley and Dr. Allen formed Compression Rheostat in 1903. In 1910 the company was renamed Allen-Bradley. After a series of dissolutions, mergers, and acquisitions Rockwell International purchased the company in 1985 for \$1.651 billion, the largest acquisition in the history of the state of Wisconsin.

Since the start of this company there has been a pioneering spirit that valued innovation, creativity and a constant striving for excellence in products. This spirit has driven the company for 100 years.

The Allen-Bradley Brand is a symbol of great corporate strength, pre-eminence in the industrial controls field and an outstanding example of on-going and continuous support of the Milwaukee community. Thank you and congratulations on this 100th anniversary and continued success in the future.

INTRODUCING THE SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA WILD HERITAGE
WILDERNESS BILL

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Southern California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act. If enacted, this bill will protect approximately 1.6 million acres of land in California.

The State of California has lost over 675,000 acres of California's wild lands since 1978. One can only predict that this harmful trend will continue as California's population is expected to explode. California is expected to gain 17.7 million more people by 2025—nearly the entire population of New York State. As the population rises, more development will take place. More development often means less open space and the destruction of precious lands. This bill will prevent that destruction.

Thousands of diverse organizations, businesses, and others see the importance of this legislation and have given it their support. Additionally, hundreds of local elected officials have voiced support for the protection of their local areas.

I am pleased to be a part of this effort and look forward to working with Senator BOXER and Congressman THOMPSON to spearhead this effort and protect our natural resources.

RECOGNIZING RONN OWENS FOR
RECEIVING THE NATIONAL ASSO-
CIATION OF BROADCASTERS'
MARCONI AWARD

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ronn Owens, who received the National Association of Broadcasters' prestigious Marconi Award for major market personality of the year on October 2, 2003.

Ronn Owens began his broadcast career in 1968, hosting radio programs in Atlanta, Miami, Cleveland, and Philadelphia before moving to the Bay Area and KGO in 1975.

Over his thirty-five year radio career, Ronn Owens has established himself as the host of the most compelling and thought-provoking morning talk show in Northern California. A half-million fans tune into The Ronn Owens Show every morning to hear his opinions on a range of issues, from popular culture and gossip to current events and politics. He refers to his show as "the ultimate town meeting."

Ronn's guest list reads like a roster of Who's Who among world leaders, top celebrities, personalities, and newsmakers of the day. He has brought his devoted Bay Area audience numerous political figures, such as Al and Tipper Gore, JOHN MCCAIN, Bill Bradley, and Ralph Nader and celebrity personalities, such as tennis player Andre Agassi, theatrical legend Carol Channing, and attorney Johnnie Cochran. Ronn is the newsmen's news man. He has interviewed ABC News anchor Peter Jennings, veteran Washington Correspondent for ABC News Sam Donaldson, NBC's Washington Bureau Chief and Meet the Press host Tim Russert, Hardball host Chris Matthews, and CNN's Wolf Blitzer, to name a few.

Ronn Owens' sense of humor, directness, and intellect has made him a legend in the morning radio talk show industry. Ronn is quoted as saying that he is "just like everybody else—I look at the world around me and comment on it." His fans will forever love Ronn as the man who tickled their funny bones, increased their awareness of national and local issues, and opened their hearts and minds.

Before being elected to Congress, I was a Ronn Owens listener. Over the past seven years, I have gotten to know Ronn as a guest on his show, and I have come to respect him a great deal. I have always found him to be insightful, funny and—even when we are at opposite ends of an issue—fair.

Congratulations, Ronn, on thirty-five years and the Marconi Award. Here's to thirty-five more.

HONORING THE MONTEREY PARK
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COM-
MISSION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Monterey Park Community Relations Commission for celebrating cultural diversity in the fourteenth annual Harmony Festival.

For thirteen years, the City of Monterey Park has been instrumental in bridging the cultural divide amongst its residents. Their leadership and initiative on multicultural awareness have set a high standard for other cities. The 32nd Congressional District is a culturally diverse district, and it is important that all of us work together to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to achieve the dreams for our families and ourselves.

Throughout my career in public service, I have advocated for policies that promote greater multicultural harmony and recognize the strength that lies in the great diversity of our community, our State, and our Nation. In order to build upon the strength of our diverse communities, we must break down the discriminatory barriers that exist in our country. In this regard, I am fighting in Congress for efforts to eliminate discrimination in all aspects of society, including health care, education, housing, and employment.

I take great pride in the cultural diversity that can be found in Monterey Park and throughout the Los Angeles region. I commend the City of Monterey Park and the Monterey Park Community Relations Commission for their efforts to promote greater multicultural harmony and understanding. These types of events bring the community together to focus on diversity and appreciation of our differences.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS JOSE CASANOVA JR.

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Private First Class Jose Casanova Jr., United States Army 82nd Airborne Division. This young man, from my hometown of El Monte, was a communications specialist who served his country with courage, pride and loyalty. On October 13, 2003, Private Jose Casanova Jr. made the ultimate sacrifice and was killed while serving our country.

Private Jose Casanova Jr., a product of the public school system, earned his high school diploma in June of 1999 from Arroyo High School. During high school, Private Casanova was an active member of the student body participating in football, soccer, track and band. After graduation, his passion for music and helping people led him to return to Arroyo High School as a mentor to younger musicians.

On January 3, 2002, Private Casanova enlisted in the United States Army to serve his country and to achieve his dream of going to college and becoming a firefighter. Private Jose Casanova Jr. received training in Fort Bragg North Carolina. His 82nd Airborne unit was activated and deployed to Iraq on February 14, 2003.

Jose Casanova Jr., a United States citizen and a true patriot, is survived by his mother Teresa Muñoz De Casanova and father Jose Casanova Jr. and eight siblings: Sergio, Gustavo, Olga de Carmen, Veronica, Teresa, Maria De Lourdes, Melissa and Gerardo.

Private Casanova's sacrifice will not be forgotten. We are forever in his debt.

ADOPTION PROMOTION ACT OF 2003

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Adoption Caucus, I rise in support of the Adoption Promotion Act of 2003, H.R. 3182, to continue rewarding States for their efforts to promote adoption of children in need of loving families. Since 1997, the number of children adopted from foster care has increased 64 percent. I am happy that States have made substantial progress in finding safe, permanent homes for kids. However, many older children still linger in foster care, and this bill will assist States to find adoptive families for these children. Approximately 126,000 children currently are awaiting adoption, half of whom are age nine or older. The Adoption Promotion Act of 2003 enhances the current incentive program, which rewards States that make gains in the number of children adopted, by creating a new incentive for States that increase adoptions of children age 9 or older. This change reflects a proposal outlined by the Bush Administration.

PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP MUST
STOP TERRORIST ATTACKS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathy to the families of the three Americans who were killed yesterday, and a fourth who was seriously injured by a massive terrorist explosion, while they were traveling along the main road toward Gaza City. They were employees of a government contractor that provides security services to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

I also want to express my outrage at the continued terrorist attacks that take the lives of children and innocent people in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. Only twisted minds could ever conceive of such murders as "warfare."

What made this particular terrorist attack unusual was that it involved American citizens, part of a diplomatic and security convoy traveling to Gaza to interview Palestinian candidates for a Fulbright scholarship. Ironically, this scholarship was established to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge and skills. What was tragically not unusual, however, was that this was just the latest in a string of hundreds of violent killings spanning several years.

Mr. Speaker, when I visited Israel a few months ago, I met with Palestinian leaders who expressed their opposition to terrorist attacks. However, their actions have not backed up their rhetoric. Yesterday's terrorist bombing further demonstrates the Palestinian authority's continued reluctance—perhaps even aversion—to aggressively dismantle the terrorist infrastructure in areas under its control. Although Palestinian officials condemned this attack, their inability to act against such acts of terrorism has led to continued terrorist attacks against both Americans and Israelis.

In order to have real progress toward peace, Palestinians must have a leader who is willing to stop terrorism—leadership the world has not seen from Yasser Arafat. The Palestinian authority, while denouncing terrorism, has never fought terrorists or terror organizations in a serious or effective way either under Arafat's direct leadership, or in the shadow of his leadership.

It is clear that despite the best efforts of people of good will on both sides, real progress toward peace can never happen as long as the Palestinians have a President who is unwilling to stop terrorists from blowing up innocent Israelis and Americans.

NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERY
IN MARYLAND

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in Baltimore, Maryland, metropolitan area.

We need little reminder today of the courage and sacrifice of our service men and women. Whether protecting us in past World Wars, in North Korea, Vietnam, or the Persian Gulf, or fighting today in the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan, our military has rarely questioned their mission to protect the freedoms and liberties we American citizens enjoy every day. In exchange for their service, we promised to take care of our veterans in life and in death. This bill addresses the most basic of those promises for our veterans of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Maryland has a long-standing tradition of military service and sacrifice dating back to the Revolutionary War—when the Old Line Soldiers were considered General Washington's favorite after saving the Continental Army from destruction as only the Marylanders were left standing. This historical tie was reinforced when the Secretary of the Navy established the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland in 1845—a testament to Maryland's contribution to the future service of our nation.

That tradition continues today with bases in Ft. Meade, Aberdeen, Ft. Detrick, and Andrews Air Force Base, just to name a few. Maryland is home to over 45,000 active, reserve and guard service men and women, as well as their families. And there are over half a million civilian veterans residing in the State of Maryland.

Yet there is no longer federal or national cemetery space for first interments—for veterans who wish to have a casket burial. While there is state cemetery space, I stand here today on behalf of the veterans I represent, on behalf of their families, and on behalf of the veterans throughout my home state of Maryland to ask my colleagues to keep the national promise to all veterans. At the very least, we should offer choices to veterans between national and state cemetery burials. Families should not be forced to travel great distances to visit their loved ones.

There are approximately 27 million veterans in the United States today—10 percent of our national population. And Roll Call on September 29, 2003, said that we are losing 1,500

veterans a day. It is for these brave veterans that I introduce this bill and ask my colleagues for swift passage.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
CHEMTRONICS, INC.

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important business in my district celebrating its 50th anniversary. In 1953, Bert Gross, James Lowry and Daniel Brimm joined together to start Chemtronics, Inc., a local small-business specializing in technology that could remove metal in a very rapid and controlled manner. Chem-tronics, Inc. was incorporated in October 1953, with company offices and chemical etching facilities set up in rented World War II surplus barracks on Gillespie Field in El Cajon, California.

Early sales efforts were focused on aircraft frames and skins but they soon realized that the chemical milling process could be applied advantageously to jet engine components as well. With this new opportunity, the company embarked on a campaign to earn a contract with General Electric Co., working on their TF-39 jet engine. From the middle 1960's into the early 1970's, Chem-tronics Inc., built around nine hundred of these parts.

By the early 70's, tools and trained personnel were developed for repairing and accurately reforming titanium fan blades for jet engines utilizing a process patented by the company. This activity has expanded in scope and size over the years and is now a major element of the business with its own specialized management and marketing staff, known as Aviation Repair, also located in El Cajon, California.

Chem-tronics, Inc., while still small, was becoming recognized as a high quality product-producing, vertically integrated, one-stop-shop facility. By 1975, Chem-tronics had products on space launch systems, most of the larger commercial airframes, and several of General Electric Co. and Pratt & Whitney Co.'s larger commercial jet engines.

During this same period of time, Daniel Brimm, who had bought out his earlier partners, developed a unique integral stiffening feature with chemical milling that he patented called Unistructure. This was a critical turning point in the success of Chem-tronics, Inc. Since 1976, Unistructure stiffened light-weight products have been designed and built for virtually every new By-pass Outer Duct for every military jet engine built in the USA. Driven by a company commitment to provide each customer with a one-stop-shop, Chem-tronics began to supply complete product design services in 1978, which included computer aided design and computer, aided manufacturing.

The trend of expanding Chem-tronics' technology has continued over the years with increasing levels of production, factory floor space, manpower and facilities. Major customers include General Electric Co., Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, Rolls-Royce-Allison, Allied Signal, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing. Through these customers, Chem-tronics' products have become an important

part of military and commercial aircraft, such as the B-1B and B2 Bombers, Joint Strike Fighter, F22 Raptor, as well as the space shuttle and various space launch systems.

The current president, James Legler, joined the company in 1978. Through his leadership, Chem-tronics, Inc. has continued to grow as an aerospace industry leader in technology, quality products, and commitment to customer satisfaction. My fellow colleagues, Chem-tronics, Inc. represents the small-business spirit that made America great. Join me in congratulating this company for their success in creating jobs, providing critical services and products to our country's national security, and making the San Diego community proud for 50 years.

SYRIA ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in cautious support of the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Act (H.R. 1828).

It is entirely appropriate that we send a strong message to the Syrian government that they have not done enough to weaken terrorist activities in their country. Syria's continued support of international terrorist organizations like Hizballah, Islamic Jihad and Hamas is unacceptable. The United States has given Syria ample opportunity to remove these terrorist threats, and we cannot stand idly by while terrorist operations continue.

In addition, the United States must clearly state that the Syrian occupation of Lebanon will not be tolerated. The people of Lebanon deserve to be ruled by the Lebanese, and not an occupying Syrian force with ties to terrorism. Syrian troops in Lebanon represent a destabilizing force that threatens the peace of Israel and the entire Middle East region.

The Syria Accountability Act must be used as a political lever intended to send an unmistakable message to Syrian President Assad that his government's support for terrorist organizations and occupation of Lebanon cannot be allowed. It must not, however, be interpreted as a catalyst for military action in Syria. Inflaming the dialogue about Syria's reported connections with al-Qaeda or Iraq will only lead to rash decisions unreflective of the best interests of the United States and our allies in the global war on terrorism.

We must remain committed engaging the Syrian government in diplomatic exchange. Only by talking can we expect to improve our bilateral relations with Syria and bring about a peaceful resolution to this challenging issue.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF DAIRY FORWARD CONTRACTING LEGISLATION

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation to make perma-

nent the authority for dairy producers and processors to have an important risk management tool known as forward pricing contracts. As the ranking minority member of the Agriculture Committee's subcommittee that has jurisdiction over dairy policy, I hope to move this legislation forward before the existing statutory authority expires next year. I am very pleased that my subcommittee chairman, Mr. Gutknecht of Minnesota, has joined me in introducing this legislation, along with 14 other of our colleagues.

Forward pricing contracts allow farmers and their customers the opportunity to freely negotiate a long-term contract for the sale of their agricultural products at a fixed price. This risk management tool gives farmers greater predictability for income streams, which in turn allows for better management of farm and business operations.

Buyers and sellers of many farm commodities rely heavily on forward contracts. According to a report by the GAO, forward cash contracting is the risk management tool most frequently used by producers outside the dairy sector. A majority of cotton (76 percent), corn (65 percent), and wheat (57 percent) producers use forward contracts to lock in their prices and revenue. Dairy producers have utilized this tool less, primarily because the legal requirements of the federal milk marketing order system have prevented dairy processors from offering this risk management tool to dairy farmers.

In 1999, Congress decided to amend federal law to remove this impediment to dairy forward pricing contracts. A pilot program was established, allowing dairy producers and processors to enter into voluntary agreements for the sale of a set amount of milk for a fixed price over a specified period of time. These contracts are based on a negotiated price rather than the minimum price set monthly under federal milk marketing orders.

The pilot program went into effect in July 2000, and is due to expire December 31, 2004. Although it has only been in place for a few years, it is an important tool for the dairy industry to have that deserves permanence. The bill that I introduced today would make this program a permanent authority and thereby ensure the availability of forward pricing contracts to any and all producers and processors who voluntarily want to use such a risk management tool.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation and making it become law in the near future.

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let my colleagues know that October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 Americans—and their family members—who are currently affected by Spina Bifida—the nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect. The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA), an organization that has helped people with Spina Bifida and their families for nearly 30 years, works every day—not just in

the month of October—to prevent and reduce suffering from this devastating birth defect.

The SBAA was founded in 1973 to address the needs of the individuals and families affected by this disease and is currently the only national organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. As part of its service through 57 chapters in more than 100 communities across the country, the SBAA puts expecting parents in touch with families who have a child with Spina Bifida. These families answer questions and concerns and help guide expecting parents. The SBAA then works to provide lifelong support and assistance for affected children and their families.

Together the SBAA and the West Michigan Spina Bifida Association, the Spina Bifida Association of Southeastern Michigan, the Spina Bifida Association of Upper Michigan, and the Southwest Michigan Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association work tirelessly to help families meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their child. I would like to acknowledge and thank SBAA and these local Spina Bifida organizations in Michigan for all that they have done for the families affected by this birth defect, especially those living in my state.

Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect that occurs when the central nervous system does not properly close during the early stages of pregnancy. Spina Bifida affects more than 4,000 pregnancies each year, with 1,500 babies being born with Spina Bifida each year. There are three different forms of Spina Bifida with the most severe being Myelomeningocele Spina Bifida, which causes nerve damage and severe disabilities. This severe form of Spina Bifida is diagnosed in 96 percent of children born with this condition. Between 70 to 90 percent of the children born with Spina Bifida are at risk of mental retardation when spinal fluid collects around the brain.

The exact cause of Spina Bifida is not known, but researchers have concluded that women of childbearing age who take daily folic acid supplements reduce their chances of having a Spina Bifida pregnancy by up to 75%. Progress has been made convincing women of the importance of consuming folic acid supplements and maintaining diets rich in folic acid. However, this public education campaign must be enhanced and broadened to reach segments of the population that have yet to heed this call.

Although folic acid consumption reduces the risk and incidence of Spina Bifida pregnancies, we will still have babies born with Spina Bifida who need intensive care and families that need guidance and support in caring for and raising these children. The result of this neural tube defect is that most babies suffer from a host of physical, psychological, and educational challenges, including paralysis, developmental delay, numerous surgeries, and living with a shunt in their skulls in an attempt to ameliorate their condition. Today, approximately 90 percent of all babies diagnosed with this birth defect live into adulthood, approximately 80 percent have normal IQs, and approximately 75 percent participate in sports and other recreational activities. With proper medical care, people who suffer from Spina Bifida can lead full and productive lives. However, they must learn how to move around using braces, crutches or wheelchairs, and how to function independently. They also must

be careful to avoid a host of secondary health problems ranging from depression and learning disabilities to skin problems and latex allergies.

After decades of poor prognosis and short life expectancy, breakthroughs in research combined with improvements in health care and treatment children with Spina Bifida are now living long enough to become adults with this condition. However, with this extended life expectancy people with Spina Bifida now face new challenges in the fields of education, job training, independent living, health care for secondary conditions, aging concerns, and other related issues.

I am proud to Co-Chair the newly established Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus with my colleague Representative CHRISTOPHER SMITH. The Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus will bring increased attention to this condition and advance initiatives that will improve the quality of life for those individuals and their families living with Spina Bifida.

I again wish to thank the SBAA and its chapters for all of their hard work to prevent and reduce suffering from this birth defect and for their commitment to improve the lives of those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout our nation. The Spina Bifida community and our nation owe a tremendous debt to the SBAA for its work over the past three decades. Much more work still needs to be done, and I am confident this fine organization and its chapters will lead the effort for decades to come. I wish the Spina Bifida Association of America the best of luck in its endeavors and urge all of my colleagues and all Americans to support its important efforts.

CHICAGO SAYS REPEAL THE PATRIOT ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the record a resolution passed by the City Council of Chicago calling on Congress to actively work for the repeal of sections of the PATRIOT Act that "violate fundamental rights and liberties as stated in the U.S. Constitution and its Amendments." This resolution was passed on October 1, 2003.

I supported this resolution and I want to thank Aldermen Helen Shiller, Joe Moore, Fredrena Lyle, and Ricardo Munoz for introducing it. I would also like to recognize and thank the City Council of Evanston and the President and Board of Trustees of Wilmette for passing similar resolutions.

I voted against the PATRIOT Act two years ago and I continue to remain skeptical of its effectiveness at keeping us safe. I believe the PATRIOT Act violates our civil liberties, our right to due process, and unnecessarily targets immigrants. Therefore, I am pleased to join with the Chicago City Council in affirming the rights of all people living within Chicago and the country and in saying that we must repeal the PATRIOT Act.

The following is the resolution passed by the City Council of the City of Chicago:

RESOLUTION ON THE USA PATRIOT ACT AND RELATED EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Whereas, the City of Chicago houses a diverse population, including citizens of other

nations, whose contributions to the community are vital to its character and function; and

Whereas, the United States Constitution guarantees certain fundamental rights including: freedom of religion, speech, assembly and privacy; protection from unreasonable searches and seizures; due process and equal protection to any person; equality before the law and the presumption of innocence; access to counsel in judicial proceedings; and a fair, speedy and public trial; and

Whereas, the USA PATRIOT Act signed by George W. Bush on October 26, 2001, in the opinion of many American, contains a number of provisions that undermine the above mentioned rights and which fundamentally alter our civil liberties without increasing our security; and

Whereas, examples of the provisions in the USA PATRIOT Act and Executive orders that may undermine the constitution and the rights and civil liberties of Chicago residents include:

A significant expansion of the government's ability to access sensitive medical, mental health, financial and educational records about individuals; and lowers the burden of proof required to conduct secret searches and telephone and Internet surveillance

Giving law enforcement expanded authority to obtain library records, and prohibits librarians from informing patrons of monitoring or information requests

Giving the Attorney General and the Secretary of State the power to designate domestic groups, including religious and political organizations, as "terrorist organizations"

Granting the Attorney General the power to subject citizens of other nations to indefinite detention or deportation even if they have not committed a crime

Authorizing eavesdropping on confidential communications between lawyers and their clients in federal custody

Limiting disclosure of public documents and records under the Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, the Department of Justice interpretations of this Act and these Executive Orders particularly target immigrants, including Hispanics, people of Middle Eastern and South Asian descent and citizens of other nations, thereby potentially encouraging racial profiling by law enforcement and the unintended consequence of increase in hate crimes by individuals in our community; and

Whereas, almost 200 other cities throughout the country have enacted resolutions reaffirming support for civil rights and civil liberties in the face of government policies that threaten these values, and are demanding accountability from federal agencies regarding the use of these new powers; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the City of Chicago joins the almost 200 other U.S. cities and affirms its strong opposition to terrorism, and also affirms that any efforts to end terrorism not be waged at the expense of the fundamental civil rights and liberties of the people of Chicago, the United States and the World; and be it further

Resolved, That the City of Chicago affirms the rights of all people, including United States citizens and citizens of other nations, living within the City in accordance with the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution by lawfully resisting every effort to erode those rights and protections including: freedom of religion, speech, assembly and privacy; protection from unreasonable searches and seizures; due process and equal protection to any person; equality before the law and the

presumption of innocence; access to counsel in judicial proceedings; and fair, speedy and public trial; and be it further

Resolved, that the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago call on our United States Representatives and Senators to monitor the implementation of the U.S. Patriot Act and the Orders in furtherance thereof and actively work for the repeal of only those sections of the Act and those orders that violate fundamental rights and liberties as stated in the US Constitution and its Amendments by sending a copy of this resolution to the Illinois delegation to Congress.

HONORING HIS HOLINESS, POPE JOHN PAUL II, UPON HIS SILVER JUBILEE

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join in the celebration of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, who is marking his Silver Jubilee as the spiritual leader of more than 1 billion Catholics around the world.

It was 25 years ago today that Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, the Archbishop of Krakow, was elected Pope—the youngest chosen in a century. This Cardinal, little-known outside of native Poland, stood before a crowd of 200,000 in St. Peter's Square and emotionally stated that he had been afraid to accept the nomination, but had done so in obedience to Christ.

While he came from meager beginnings, he will be remembered for fostering peace throughout the world. This is because His Holiness knows the persecution of oppression. He studied for the priesthood in secrecy and saw those he grew up with killed and victimized due to the Nazi Occupation. He later witnessed firsthand the communist subjugation of his native Poland.

Since becoming Pope, he has traveled more extensively throughout the world than any predecessor, during which time he has spread the message of peace, religious freedom, and human dignity.

His Holiness was instrumental in the demise of communism in his native Poland, which in turn fostered the spread of democracy throughout the world.

His Holiness has reached out in an unprecedented manner to peoples of other beliefs and religions all over the world to establish a dialog which may lead to greater understanding, healing, and harmony, including praying for unity among Christian churches, reconciliation with the Jewish people, and specifically acknowledging those times in which the Catholic Church has failed to act in accordance with its teachings. He has also led a pilgrimage to the Middle East, preaching coexistence, peace, tolerance, and goodwill throughout this historically conflicted territory.

His Holiness has used his position as a world leader to become the foremost voice in fostering ties of brotherhood and promoting peace and reconciliation in the world today. His many efforts have invited his being bestowed with the Congressional Medal of Honor on January 8, 2001.

I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this devoted spiritual leader and to celebrate with him this Jubilee.

SAVE OUR HOMES ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that today I am reintroducing the "Save Our Homes Act." I want to thank my colleagues MAXINE WATERS, BERNARD SANDERS, JULIA CARSON, JAMES MCGOVERN, PETER DEFAZIO, LUIS GUTIERREZ, LOUISE SLAUGHTER, BARBARA LEE, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, DONALD PAYNE, MAJOR OWENS, HENRY WAXMAN, FRANK PALLONE, LYNN WOOLSEY, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, MADELEINE BORDALLO, RAUL GRIJALVA, GEORGE MILLER, DENNIS KUCINICH, BOBBY RUSH, MARCY KAPTUR, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, CHRIS BELL, GENE GREEN, MICHAEL HONDA, DONNA CHRISTENSEN, and ROBERT BRADY for joining me today as original cosponsors of this legislation.

The Save Our Homes Act would help protect homebuyers from unscrupulous lenders and brokers by creating strong new protections for homeowners throughout the country. The Save Our Homes Act provides a floor, not a ceiling for consumer protections. Strong States and local anti-predatory lending laws would not be preempted by this legislation. The Save Our Homes Act is supported by leading consumer rights organizations, such as the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), National People's Action, and National Community Reinvestment Coalition. This is the strongest anti-predatory lending bill in Congress.

The Coalition for Responsible Lending estimates that homeowners lose \$9.1 billion annually due to predatory loans. In Chicago, foreclosures increased by 74 percent between 1993 and 2001. Remarkably, over that same time period, foreclosures in the subprime market increased by 500 percent. Half of all the foreclosures occurred within 2 years of origination, signaling fraudulent and abusive lending practices. Under the leadership of Mayor Daley and Governor Blagojevich, Illinois and the City of Chicago have passed tough anti-predatory lending laws. Nevertheless, under current Federal law, State and local governments cannot stop some abusive lending practices. In addition, most States do not have strong anti-predatory lending laws. My legislation would close these loopholes and ensure that all homeowners, in every State, are protected from predatory lenders and brokers.

We are all united in support of homeownership. However, supporting homeownership is not enough; we need to make sure people are able to stay in their homes. That is why we need to crackdown on predatory lenders and brokers.

Predatory lenders and brokers are out to make a fast buck on the backs of the elderly, homeowners in financial distress, low-income families and people of color. Predatory lenders are thieves, preying on consumers who are house rich, but cash poor. They don't wear ski masks or hold a gun to your head. They come knocking on your door with neckties and loan papers, charge you credit card high interest rates, and steal the equity, that you've built in your home.

People living in underserved communities have a difficult time obtaining conventional loans. Despite all the progress that has been

made, redlining continues to be a major problem. In 2000, HUD completed a study that found that borrowers in upper income African American neighborhoods, who would easily qualify for conventional, low rate loans, were twice as likely as homeowners in low-income white neighborhoods to receive subprime refinancing loans.

Of course, not all subprime lending is abusive and predatory. Responsible subprime lending expands homeownership opportunities for those who cannot qualify for conventional loans. However, it is clear that abusive practices are a major problem in the subprime industry. People who turn to subprime lenders are more likely to obtain abusive loans. That is why homeowners who are forced to turn to the subprime market need strong, Federal protections.

I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation, the Save Our Homes Act, into law.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACT OF 2003

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Education Savings Act of 2003". This legislation will change current tax law to make it clear that employers can make tax-deductible contributions to employees' education savings accounts, such as 529 or 530 accounts.

Saving for our children's higher education has become increasingly important as we continue to see the cost of college education steadily rising. As a Member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce I have been afforded the opportunity to participate in many hearings outlining some of the difficulty student's face with the rising cost of tuition. Tuition is outpacing the rate of inflation, increases in family income, and even increases in State and Federal financial aid—which have grown tremendously in recent years. Planning for our children's future education by setting up savings accounts is essential now more than ever.

I have seen first hand the effects that can occur from rapidly increasing tuition rates. The State of Nevada has one of the lowest numbers of college graduates per capita. Setting up savings accounts early on for higher education can displace some of the burden created by the high costs of attaining a college education.

The United States tax code offers options for families to SAVE—to Set Aside for the Value of Education. Two such options, the 529 College Savings Plan and the 530 "Coverdell Accounts", have benefited thousands of students and have helped their families meet the rapidly escalating costs associated with attaining a college degree. Unfortunately, current tax law penalizes workers for accepting contributions from their employers to these accounts by considering it earned income to the employees.

The "Education Savings Act" will clarify that any amount contributed to these education accounts will NOT count towards an employee's taxable income.

By allowing employers to contribute to 529 and 530 accounts without the contribution

being considered taxable income, I hope to increase the ease with which we send our children to college. Employers are able to provide health and retirement benefits and it is time for businesses to be able to provide an education benefit as well without penalizing the employee. The "Education Savings Act" is another effort to help defray the ever growing costs of attaining a college education.

Congress should do all we can to encourage our youth to pursue higher education opportunities and eliminate any barriers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes on the morning of September 25 because I was attending meeting with the National Security Advisor at the White House.

I requested a leave of absence from September 30 through October 8 due to a family

illness. Had I been here, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 520, 524–529, 531–533, and 535–539 and "nay" on rollcall votes 530 and 534.

VETERANS RECOGNIZED BY THE
SILVER ROSE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Gary Chenett, and Robert Baker. These two gentlemen are responsible for awarding The Silver Rose to our military veterans in Texas and across the Nation.

Established in 1997 by Mary Elizabeth Marchand, The Order of The Silver Rose gives many veterans the satisfaction of being recognized for making the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Mrs. Marchand's father, Chief Hospital Corpsman Frank Davis, died from illnesses resulting from the use of Agent Orange in the Vietnam War. A combat veteran,

Chief Davis was not wounded in combat but exposed to a dangerous substance while fighting for his country. Exposure to Agent Orange resulted in Davis losing his life some years later. Subsequently, determination was made by the Department of Defense that Chief Davis and many like him do not qualify for The Purple Heart.

The Order of The Silver Rose recognizes the courage, heroism, and contributions of American service personnel who were exposed to Agent Orange in a combat zone. There are thousands of veterans who served this country faithfully who are now suffering illnesses, some fatal, directly due to being exposed to harmful substances during the war.

Gary Chenett and Robert Baker award veterans with The Silver Rose. To date over one thousand veterans have received this award. Sadly, many of these awards have been made posthumously. October is now recognized as Agent Orange month in Texas and many other states. On behalf of Texas, I thank our brave patriots for their sacrifices.