

Relief Act. The purpose of this legislation is to update the 1940 Act to strengthen the protections it provides to those serving in the military. H.R. 100 also updates the language in the Act so that it is easier to understand.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 3024, which amends the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, to provide protections to servicemembers who terminate motor vehicle or residential leases entered into before permanent change or station or deployment orders for motor vehicle leases. I am pleased that H.R. 3024 was included in the compromise worked out by the House and Senate in its revision of the 1940 Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act. I believe it is an important and necessary addition to the current law.

The men and women of the National Guard and Reserves continue to answer the call. We must not short change them in any way when they are called to serve. They should be allowed to terminate their automobile leases without penalty.

Again, I thank the Members in both the House and Senate for including this provision in the final package. I also want to thank the Auto Alliance for its input and cooperation in helping to craft this bill. As a current member of the U.S. Army Reserves and Co-Chair of the Guard and Reserve Caucus, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 100.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 100.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maine?

There was no objection.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, your committee appointed to inform the President that the House is ready to adjourn and to ask him if he has any further communications to make to the House has performed that duty. The President has directed us to say that he has no further communications to make to the House.

HONORING BARBER CONABLE

(Mr. LEACH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness I would like to formally report to the House the passing of one of our most distinguished Members of the 20th century, Barber Conable of New York.

Barber retired from the House over a decade ago, so many current Members

are not familiar with Barber except by his reputation.

Let me just stress that Barber Conable was the quintessential public servant. In Congress he was an expert on all matters of taxation. He led the Republican Party on the Committee on Ways and Means, rising to be the ranking member. He was identified with particular issues such as reductions in capital gains, also for the development of revenue sharing.

Prior to serving in the Congress, he was in the United States Military, having served in both World War II and the Korean conflict, and he rose to the rank of Colonel. After leaving the Congress of the United States, where he, by the way, had been a close friend of the former President of the United States, George Bush, he was appointed to head the World Bank. He came to be known as a leader of the bank as interested for the world environment as well as for world economic growth.

All of us in life have been privileged to have mentors. I would just simply say in this body this Member never considered anyone more a model legislator and mentor than Barber Conable. He was simply the most decent, the most thoughtful, the most intelligent, and the least political individual I have served with.

To his wife, Charlotte, and family, I know I speak for many Members who are friends and staff on this Hill in extending our shared grief and best wishes.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3151 AND H.R. 3583

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3151 and H.R. 3583.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

HONORING EDWIN PENCE

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, those of us on the Democratic side of the aisle, when we arrived today, we were missing a familiar and friendly face. Ed Pence has been a loyal and valued servant to this country for 25 years. He has reached out to numerous people and he will be greatly missed. He retires at the end of this year.

In October of 1978, Ed joined the Capitol Police Force and dedicated over 20 years to protecting our safety and that of the visiting public. He is respected throughout the Capitol because of his professionalism, his compassion, and his friendly nature.

Ed also had a brief stint in the gentleman from Missouri's (Mr. GEPHARDT) office before joining the Ser-

geant of Arms Office as a trusted member of the Chamber security staff.

During this time, Ed has proven himself a trusted source of knowledge by monitoring floor activity and advising Members on upcoming votes. Ed was the man we turned to when we were planning our day or asking questions about the procedures of the day.

Mr. Speaker, Ed's dedication, work ethic, and devotion to this institution is worthy of the highest commendation. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Ed Pence on his well-deserved retirement, thanking him for his service, and wishing him continued success in all of his future endeavors.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Ways and Means:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board presented for forwarding to you for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, consistent with the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 8, 2003.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 8, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Under Clause 2(g) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I herewith designate Mr. Gerasimos C. Vans, Deputy Clerk, to sign any and all papers and do all other acts for me under the name of the Clerk of the House which he would be authorized to do by virtue of this designation, except such as are provided by statute, in case of my temporary absence or disability.

If Mr. Vans should not be able to act in my behalf for any reason, then Mr. Daniel J. Strodel, Assistant to the Clerk, or Ms. Marjorie C. Kelaher, Assistant to the Clerk, should similarly perform such duties under the same conditions as are authorized by this designation.

These designations shall remain in effect for the 108th Congress or until modified by me.