

see the root of the dilemma in Dr. Chu's words: that they have served their purpose to America and are no longer needed, that they—who served a career in uniform to protect our freedoms—are now looked upon as a burden on society, that they have been used up and thrown away like an old worn out paper bag.

That is why our offices have received thousands of brown paper bags in the mail, with messages written on them urging this body to pass the Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act. I am told that, as of today, military retirees and their families and supporters have sent over 20,000 paper bags to Congress and that more are arriving every day.

The Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act was originally introduced in 1999 to acknowledge the promises made in good faith to America's military retirees. That version of the bill led to the enactment of Tricare for Life, TFL, which went a long way to restore health care to military retirees over age 65. But more needs to be done to keep our promises to that elderly group of retirees and to make sure that younger retirees receive the level of health care to which they are entitled.

Our new bill offers more meaningful restitution for broken promises by waiving the premium that World War II and Korean era military retirees must pay to enroll in Medicare Part B, a requirement of TFL. The new bill also addresses broken promises made to military retirees who joined the service after 1956. Even though laws were on the books beginning in 1956 that defined and limited military retiree health care, the sad truth is that the empty promise of lifetime health care was used as a recruiting tool for many years beyond the scope of the Col. Day's case, to those who entered the military after 1956. This is documented in recruiting literature well into the 1990s. We must keep our promises to them, too.

These retirees, mainly from the Vietnam and Persian Gulf eras, qualify for the military health care program known generally as Tricare. Tricare works well for many military retirees but fails to deliver quality health care for others. Some retirees cannot receive care at military bases due to lack of space availability. Base closures have cut off access for many retirees, and too many of them cannot find private doctors who will put up with bureaucratic inefficiencies or low reimbursements they have encountered with Tricare.

I believe strongly that military retirees who are not well served by Tricare deserve an alternative. The Keep Our Promise Act has offered these retirees the option of enrolling in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, FEHBP; the bill improves this benefit for military retirees by reimbursing them for expenses they incur under FEHBP that they would not have incurred under Tricare and makes certain improvements to the military pharmacy benefit.

The Courts have ruled. It is up to Congress to make good on the promises that were made—and broken—to our military retirees. They are not asking for handouts—they ask only for what was promised to them and what they earned. We need to do right by our military retirees, and to show our future military retirees that their government will live up to the promises it makes to them. We need to

enact into law the important provisions of the Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act.

KAZAKHSTAN PROMOTES RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, this week nearly 4,000 people will attend the National Prayer Breakfast, including 1,500 representing 170 nations from all continents of the world. What began in 1952 as a small gathering, led by President Eisenhower and Senator Frank Carlson of Kansas, has evolved over time to being a much larger ecumenical event, particularly as it relates to international participation. As my colleagues know, the Senate and House prayer groups are official sponsors of the National Prayer Breakfast.

While many of the major faiths are represented, with a special emphasis this year on involving leaders from Israel and Palestine, the purpose has not changed: to emphasize the principles and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as the best means of achieving reconciliation and peace in a troubled world.

Our Nation is challenged as never before to deal with religious extremism and the increasing militarism of certain faiths occurring in many countries around the world. That is why I appreciate the example of Kazakhstan, whose president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, is making a considerable effort to deal with religious diversity in his country and in the region. In fact, all of the world's great religions—Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and Buddhism, are present and thriving in Kazakhstan, thanks to a climate of tolerance and openness in that country.

Kazakhstan today is a model of religious diversity. One half of the country's 15 million people are Muslim and roughly one-half are Orthodox Christian, with 40 other religions and 100 ethnic minorities among its citizens. Leaders of the major religious sects, including Russian Orthodox and other Christian as well as Jewish leaders, all say there is full freedom of religion in Kazakhstan.

Pope John Paul II, on a visit to Kazakhstan, called it an "example of harmony between men and women of different origins and beliefs." Kazakhstan is emerging as an example of regional stability given its positive atmosphere regarding religious expression and lack of interethnic and inter-religious conflicts.

In September 2003, Kazakhstan hosted the first ever congress of leaders of world and traditional religions. Upon conclusion of the congress, 120 religious leaders from 18 different religions unanimously adopted a declaration renouncing terrorism and promoting the true values of all religions—tolerance, truth, justice and love of one another as the basic tenets of all religious teachings. The delegates pledged to combat violence by propagating the peaceful values of their different faiths.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to learn that Mr. Nurtai Abikayev, who is Speaker of the Upper House and chairman of Kazakhstan's National Security Council, will be attending this year's National Prayer Breakfast and a featured speaker at the International Luncheon. It dem-

onstrates not only President Nazarbayev and Speaker Abikayev's personal commitment to the idea of religious tolerance in their country and throughout Central Asia, but to also learn more about our country's tradition and beliefs and how America's religious and ethnic diversity has also become a source of strength in our Nation.

As one who sits on the House International Relations Committee, I have come to appreciate the difficulty and challenge these countries face in making the transition to Western-style democracies where freedom and free markets are new experiences. It has been uneven, to be sure, and there is plenty of room for criticism. But I do applaud Kazakhstan's leadership and example in insuring that religious freedom will be a cornerstone of building a freer society in that country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by inserting into the RECORD the Declaration of the Participants of the First Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

ARTHRITIS PREVENTION, CONTROL AND CURE ACT OF 2005

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to join my colleague Representative PICKERING in introducing the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act of 2005, which authorizes programs and funding that will allow the Federal Government to better coordinate and increase our investment in efforts to prevent, treat, and care for persons with arthritis and related diseases. The bill represents the most significant Federal effort to address arthritis since the passage of the National Arthritis Act a generation ago. The Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act of 2005 addresses this important issue by:

Enhancing the National Arthritis Action Plan by providing additional support to federal, state, and private efforts to prevent and manage arthritis;

Developing a National Arthritis Education and Outreach Campaign to educate the healthcare profession and the public on successful self-management strategies for controlling arthritis;

Organizing a National Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases Summit to look at challenges and opportunities related to basic, clinical and translational research and development efforts;

Providing greater attention to the area of juvenile arthritis research through the creation of planning grants for innovative research specific to juvenile arthritis, as well as the prioritization of epidemiological activities focused on better understanding the prevalence, incidence, and outcomes associated with juvenile arthritis; and

Creating incentives to encourage health professionals to enter the field of pediatric rheumatology through the establishment of an education loan repayment and career development award programs.

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the United States with 70 million Americans living with a form of the disease. With the

aging of the baby boomers, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, predicts the number of people over 65 with arthritis or chronic joint symptoms will double by 2030. Nearly 300,000 children in the United States are living with a form of juvenile arthritis. Arthritis is a painful and debilitating chronic disease affecting men, women and children alike.

Currently, the Federal investment in juvenile arthritis research is only \$23 per affected child. The CDC estimates that the annual cost of medical care for arthritis is \$51 billion, and the annual total costs, including lost productivity, exceed \$86 billion. Early diagnosis, treatment, and appropriate management of arthritis are critical in controlling symptoms and improving quality of life.

In 1975, nearly 30 years ago, Senator Alan Cranston of California introduced the last major piece of arthritis legislation. It was signed into law by President Gerald Ford. The bill, the National Arthritis Act, set our Nation on an important path in the fight against arthritis. It led to the creation of an institute at NIH focused on arthritis, and laid the foundation for a national arthritis public health strategy.

Today, arthritis is still claiming the lives of millions of Americans and we must reinvigorate our research and education efforts to offer individuals with arthritis more hope for a better life and eventually a cure. I believe the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act of 2005 will do just that.

TRIBUTE TO CARMINE CARRO

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, when residents of Marine Park were being threatened by the New York City Department of Transportation because Parks Department trees were tearing up their sidewalks, Carmine Carro confronted city hall.

When two women from Marine Park broke the gender barrier by competing in a Citywide bocce tournament, Carmine Carro cheered them on.

When vandals sprayed racist graffiti on PS 207 in Marine Park, Carmine Carro donated all the paint and supplies the students needed to whitewash the wall.

When Carmine passed away earlier this week, New York lost a classic. Carmine was an old school New Yorker, devoted to his community, Marine Park, and a dogged advocate for his neighbors.

Carmine moved to Marine Park in the 1960s, and rose to become president of the Marine Park Civic Association—one of the oldest civic associations in New York City. Under Carmine, the MPCA built on its long tradition of making Marine Park one of the most vibrant neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

Carmine worked every year to organize a Halloween walk attended by as many as 20,000 community members. He served as Park Warden for Marine Park for five years. He was a member of the local school board and vice-chairman of Community Board 18.

Carmine Carro was the Mayor of Marine Park. He represented the best of what New York can be. He will be sorely missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL DANISH

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Danish for his decades of exemplary public service to Colorado. Paul is one of Boulder's outstanding political and journalistic figures, and I want to thank him on behalf of all Boulder's citizens for his fine service as County Commissioner for the past twelve years. He has shared his skills, experience, humor, and passions with us, and he is much treasured in turn by his community.

Born in Chicago, Paul moved with his family to Colorado in the 1940s and attended the University of Colorado in 1960. He received a bachelor's degree in history from CU and did graduate work in political science. To put his student period in perspective, he was instrumental during his years at CU in the transformation of the University Memorial Center cafeteria from the Indian Grill to the interim Roaring Fork to the lasting Alfred Packer Grill.

Paul Danish's journalism career began with the student newspaper, Silver and Gold, which later changed its name to the Colorado Daily. He has been a reporter for the United Press International, the San Francisco Chronicle, and Boulder's Town and Country Review. He was technical editor for the Joint Institute of Astrophysics in Boulder and the Negev Institute for Arid Zone Research in Beer Sheva, Israel. His work experience includes being a special assistant to the late University of Colorado President Roland Rautenstrauss and editor for Talmey-Drake Research in Boulder.

He served as a Boulder City Council member from 1976 to 1982. In the early 1970s, Boulder residents were seriously concerned about the adverse impact of unplanned growth on the area's environment. Paul authored Boulder's original growth management plan which was passed by the voters in 1976. The Danish Plan limited population growth by restricting the number of building permits that could be issued each year for residential subdivisions. After the expiration of the Danish Plan in 1982, Boulder has continued to successfully manage growth based on his original strategies.

Paul has never hesitated before political rough and tumbles, and in 1995, he won a well-fought four-way campaign to fill the vacancy for Boulder County Commissioner. Who among the 300-some vacancy committee members will ever forget the speech-of-a-lifetime he gave the day of that vote? He has never been 'short' on the free give and take of ideas, or on his irresistible tendency to be honest and forthright, or on time for coffee with a friend.

As a county commissioner, Paul has been very involved in the cleanup and future use of the Rocky Flats site. He has been an effective advocate for an aggressive cleanup, protecting worker safety, and ensuring that former workers are compensated for any adverse health effects they may have encountered while working there. He has also worked tirelessly for sound land-use and sensible growth throughout the county. Citizens of Boulder will miss his tenacious commitment to policies that serve the environment and the education and health of people.

For many years, Paul wrote columns for the Colorado Daily after it became privately owned, and he was a contributing editor to the Soldier of Fortune magazine. His writings are always alive and kicking with subjects ranging from prairie dogs and Greek agoras to national politics and international issues. In person, he combines a distinguished intellect with a genial sense of fun. A volunteer on the way to work for his early campaigns could always find his headquarters by the peals of laughter emanating from his gardens and front door. And he continues to throw great celebration parties in Boulder's finest tradition.

Paul Danish has made important contributions to the protection and preservation of the quality of life in Boulder County, as well as to the diversity of views in our communities. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Paul Danish for the courageous stands he has taken for the people of Boulder and his unswerving dedication to principles of free expression. I wish him congratulations on his accomplishments and good health and happiness to him and his family in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRETT ALEXANDER SISTO UPON HIS ACHIEVEMENT OF EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent Brett Alexander Sisto of Eagle Scout troop No. 204 in Lafayette, California, as he receives the distinguished honor of the Eagle Scout rank.

The honor of Eagle Scout is given only to those young men who have demonstrated that they have fulfilled its rigorous requirements, including living by the Scout Oath and Law, rising through the Boy Scout ranks, earning 21 merit badges, serving as a leader, and planning and leading a service project for their community. This is not an honor given out lightly: this young man is becoming an Eagle Scout because he is intelligent, dedicated, and principled.

I am proud to call Brett Alexander Sisto my constituent, for he is a shining example of the promise of the next generation. Indeed, he represents the best of the young people in our country. I extend my sincere congratulations to him and his family, on this momentous occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMPLOYEE CHANGING ROOM PRIVACY ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, with my colleague, Congressman ROB ANDREWS, I am introducing the Employee Changing Room Privacy Act.

This legislation would prohibit the video or audio monitoring of an employee in any area on an employer's premises where an employee changes clothing.