

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING THE KOREAN WAR

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to remember the anniversary of a very important, and yet somber event, which took place forty-eight years ago this month. An American soldier died fighting for his country. This American soldier was the assistant gunner on a machine gun. He and his fellow soldiers were fighting against Russian built T-34 tanks without adequate anti-armor weapons. No matter how bravely he and his fellow soldiers fought, they were unprepared for this combat.

Only twelve days before, this soldier had no idea he would be in combat. Although he was stationed in a foreign land, his mission was really a peacekeeping mission. Land and money to conduct tough, hard training were not available, and besides, very few of his military leaders thought there would be any combat in the foreseeable future. Certainly the politicians in Washington had no idea about any threat. The U.S. President and Congress had been cutting the size of the armed forces and defense spending.

The event I am talking about took place eleven days after the North Korean People's Army launched a massive surprise invasion of South Korea. This assistant machine gunner had been on occupation duty in Japan, now he was on a wet hillside north of Osan, Korea.

July 5, 1998 is the 48th anniversary of the first combat death of an American soldier in the Korean War. Very soon this soldier would be joined by many of his comrades. He was the first out of the approximately 54,000 Americans (34,000 killed in action and 20,000 from accidents/disease) who would give their lives for our country.

I want to use this anniversary not only to recognize the Korean War veterans, but also to bring attention to the similarity between our warfighting capabilities then and today.

My source for this information is "This Kind of War: A Study in Unpreparedness" by T.R. Fehrenbach, first published in 1963. It is a great and disturbing book on the Korean War. This book points out the incredible sacrifices our fighting men had to endure, in part because of the unpreparedness of the armed forces. This unpreparedness was caused by political leaders and, in some cases, military leaders who had soldiers concentrating on missions other than preparing for war and an inadequately funded defense budget.

I believe that we must guard against a similar situation today. We hear much discussion in the press and even from this administration that the military needs to conform more with the cultural standards of today's civilian society. Also, with the end of the Cold War, many seem to believe that we should operate with a significantly smaller military budget and that the armed forces should focus on non-tradi-

tional missions such as foreign peacekeeping operations, civic actions, etc.

I quote Mr. Fehrenbach from his book, "The civilian liberal and the soldier unfortunately are eyeing two different things: the civilian sociologists are concerned with men living together in peace and amiability and justice; the soldier's task is to teach them to suffer and fight, kill and die. Ironically, even in the twentieth century, American society demands both of its citizenry." I believe many Americans, including political leaders, do not understand this simple fact whether or not they have had military service.

There are many similarities between the world situation prior to the Korean War and our situation today. In both cases, the United States was and is the undisputed greatest military power. Many believe now, as then, that we would never have to fight a "conventional type" war again, that the size of the defense budget can be cut and cut again, and that the military should play a major role outside of its warfighting responsibilities. I believe that thinking such as this is a recipe for disaster. Congress has a vital, constitutional responsibility to insure that some future assistant machine gunner does not have to die for America in a similar set of circumstances.

Finally, we must honor the sacrifice of the gallant soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors who fought and in many cases died in the Korean War. In many ways, the Korean War has become the forgotten war, and therefore, the Korean veterans have become the forgotten veterans. After the decisive victories of World War I and World War II, the American people were not sure what to think about this less than conclusive war.

The fact is that the Korean War was the first of numerous conflicts that were fought during the four decade long Cold War. What all Americans need to remember is that those who fought in Korea played a vital role in our final victory. As Ronald Reagan said, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we may always be free."

HONORING BIG TIMBERS MUSEUM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Big Timbers Museum located in Lamar, Colorado. Open since 1966, the museum houses a fine collection of memorabilia celebrating Western culture. Rare newspaper clips, turn of the century cowboy gear, and Indian relics serve to share the history of Southeastern Colorado with the museum's many visitors.

For the pioneers traveling on the Sante Fe Trail, the area known as the Big Timbers began at a point 20 miles east of present-day Lamar, flanking the Arkansas River with a ver-

dant primeval forest of giant cottonwood trees, lush prairie grasses and fresh water springs. For the next 40 miles westward, Big Timbers became a haven for Indians, Mountain Men, Traders and Settlers alike. It was a welcome site from the wide-open plains for the weary traveler.

Today, the Big Timbers Museum is also a place to stop, rest, relax, and reflect on the history and heritage of the Western High Plains. The museum, founded and operated by the Prowers County Historical Society, provides an intimate and in-depth look at the lifestyles of Colorado's first pioneers and settlers. An extensive photo collection, dating from the late 1800's of Prowers County's earliest homesteaders.

Big Timbers Museum houses the largest collection of Western History in Southeastern Colorado. Museum displays are both permanent and rotational, affording even the most frequent visitor something new and exciting to view and enjoy. The eclectic mass of artifacts, antiques and memorabilia cover almost 8000 square feet of display area and include everything from 1400 year old (carbon-dated) arrowheads to cowboy clothing, ladies fashions from the 1800's through the 1920's and 30's, Indian tools, early farm equipment, household fittings and furniture—all indigenous to Prowers County and donated by the area's families.

The Big Timbers Museum currently features exhibits detailing the events of the Fleagle Gang Robbery & Trial, showcasing gowns designed by Charles Worth, and remembering American wars beginning with the Revolutionary period and ending with the Gulf War. Until September 1998, visitors can view original court documents and proceedings, photographs of chained perpetrators, the Fleagle guns and escape car, original newspapers and headline stories, and furnishings from the old 1st National Bank where the Fleagle robbery occurred. Museum goers can also spend time enjoying the creations of Charles Frederick Worth, haute couture of the mid and late 1800's. A wedding dress designed by Worth is made of hand-tatted Battenburg Lace and 100 years later continues to remain in excellent condition. Finally, an exhibit entitled Our Sacred Honor features Patriotic and Red Cross World War I posters, a Confederate regimental battle flag, uniforms, armaments, the original plans for the D-Day Invasion of 1944, trench art, and GI souvenirs.

I recently visited the Big Timbers Museum and found that it provided an educational and enjoyable experience. I found located amongst the treasures kept the museum interesting artifacts which gave me a new perspective on the history of the district I represent. I also found a treasure in the museum's curator, Ms. Jeanne Clark, who used to ice skate professionally and was known to America as "Jinx." As a Member of Congress representing Colorado's Fourth District, I would like to commend the men and women who have contributed to the Big Timbers Museum and thank these individuals for continuing to provide visitors with a taste of Southeastern Colorado.

• 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.

TRIBUTE TO CARL SMITH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Henry David Thoreau once said, "[T]he death of friends will inspire us as much as their lives. . . . Their memories will be encrusted over with the sublime and pleasing thoughts, as monuments of other men are overgrown with moss; for our friends have no place in the graveyard." Carl Smith was such a friend to the citizens of Harris County, and we should memorialize him in our thoughts today for his tireless work and remarkable dedication.

As the Tax Assessor-Collector of Harris County, Texas, Mr. Smith advocated tax exemptions for deserving members of society such as Senior Citizens and the Disabled. He also strove to pass the four-year term bill.

An astute member of the government, Mr. Smith drafted necessary legislation that provided a pension system for elected County and District Officials. In addition, he obtained the requisite support for the Constitutional Amendment that also provided a pension for County and District Officials.

Carl Smith's value to the Harris County community was not limited to his post as Tax Assessor-Collector. He somehow found the time and resolve to hold other public roles of equal worth. Such endeavors included his positions as the Past President of the Tax Assessor-Collector's Association of Texas, the Past President of the International Association of Assessing Officers, a member of the Texas Association of Assessing Officers, and a former member of the Tax Assessor Examiners Board of Texas.

Carl Smith's exemplary service has not gone unrecognized. He has received a citation for Meritorious Service by the President's Committee on the Employment of Physically Handicapped and an award for Meritorious Achievement by the Houston Committee for Employment of the Physically Handicapped. In 1990, Mr. Smith was named "Governmental Employer of the Year" by the Harris County Commission for the Employment of Disabled Persons. He also was the recipient of "The Book of Golden Deeds" Award by the Exchange Club of Houston.

We should not overlook the fact that Carl Smith was not only a sagacious Tax Assessor-Collector, but he was also a knowledgeable academic and legal authority. Mr. Smith studied night school at the University of Houston Law School and South Texas, and he passed the bar in 1934 upon his graduation. Eventually, he would serve a great many years as Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee of the statewide County Assessor's Association. He also was a member of the Texas State Bar Association and the Houston Bar Association.

As I stand here before you to eulogize Carl Smith, I am reminded of his ingenuity and creativity, as well as his dedication to the taxpayers. In an effort to provide greater convenience for the taxpayers, as a newly-appointed Tax Collector-Assessor, Mr. Smith established sub-stations and branch offices throughout Harris County. He was the first Tax Collector-Assessor to have substations issue license plates and voter registrations. Moreover, he al-

lowed taxpayers to handle homestead exemptions by mail.

In Matthew 5, it is written, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Carl Smith's light still shines, even now. And we should bask in the memory of his accomplishments.

Carl Smith revolutionized the operations of the Harris County Tax Office. The office now works as an efficient, yet cordial entity, and it will serve as Mr. Smith's continuing legacy.

I offer my sincerest condolences to Mr. Smith's family and friends. We will miss his wisdom and his honorable achievements. But we will never forget him.

**APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 4060, ENERGY AND WATER
DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1999**

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, this motion is an attempt to obstruct an effort to redress some of the most abject poverty and living conditions of people living in rural Alaska. The motion makes no sense whatsoever, unless proponents are contending the federal government has no role to play in fostering public works projects and initiatives to improve the life of our rural areas.

Many communities in Alaska, most of which are Native villages, do not have public works projects such as those taken for granted by most communities in other states. The proposed commission will complement Alaska's ongoing work to alleviate the nearly Third World conditions brought on by the absence of basic infrastructure, such as modern water and sewage treatment or safe and environmentally sound bulk fuel storage.

Because of the magnitude of the problem—unsafe water, lack of modern sewage treatment, infant mortality, alcoholism, suicide, lack of job opportunity—a commission chartered by Congress will advance efforts to grant a shimmer of hope to those who know only hopelessness in these rural areas.

Let me offer just one example of why the Denali Commission is necessary. Forty percent of rural Alaska lacks flush toilets. Residents of these areas literally haul raw human waste in honeybuckets and dump them in a community lagoon sometimes leading to outbreaks of viral meningitis. Americans should not be living in these conditions in this day and age.

These problems have not been ignored by any stretch of the imagination: Congress and the State of Alaska have been cooperating for several years to devote resources to correcting these problems. However, these efforts have the effect of a "scattershot" approach to solving a \$1 billion problem. The Denali Commission is a single entity that can bring a unified direction and approach needed for some of the poorest areas of the country.

There has been a lot of talk on the Floor about how generous the government has been to Alaska. In fact, it has not been very generous. Many of the funds Alaska receives are in

defense programs, which serve a national as opposed to parochial purpose. It must also be recalled that when Alaska was made a statehood, it had to forego the benefit of reclamation projects such as those found in the lower 48. In addition, the federal government owns and controls two-thirds of Alaska's lands, but has awfully slow to show rural Alaskans any benefit this had brought them.

For these reasons, the Denali Commission is justified, necessary, and vital to the well-being of Alaska's rural people.

CONTINUING OUTRAGES IN BURMA

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage about the treatment of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi by the corrupt and repressive Burmese military junta. For six days this week Daw Suu sat inside her car in the middle of a highway in a defiant stand-off with the ruling junta because they refused to let her meet with members of her political party. Yesterday, the military ended the stand-off by forcibly taking her to her home in Rangoon.

This is the third time in recent weeks that the military has attempted to stop Daw Suu from meeting with supporters. Once again, the Burmese military has shown that there is no length to which it will not go to suppress the forces of democracy and freedom inside Burma. This ongoing campaign of harassment of Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy has again focused attention on the plight of the Burmese people. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me today in standing with our fellow duly-elected representatives in Burma and join their call to take their rightful places in parliament. The Burmese people have been denied their rights for too long. The time is now for freedom, democracy and human rights to come to Burma.

I submit the attached editorial from the Washington Post, July 29, 1998, to be included in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, July 29, 1998]

BURMA'S DESPERATE GENERALS

Since last Friday a seemingly frail but spiritually indomitable woman has been blockaded inside her car on a rural highway in Burma. Aung San Suu Kyi, 53, rightful leader of her Southeast Asian nation, had set out from her home in the capital to meet with a political supporter in the provinces. But the general-thugs who have hijacked the leadership of Burma, fearing her popularity and the serene certainty with which she battles for democracy, have blocked the road. They refuse to let her move forward, and Aung San Suu Kyi—insisting on her right to travel and meet with colleagues—refuses to go back.

She would no doubt be surprised to learn, then, if the message could reach her isolated vehicle, that she "is not a captive." This is one of the contentions of the junta's representative to Washington in a letter to the editor published on this page today. It is no surprise that the letter is full of half-truths about the extent of her freedom, the ability of foreign diplomats and journalists to visit her and so forth (yes, she could leave the country, but the thugs would undoubtedly

prevent her return). Nor is it new that the generals vilify her in personal terms; back home, in the domestic press they totally control, they have called this devout Buddhist mother "deranged," a "modern-day ogress" and a sexual predator.

What is interesting is the desperation reflected in their decision to bring their slanderous campaign overseas. Interesting, but again not surprising, for the generals have driven their country (which they call Myanmar) virtually into the ground. What was once one of Asia's most promising nations, rich in natural resources and blessed with an educated and hard-working population, is a disaster, with an average annual income of maybe \$200 to \$300 per person. Universities are shuttered because the rulers fear their own students. The junta can buy the services of public relations firms in Washington and the loyalty of U.S. oil and timber companies eager for contracts, but it knows that it has no legitimacy at home.

This is true above all because Burma conducted an election in 1990, and Aung San Suu Kyi won. Although she was already under house arrest at the time, her National League for Democracy won four out of every five parliamentary seats. Most people in Burma, in other words, apparently did not deem her a "disgruntled housewife," nor was her marriage to an Englishman considered a stain on her character. It is the generals, refusing to honor the election results, who can be accused of "coveting power at all costs."

Remarkably, though, despite nearly a decade of confinement and harassment, of seeing her colleagues imprisoned and tortured, sometimes to death, Aung San Suu Kyi has never returned the insults. Consistently, she calls for dialogue and compromise; contrary to the ambassador's letter, she insists only on the rule of law. Now, in keeping with that principle, she is calling for the true parliament to be convened by Aug. 21. Alone in her sun-baked vehicle on that country road, she is in the right, and she deserves support for her campaign.

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE RESTRUCTURING ACT OF 1998

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the Immigration and Naturalization Service Restructuring Act of 1998, which contains provisions to implement dramatic and fundamental reforms within the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Significant management weaknesses, poor services, overlapping organizational relationships, and inadequate border control are problems that have plagued the INS for many years. Many Members and their office staffs receive calls daily from constituents unable to get assistance with immigration related problems from their local INS' office. We need to change the way the INS does business.

After careful consideration of all pending restructuring proposals, I believe the proposal offered by INS is the best alternative. This bill will untangle the INS' overlapping and confusing organizational structure and replace it with two clear organizational chains of command—one to accomplish its enforcement mission and the other to provide immigration related services. Key provisions of the bill would: ef-

fect an operational split between enforcement and services which would result in distinct, clear lines of authority from the field and headquarters, with the INS Commissioner continuing to be responsible for overall agency operations; eliminate the current field structure in which district offices serve both enforcement and service functions and replace it with separate enforcement and service offices that bring an appropriate mix of staff and skills to local service caseloads and enforcement needs; improve the quality of the workforce by creating separate enforcement and service career paths for INS employees to allow the best employees to move up the ladder and be rewarded for high performance; restructure management operations to ensure effective "shared services" operations for records and data management, technological support, training and administrative support, that will serve both the enforcement and service sides of the agency; and establish a Chief Financial Officer to improve financial, accounting and budget systems.

The overall mission of immigration is best served by coordinating benefits and enforcement in a single entity like the INS. Both benefits and enforcement are critical components to enforcing effectively our immigration laws. This bill sets forth a structure for the INS to improve the Nation's immigration system.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die . . ."

For Officer Jacob Joseph (J.J.) Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson, the time to die came too soon. These two brave men sacrificed their lives so that others might live. Our Nation will never forget their acts of bravery and courage.

On behalf of all the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District of New Jersey, I express our sadness and grief to the families of these two heroes. While words cannot mend their broken hearts, our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Officer Chestnut, Detective Gibson, you showed us what courage really is. God Bless You and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations—OSI. On Saturday, August 1 of this year, OSI will celebrate its golden anniversary as the investigative arm of the United

States Air Force. OSI was established at the suggestion of Congress in 1948 by Secretary of the Air Force Stuart Symington, who consolidated and centralized the investigative services of the new Air Force to ensure a capability for independent and objective criminal investigations. The OSI of today is charged with a varied and complex mission that includes conducting criminal and fraud investigations, protecting our air forces from terrorism and espionage, hunting down military fugitives and tracking people who hack into Air Force computer systems.

Although OSI has adapted to meet the changing needs of the Air Force, there has never been a change in the fundamental nature of the organization—an independent, high performance investigative agency, key and indispensable to the Air Force. The modern OSI is made up of more than 2,000 people operating from over 150 offices throughout the U.S. and in over a dozen countries overseas—basically, wherever you find Air Force interests or resources.

Over the past half century, OSI has played a central role in the history of the Air Force. It was the OSI commander in Korea who first alerted General MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo of the North Korean invasion in June, 1950. During the 1960's and early 1970's, OSI gathered early warning threat information on sabotage and surprise attack in support of air base defense in Vietnam. As terrorism became a household word in the 1970's, OSI responded with investigative tools and programs that enhanced the protection of Air Force people and resources. In 1978, OSI became the first organization in the federal government to establish a computer crime program. OSI's counterintelligence efforts contributed to the victory in the Cold War by identifying and neutralizing foreign intelligence operations targeting the American Air Force.

There will be many new challenges in the next 50 years. For instance, the U.S. military is beginning to feel the impact of the cyber-threat and earlier this year the Pentagon tapped OSI to run the Defense Department's computer forensic training and laboratory programs. Also, the terrorists of the 21st century will be more deadly and OSI will be faced with the need to help protect an air and space force that will be committed to going anywhere in the world, anytime.

A legacy of service, integrity and excellence marches on today in the footsteps of the 11,000 men and women who have served in the OSI, including two members of the 105th Congress, myself and my honorable colleague, Senator ARLEN SPECTER. Mr. Chairman, it is with a great deal of pride that the Air Force OSI celebrates its fiftieth anniversary and remembers its motto: "Preserving our legacy, protecting the future."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STUDENTS OF THE BEECHWOOD SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a group of pre-kindergartners who are on their way to educational achievement in the

future. Under the guidance of two dedicated teachers, Mrs. Wilcox and Mrs. Pappalardos, these students graduated from the Beechwood School in Haddonfield, New Jersey on June 4, 1998. I am profoundly proud that my daughter, Jacquelyn Andres, joined with her classmates in graduating from the Pre-K program at Beechwood. I hope you will join me in wishing these bright stars a bright future. These dedicated teachers and their wonderful students deserve our praise. The 1998 graduating students of the Beechwood Pre-K program are: Jacquelyn Andrews, Jason Bloch, Maria Cleary, Kevin Cook, Olivia DiBlase, Lauren DiDonato, Matthew Falcone, William Freeman, Lexic Guistwhite, Gregor, Herrmann, Dana Kamerling, Sionna Kelly, Shawn McDonald, Connor McElwee, Sarah Meeteer, Chelsea Mettinger, Dominic Payne, Benjamin Potts, Daniel Schwab, Allison Smith, Tyler Stone, Martha Theodoris, Sophia Theodoris.

THE SHEPERSVILLE HIGH
SCHOOL CLASS OF 1932 TO CELE-
BRATE 66TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a high school reunion that will take place in my district this weekend. The Shepherdsville High School Class of 1932 will celebrate their 66th Anniversary Saturday.

High school reunions are a time of remembrance. They give us the means to renew old friendships with classmates we haven't seen in years. We are flooded with memories of days gone by. And we are given the opportunity to share our successes and failures with those that gave us the tools to succeed in life—our teachers.

It's hard to believe, but the Shepherdsville High Class of 1932 will have the opportunity to thank two of their teachers. Both teachers are 94 years old, which in and of itself is worthy of celebration. These two fine people helped prepare the Class of '32, along with hundreds of other students, for life beyond the realm of high school. And for that, I say thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I offer a special congratulations and a happy anniversary to the Shepherdsville High Class of 1932. May your 66th Anniversary be as joyous as your graduation ceremonies were in 1932.

H.R. 3150—BANKRUPTCY REFORM
ACT

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, with the passage of H.R. 3150—the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1998, this Member encourages his colleagues to read the following editorial which appeared in the June 27, 1998, *Beatrice Daily Sun*. This article highlights why the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3150, the Bankruptcy Reform Act.

[From the Daily News, June 27, 1998]

BANKRUPTCY BILL DESERVES SUPPORT—
MEASURE AIMS TO BOLSTER NOTION OF PER-
SONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCES

We find it difficult to muster much sympathy for those who are criticizing recent legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives that would make it tougher to file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

Some of the critics are wailing as if the measure is like tossing widows into the poor house. They're arguing that accumulating unpayable debts is not the fault of the debtors. Rather, it was their credit cards that made them do it.

Whatever happened to the notion of personal responsibility?

Because the measure would only apply to persons making more than \$50,000 a year, it effectively counters the concern that the poor and downtrodden will be negatively affected by the measure.

In effect, the measure says that if a person has enough money after paying for necessities to repay 20 percent of what he or she owes over five years, a court should mandate that to occur.

That seems to make a lot more sense than letting people off the hook entirely, as Chapter 7 does, even when they can afford to repay some of what they owe.

From our perspective, such a measure is needed and should quickly receive the support of consumer groups. After all, when thousands upon thousands of people claim Chapter 7—some without justification—prices for everyone else go up to compensate. Either that or businesses may risk going out of business. Someone is going to pay, and not just people who happen to be rich.

But some consumer groups are not supporting the House measure and instead pointing the finger at credit-card companies.

It's true that some issue their cards with too little checking, but it doesn't follow that it's OK to cheat those companies or that people who run up debts they cannot afford should not be held accountable.

There's nothing draconian about this House measure, and it would be a good idea for the Senate to pass something similar, although its bill is expected to be softer. We like the House bill because it aims to restore more personal responsibility in people's dealings with each other. That's an extremely crucial ingredient in any free and decent society.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, at a time like this, it is difficult to find appropriate words that do justice to the people you are honoring. Officers Jacob J. Chestnut and John Gibson made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the People's House—the U.S. Capitol. A great American—President Abraham Lincoln—would see the great significance of their sacrifice and understand what J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson gave their lives to protect.

The rotunda where their bodies will lie in state is shielded by a great dome built during the dark days of the Civil War. President Lincoln knew in his heart that the Capitol is more than just a building, that the Capitol stands as a symbol of freedom and serves as the seat of democracy. President Lincoln believed this

so strongly that he demanded the work being done to raise the dome proceed, despite the war and its drain on government resources. He knew that completing the Capitol dome would show America that the United States would stand despite the grueling war then being waged.

Soldiers fighting to preserve the United States and protect the Capitol camped on the same floor where officer's Chestnut and Gibson will lie in state today. President Lincoln's words uttered on a Gettysburg battlefield nearly 135 years ago are proper to honor these two protectors of freedom who fell in the line of duty.

... We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

In their lives and deaths, these two brave officers helped keep the dream alive, the dream shared by Abraham Lincoln and by Americans from coast to coast and from year to year, the dream to preserve a government of, by and for the people. Our prayers go out to the families of these brave men and our thanks for the sacrifice that was made to protect and preserve freedom.

TOWN OF THURMAN COMMEMO-
RATES D&H RAILROAD CRASH

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, each weekend I look forward to returning to my congressional district to take in the scenic landscape and peaceful small towns that comprise New York's Hudson Valley. Today I would like to recall an event that shook that peace, now over fifty years ago.

The morning of August 26, 1946 seemed no different than any other summer morning in the Hudson Valley. The southbound D&H Railroad passenger Extra moved steadily south along the bank of the Hudson River, carrying as its cargo of 318 children home to their families after their summer stays at camp in the Adirondack mountains. At the same time, the passenger Train No. 181 steamed north on its regularly scheduled run, on a collision course with the passenger Extra. Two miles south of The Glen, in the Town of Thurman, the two trains collided in a violent roar of screeching brakes and twisting, grating metal.

When rescue workers arrived to witness the horrible scene on the banks of the Hudson River, they found Engineer Frank Keeham dead, pinned at the throttle of the No. 181 Train. Twelve others were injured, many seriously. Thankfully and miraculously, all of the children survived.

Mr. Speaker, on August 23, 1998 the Town of Thurman, located in Warren County, New York, and the John Thurman Historical Society, will commemorate the fateful D&H railroad crash by placing a memorial plaque beside the railroad tracks at the site of the crash.

I invite all members to join me, with the Town of Thurman, New York in commemorating the D&H crash in the spirit of the Town's bicentennial motto, "looking forward to the future while cherishing the past."

THE JOHN THURMAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
Athol, NY, June 20, 1998.

Hon. GERALD B. SOLOMON,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SOLOMON: It was a peaceful August morning in 1946, along the Adirondack branch of the D&H Railroad line. The Hudson River gurgled lazily in its bed beside the tracks, as if to guide the south-bound D&H passenger special long its way. One can imagine that the 318 children aboard were laughing, singing camp songs and chattering excitedly about being reunited with their families after a summer's stay at an Adirondack camp. Unbeknownst to these children and their adult chaperones, north-bound Train No. 181 was headed straight toward them, proceeding on its regularly scheduled run. As the second train rounded a curve two miles south of The Glen, in Thurman, the two trains came face to face. The screech of brakes, grating of steel on steel, hissing of steam and the roar of telescoping railroad cars devastated the mountain stillness. When rescue workers arrived on the scene, they found the engineer of the north-bound train dead at the throttle of his engine, crushed by folded steel and scalded by steam. Twelve others were injured, many seriously. Miraculously, all of the children survived the crash.

On the eve of restoration of rail service along the former D&H line, the John Thurman Historical Society heeds the message of the town's bicentennial motto by "looking forward to the future while cherishing the past." We will place a memorial plaque (authorized by The Warren County Board of Supervisors, Resolution 358 of 1998) beside the railroad tracks at the site of the fateful crash. We invite you to attend a brief ceremony dedicating that plaque at two p.m., Sunday, August 23, 1998. Those wishing to attend may proceed directly to the site, off River Road, as shown on the attached map, or meet at the Thurman Town Hall on Athol Road in Athol between one and one-thirty p.m. to caravan to the ceremony with others who know the way.

Following the ceremony refreshments will be served at the Town Hall and commemorative postal cachets and cancellations will be available.

We would be honored to have you share the afternoon of August 23 with us. The pleasure of your reply is requested.

Sincerely yours,

ROBIN CROISSANT,
President, John Thurman Historical Society.

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION NO. 358 OF 1998

(Resolution introduced by Supervisors Belden, Montesi, O'Neill, O'Connor, Rehm, Bennett and Landry)

AUTHORIZING PLACEMENT OF MEMORIAL PLAQUE BY THE TOWN OF THURMAN ON COUNTY RAILROAD PROPERTY

Resolved, that the Warren County grants the Town of Thurman's request to place a memorial plaque on County railroad property stating: "At this site on August 26, 1946, 'passenger Extra' collided with a north-bound passenger Train No. 181. Engineer Frank Keeham died in the cab pinned at the throttle.", now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Director of the Parks & Recreation Department be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed to approve the Town of Thurman's site location for said memorial plaque, and be it further

Resolved, that the Town of Thurman shall maintain said plaque.

IN HONOR OF U.S. MERCHANT
MARINE VETERANS

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to all those who served in the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II and to draw greater attention to Maritime Day.

The 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, which I have the privilege to represent, has a long and proud tradition of military service to our nation, and contains one of the highest concentrations of veterans in America. In this region of western Pennsylvania, there once was also the greatest concentration of steel mills and coke ovens in the world. As these industries provided the tools and materials necessary to defeat our enemies during World War II, so did our communities send their sons and daughters to fight in our defense. While service to our country is commemorated throughout my district, the town of Elizabeth does a particularly outstanding job in recognizing the merits of military service. I am including with my statement an article that appeared in The Pittsburgh Post Gazette which details this year's service.

Elizabeth, Pennsylvania is typical of the river mill towns that populate the Mon Valley. The residents of Elizabeth hold their ethnic values close in face of the demands of our modern society. Perhaps it is this steadfast attention to, and respect for, the traditions and accomplishments of those who came before them that accounts for their ever expanding reverence of our nation's veterans. Every year on Memorial Day, people from near and far travel to Elizabeth for the Veterans' Parade. It is always a distinct honor to participate in these ceremonies which are coordinated by local Veterans' of Foreign Wars chapters.

A few years ago, Elizabeth began recognizing Maritime Day. The celebration occurs on May 22 and honors the contributions the men and women of the maritime industry made to our nation. In fact, the service held in Elizabeth, which is sponsored by the American Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II, is the only one to occur throughout Allegheny County. It is a great honor to have a member

of the American Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II, Mark Gleason, sit on my Veterans' Advisory Committee.

Maritime Day is a holiday of great significance to the residents of my district for a number of reasons. During World War II, the Pittsburgh area was one of the most heavily recruited areas of the country by the Merchant Marines. Those who answered the call for service from eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, and the Pittsburgh area all departed for training camp through the Pittsburgh recruiting center. From steel communities and rural regions alike, young men went to sea as crew members of merchant ships. Sadly to say, many of these young men never returned home. Between December of 1941 and December of 1946 over 830 ships were sunk killing 7,000 seamen and wounding 11,000 others. Without question, the actions of these sailors contributed to the outcome of World War II.

In a 1943 address to Congress, President Roosevelt reviewed the results of the war activities from the previous year. In this message President Roosevelt said:

Any review of the year 1942 must emphasize the magnitude and diversity of the military activities which this nation has become engaged. As I speak to you, approximately one and a half million of our soldiers, sailors, marines, and fliers are in service outside our continental limits, all through the world. Our merchant seamen are carrying supplies to them and to our allies over every sea lane.

Clearly, President Roosevelt did not differentiate between the actions of the different branches of the service. He later went on to express that Merchant Marines should not be discriminated against when it came to benefits. Unfortunately, this equality never came to fruition.

For years, Merchant Seamen have been working to have their service properly recognized by the United States. As a cosponsor of H.R. 1126, the Merchant Marine Fairness Act, I am hopeful that this goal of equality will soon be reached. I am pleased to report there is significant bipartisan support for this bill. Currently, there are 307 members of Congress who have lent their support to this measure. Together, we will not allow the events of 50 years to be forgotten.

I want to share with you some words that were spoken at the Elizabeth Maritime Day services in 1995:

Men from this area served in the Revolutionary War and helped a young country become a new nation.

They served in France and added names to the Crosses where poppies now grow row upon row in Flanders Field.

Our men served our country well in all the services in the war fifty years ago and gave us folk heroes such as Commando Kelly.

But thousands of other men also heard the call of the sea and served their country in the Merchant Marines. Their service helped win the war and save the world.

These valleys are more quiet and if we listen in the evening, we can sometimes hear the voices of those who went to sea and did not return.

We answer their call to us when they say, "Tell us shipmates, who tolls the bell for us?"

We do, here today in Elizabeth. We do.

Mr. Speaker, we handle many issues of great import within the halls of Congress and

the recognition of, and equity for, the Merchant Marines of World War II should be one of them.

[From the Pittsburgh Post Gazette]

WW II'S UNSUNG HEROES

(By Dave Budinger)

When troop ships came home at the close of World War II, disgorging thousands of GI's onto docks and quays of America's seaports, they were met with fireboat whistles, cheering crowds, bands and victory parades.

When scruffy, lightly armed cargo ships of the U.S. Merchant Marine would steam into harbor at war's end, they were greeted by indifferent work tugs and nudged up against empty piers. No whistles, no cheers, no "Johnny Comes Marching Home" for their war-weary crews.

And it's sort of been that way ever since, say the almost-ancient mariners who today spice retirement by gathering at restaurants to swap war stories and take potshots at a government that still regards them as second-class.

Their thoughts are particularly poignant during Memorial Day week when flags fly and the country takes special note of its war heroes.

"Our destiny seems to be to let people know we weren't a bunch of draft dodgers," said Henry Huminski of Carrick, a retired ship's master and member of the 90-member McKeesport-based Mon Valley Chapter of the U.S. Merchant Marine Veterans.

Memorial Day observances honor the soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen who gave their lives for their country. Homage has been slight, however, for the merchant mariners who died by the thousands in the South Pacific and on the infamous North Atlantic convoy routes that fed U.S. industrial might into the war against Germany.

After the war, GI veterans had the VFW and American Legion. They got the GI Bill, bonuses, insurance, help with housing, access to veterans hospitals and many other benefits. The 200,000 returning mariners got nothing—not even a free drink at the veterans clubs.

"We felt the deep division, compared to how the GIs were treated," Huminski said.

Left out of Memorial Day, the merchant sailors adopted little-known Maritime Day as their day of remembrance. Proclaimed by Congress in 1933, Maritime Day was set aside to commemorate the first transoceanic crossing by an American steam-powered vessel.

President Franklin Roosevelt, in one of his final proclamations, called upon the country to recognize the Merchant Marine war effort on Maritime Day, May 22, 1945. Since then, May 22 has become a traditional day to honor sailors from all the maritime services who were lost at sea.

As it has for several years, the Mon Valley Chapter organized a memorial service held Friday at Riverfront Park in Elizabeth.

It wasn't until 1988 that Congress granted veteran status and GI Bill rights to World War II mariners. "Too late for a lot of guys," Huminski huffed.

And even that measure fell short, the mariners say. Veteran status was applied to those who served in the Merchant Marine between Dec. 7, 1941, and Aug. 15, 1945. But veterans say civilian sailors were killed even in the waning weeks of the war, and want the cutoff point extended to Dec. 31, 1946.

Still, it was a step toward recognition as a bona fide arm of military service that the Merchant Marine seeks.

The reason for the Merchant Marine's unsettled status is that it was not quite military, but not entirely civilian. A merchant mariner in wartime was a hybrid. Although

recruited by the U.S. War Shipping Administration and trained by the Coast Guard at government-funded installations, they sailed on privately owned ships under contract to the government, and were paid by the ships' owners.

They were in most respects civilians, except for the fact they bled and died just like the people who wore the uniforms.

Under attack, they would often struggle side-by-side with Naval Armed Guard crews that manned the light armament aboard most of the merchant vessels. Mariners passed ammunition and sometimes took over gunposts when a Navy man fell.

When the war ended in 1945, 733 American cargo ships had been sunk in the European and Pacific theaters. More than 6,000 civilian sailors perished, including 57 from Western Pennsylvania. Another 11,000 were wounded and 604 were prisoners of war.

Early in the war, German U-boats sank two of every 12 ships that left U.S. ports. One convoy on a run from New York to England was hit by a U-boat wolfpack off Greenland and lost 22 of its 63 ships. Only a fog that blew in saved the rest of the convoy.

Huminski, 79, who sailed all the North Atlantic convoy routes including the treacherous Murmansk Run to Russia, was one of the lucky ones.

"I was never torpedoed. A lot of my friends were, but none of my ships were hit," he said.

Early in the war, German U-boats were ravaging the East Coast, sinking large numbers of unprotected vessels within sight of land. When his ship would set out from New York, "there was oil everywhere. You could see the flares on the horizon from ships burning at night," Huminski said.

"In the first four months, we lost more shipping tonnage than we lost at Pearl Harbor."

The average seaman was unaware of the heavy losses at sea.

"Everything was censored; complete secrecy. We didn't know what was going on, that so many ships were being sunk."

Huminski, a Depression era product and oldest son of a German-Polish family of 13 brothers and sisters, was in most respects typical of Pittsburgh recruits who signed up with the Merchant Marine.

He wanted to flee a crowded Hill District home and a stultifying job at Mesta Machine. He tried the Army but was rejected because of a jaw problem. "They called it malocclusion. I had a bad bite. I don't think they paid much attention to that kind of thing later in the war."

The day after Pearl Harbor, he signed on with the Merchant Marine. He left home Christmas Eve bound for the U.S. Maritime Training Center at Sheepshead Bay, N.Y. Except for one trip to Lake Erie when he was a youngster, Huminski had never seen a body of water larger than the three rivers. But he was excited about sailing.

"We were all so gung-ho back then. We were young. We didn't know what was ahead."

Unlike most of his Western Pennsylvania companions, Huminski stayed at sea after the war. He made the Merchant Marine a career, sailing 44 different ships, visiting 124 seaports and rising to ship's master, or captain, before retiring in 1981. The ships he crewed hauled "everything from ammo to horses and cows," and he served during the Korean and Vietnam wars. He estimates he spent 23½ years of his 40-year career on water.

More typical of Pittsburgh area Merchant Marine veterans is Henry Kazmierski of Clairton, who returned home after the war, married a local lass and raised a family while working at USSteel's Clairton Works.

Retiring in 1981 after 42 years in the mill, he's a regular at the monthly luncheon gatherings of the Mon Valley Chapter at the Old Country Inn Buffet in the Southland Shopping Center.

Not as lucky as Huminski in the North Atlantic, he can describe vividly the day his ship was torpedoed and sunk in the Barents Sea off the coast of Norway on the Murmansk Run.

It was a bitterly cold January day in 1944 aboard one of the new Liberty ships, the SS Penelope Barker. Kazmierski was standing his watch in the wheelhouse about 8:15 p.m. One of the 20 ships in the convoy had already been sunk, and the convoy had been under air attack during the day. Penelope's crew of 46 was on edge. Still, there was no warning when two torpedoes slammed into the side of the ship.

"I heard something hit, and I grabbed the wheelpost to stay up. The ship heeled to starboard."

He struggled out of the wheelhouse to the port side. "There was a tangled mess of lifeboats. I knew that wasn't going to work. I went to starboard. The water was coming up fast. I jumped over the side."

He gauged his jump to land close to a lifeboat already in the water.

"I went under. The water was icy cold. . . . I knew I couldn't last long."

His lifejacket popped him up just yards from the boat, and his shipmates quickly hauled him in.

The Penelope sank in less than 10 minutes. Had it been carrying ammunition instead of general cargo, it would have blown apart with the torpedoes' impact. As it was, 10 men went down with the ship.

Despite the close call, he was eager to get back to sea after 30 days "survivor's leave" at home.

"I never really saw anybody afraid out there. You get used to it," said Kazmierski, 78 who survived 11 crossings on the Murmansk Run.

"We'd just tell [the new guys] to 'Stand on your tiptoes and wait for somebody to pick you up' if you got sunk. You had to have some humor out there."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONVENTION CENTER AND SPORTS ARENA AUTHORIZATION ACT AMENDMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, due to the time at which the House considered H.R. 4237 under unanimous consent procedures, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight was unable to file the committee report on the bill. I am therefore entering the committee report as prepared into the RECORD at this time:

The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4237) to amend the District of Columbia convention center and sports arena authorization act of 1995 to revise the revenues and activities covered under such act, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

I. BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION

A. BACKGROUND

As noted by the Committee in the 104th Congress, the current Convention Center was

completed in 1982, at 9th and H Streets, N.W., and is widely considered too small to accommodate the largest and most financially attractive conventions. Over time, it is estimated that the situation will only become worse. The District of Columbia's existing Washington Convention Center is now only the 30th largest in the country and can accommodate 55% of national conventions and exhibition shows.

The inability of the Washington Convention Center to host so many events is unfortunate not only for the local economy, but also for the organizations and exhibitors who can no longer have the Nation's Capital on their regular schedule of meeting sites. In 1993, the Washington Convention Center generated \$656 million in spending from its activities. In 1995, that spending dipped to approximately \$558 million. The serious blow to the District's economy caused by the slowdown in activity at the Convention Center is obvious and needs to be reversed. A new, state-of-the-art Washington Convention Center of the appropriate size and technology to host 90% of the national level conventions and shows will generate up to \$1.5 billion of spending in the District of Columbia. Obviously, such increased economic activity will generate considerable additional revenues that cannot otherwise be used by the District.

In order to gain these economic benefits, the City needed to find a way to finance a new convention facility. It was clear to everyone that the City's general fund could not afford to continue to pay the operating subsidy for the current convention center or the up-front costs for a new one. As part of an effort to address this problem, the City Council enacted the Washington Convention Center Authority Act of 1994 (DC Law 10-188). This act established a special convention center tax. It took effect on October 13, 1994. This tax was composed of a fixed percentage of several pre-existing taxes. The convention center tax is a dedicated tax which the City places in a "lock-box" escrow account. It can be used only to pay the operating subsidy for the current convention center and for expenses associated with the development and construction of a new facility. In the same Act, the City Council created the Washington Convention Center Authority (WCCA). The WCCA is a corporate body with a legal existence separate from the City government. Because of the independent status of the WCCA, its self supporting revenue stream, and legal accountability, its spending is not subject to an annual appropriation. Although it has the power to issue bonds, the debt thereby created is not general obligation debt. The WCCA is governed by a nine member Board of Directors. The District's Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Tourism are ex-officio, voting members of the board. The remaining seven members, one from the tourism industry and another from organized labor, are appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council. The Directors are responsible for managing the current convention center; developing plans for a new convention center; managing the new facility; and appointing a general manager for the convention center. The Board is empowered to develop a personnel system for convention center employees.

On July 12, 1995, the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia held a hearing on H.R. 1862, the District of Columbia Convention Center Preconstruction Act of 1995. At the July 12, 1995 hearing the Subcommittee also reviewed legislation authorizing the City to finance and pay its part of the costs associated with the construction of a new sports arena. That facility, now known as the MCI Center at Gallery Place, opened on time and

has been a spectacular success. Following the July 12, 1995 hearing, the legislation involving the sports arena and the legislation involving the Convention Center were combined into a new single piece of legislation, H.R. 2108 (P.L. 104-28), which authorized the WCCA to expend revenues for the operation and maintenance of the existing Washington Convention Center and for preconstruction activities relating to a new convention center in the District of Columbia.

The linkage of the legislation for the MCI Center and the Convention Center was more than a matter of convenience. It reflected the Committee's belief that together they were two of the most important economic generators in the entire region. The legislation was strongly supported by the entire Washington Metropolitan regional congressional delegation. In 1995, a new convention center was still in its initial planning stages. It needed and received congressional authority to permit already collected taxes dedicated to this project to be used in order to proceed to the planning and development stage. In 1996, a newly-formed Washington Convention Center Authority began actively to investigate construction of a new facility.

The WCCA has worked over the past four years to develop a project that will meet the economic development needs of the District of Columbia, the requirements of the community and the needs of the hospitality industry.

The regulatory process for approval of the new convention center has been key to the development of the project. WCCA has proceeded in accord with the statutory requirements for Federal and public involvement, notification of activities via the Federal Register and community newspapers, and in coordination with Federal and local agencies. In addition, over an eighteen month period, WCCA conducted over 100 public hearings with DC Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, community leaders, organizations and churches to discuss the progress and to provide the community an opportunity to express their views. The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) conducted six public hearings and the DC City Council conducted five public hearings. This process involved participation from the NCPC, the State Historic Preservation Office, Commission on Fine Arts, the National Environmental Protection Agency, the Historic Preservation Review Board, the Redevelopment Land Agency, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. This process included the design, location, physical program, neighborhood mitigation, environmental, historical, and transportation issues. The Environmental Impact Statement process alone, was approximately an eighteen month activity which involved written public comments, public hearings and meetings, reviewing agency input and comments that resulted in a final document with mitigation measures for the environmental impacts from the construction of the new convention center.

The development of the new convention center process was initiated by the private sector in partnership with the District of Columbia. The private sector financed the original feasibility study, assisted in the drafting of the financing legislation, and requested that taxes be imposed upon hotels and restaurants which provided the financing framework of the plan.

B. NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Committee has followed efforts to build a new Convention Center in downtown Washington with great interest. At this time additional congressional approval is necessary before construction on the new facility may begin. H.R. 2108 (P.L. 104-28) ex-

pressly did not authorize the financing or the construction of a new convention center. In order for the City to proceed beyond the planning and design phase, explicit, affirmative congressional action is necessary.

The Federal role in this project is very narrow. Here, Congressional action is necessary for the convention center project to move beyond the pre-construction stage. This legislation, H.R. 4237, authorizes the WCCA to begin financing (the issuance of bonds up to \$650 million) and construction of a new Washington Convention Center and waives the 30-day waiting period for DC Council Act 12-402 to go into effect.

II. LEGISLATION AND COMMITTEE ACTIONS

On July 16, 1998, Delegate Norton introduced H.R. 4237. H.R. 4237 was cosponsored by Chairman Thomas M. Davis, Mrs. Morella, Mr. Moran of Virginia, and Mr. Wynn. It was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

The Subcommittee on the District of Columbia held a hearing on July 15, 1998. The bill was polled by the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia and marked-up by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on July 23, 1998. There were no amendments offered. The bill was favorably reported to the House by a unanimous vote.

III. COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND WRITTEN TESTIMONY

On Wednesday, July 15, 1998, the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, met pursuant to notice. The purpose of the hearing was to review the financing package for a new Washington Convention Center.

Chairman Thomas M. Davis of Virginia stated at the opening of the hearing that a new convention center was important for the economic and cultural well being not only of our Nation's Capital but for the entire Washington metropolitan region. He emphasized the cooperative nature of the project and the close and continued oversight by the DC Financial Control Board of the project. He called specific attention to the narrow scope of the Congressional role in the development of a new Washington Convention Center. Ranking Member Norton, who introduced the legislation, stressed the importance of her legislation to the City's economic recovery and future vitality. Subcommittee Vice-Chair Morella and Representative Moran of Virginia also stressed their support for the economic and cultural benefits of the project for the entire metropolitan region.

The first panel consisted of witnesses from the Government of the District of Columbia and the Washington Convention Center Authority. Each witness expressed strong support for the project. Mayor Marion Barry focused on the economic benefits of the project for residents. Financial Control Board Chairman Andrew Brimmer stressed that the Authority had thoroughly reviewed and then unanimously approved the new Washington Convention Center project. He stated that the Authority was confident that the project would stay within budget and that the financing package was fiscally sound and in the best interests of the City. He also stated that in granting its approval, the Authority gave serious consideration to concerns expressed by various groups, including the Committee of 100, a community land use planning organization. Dr. Brimmer also emphasized that the project is one of the most important such projects ever to be undertaken by the government of the District of Columbia and that the Authority would continue its oversight role as the project developed. City Council Chair Linda Cropp and Council member Charlene Drew Jarvis testified in support of the importance of the

project to the future of the City and as to the role the Council played in the enactment of DC Act 12-402. President and CEO of Host Marriott Corporation and WCCA Chairman Terence Golden testified as to the need for a new facility and to the fact that the project has been designed to meet the needs of WCCA's target market, which consists of professional associations, corporate conventions, and international meetings. He reviewed the complex approval process that the project has cleared and the significance of the total economic output of the facility. He stated that by the fifth year of operation, the region as a whole is expected to realize as much as \$1.4 billion in total output from a new Washington Convention Center and 17,589 full and part time jobs. Mr. Golden emphasized that the construction management contract has been structured in such a way as to encourage cost savings and that any construction cost overruns would be borne by the Construction Manager. He testified that the total cost for the entire project is \$650 million, inclusive of the guaranteed maximum price (GMP). The WCCA budget also anticipates that improvements to the Mount Vernon Metro Station (\$25 million) and some off-site utility relocation costs (\$10 million) above the \$650 million will be funded through Congressional appropriations or Federal grants.

The second panel was comprised of Gloria L. Jarmon, Director, Health, Education, and Human Services Accounting and Financial Management Issues of the General Accounting Office; and Rick Hendricks, Director, Property Development Division, Public Buildings Service, National Capital Region of the General Services Administration. Ms. Jarmon testified that GAO had identified approximately \$58 million in related expenses above the WCCA total project budget of \$650 million. She testified that this amount above the \$650 million included costs that WCCA has allocated to industry vendor contracts (\$17 million) and Federal appropriations or grants for metro and infrastructure improvements (\$35 million). Ms. Jarmon stated that GAO's audit determined that WCCA's financing stream is a conservative plan relative to estimates provided by management consultants and the District, and to GAO's evaluation of trends in tax collections and the national and local economic outlook. Mr. Hendricks testified that GSA assisted in the development of WCCA's contracting methodology and that GSA finds the proposed project contract to be appropriate. He stated that the contract appears to have a high probability of being completed within budget and on schedule and that it establishes a reasonable allocation of risks. Mr. Hendricks also stated that the GAO identified costs above WCCA's \$650 million budget were handled in an acceptable manner in accord with convention/exhibition industry practice.

IV. EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

A. OVERVIEW

To amend the District of Columbia Convention Center and Sports Arena Authorization Act of 1995 to revise the revenues and activities covered under such Act, and for other purposes.

B. SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Revenues and Activities Covered Under District of Columbia Convention Center and Sports Arena Act of 1995

Subsection (a) waives restrictions on the Washington Convention Center Authority with respect to the expenditure or obligation of any revenues for the financing of the new Washington Convention Center.

Subsection (b) sets forth the rule of construction regarding revenue bond require-

ments under the District of Columbia Home Rule Act.

Section 2. Waiver of Congressional Review of Washington Convention Center Authority Financing Amendment Act of 1998

This section waives the 30-day waiting period required for City Council Acts to take effect.

V. COMPLIANCE WITH RULE XI

Pursuant to rule XI, 2(l)(3)(A), of the Rules of the House of Representatives, under the authority of rule X, clause 2(b)(1) and clause 3(f), the results and findings from those oversight activities follow.

A. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. New convention center

The Committee notes that the Federal role in this project is narrow. In 1995, the Congress and the President enacted legislation which enabled the District of Columbia and the Washington Convention Center Authority (WCCA) to go forward with its part of the costs associated with the development of both the MCI Center at Gallery Place and to begin consideration and pre-construction activities for a new convention center. The MCI Center has proven to be a spectacular success, and the Committee is proud of the role it played in making that project possible.

The Committee commends the hard work done by the WCCA, City Council, Control Board, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCP), and community leaders to move the project one step closer to completion. Under ideal circumstances planning and construction of a convention center marks an important, new phase in the life of a metropolitan region. Three years ago, when the Committee started down this road, it was not the best of times for the Nation's Capital. Today, things are different. Not only have we made substantial progress in restoring economic stability and prosperity to the City, the Committee is convinced that projects such as the MCI Center itself has been a positive element in the City's continuing recovery. The MCI Center is a dynamic attraction in the center of the City. The Committee believes that a new Convention Center will only enhance the economic and cultural renaissance of downtown Washington.

The Committee expects the continued oversight of the WCCA project by the Control Board and GAO to ensure that financed project costs do not exceed \$650 million.

B. FINDINGS

The Committee recognizes the new convention center as being absolutely essential to the revitalization of the District's economy. After years of planning and preliminary review, local officials have decided to proceed with construction of a bigger and better convention center north of Mount Vernon Square.

The work of the General Accounting Office and the General Services Administration has been invaluable to the work of the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia. With out the many long hours of hard work the GAO audit team invested in its investigation of these projects and without the guidance and review provided by the GSA project team, Congress would not have the confidence to permit the City to move forward with this project. The Committee commends all parts of the District government on having worked together so constructively. The Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority is empowered to approve or disapprove all City borrowing. They must sign off on the financial package, and after reviewing information from both proponents and opponents of the project they

have unanimously approved the project. The Control Board has in effect reported to Congress that all aspects of the project, including borrowing and costs, are compatible with the best interests of the City. This judgment has great credibility with the Committee.

VI. BUDGET ANALYSIS AND PROJECTIONS

This Act provides for no new authorization or budget authority or tax expenditures. Consequently, the provisions of section 308(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act are not applicable.

VII. COST ESTIMATE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

U.S. CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
Washington, DC, July 30, 1998.

Hon. DAN BURTON,
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4237, a bill to amend the District of Columbia Convention Center and Sports Arena Authorization Act of 1995 to revise the revenues and activities covered under such act, and for other purposes.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is John R. Righter, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL,

Director.

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST
ESTIMATE—H.R. 4237

H.R. 4237 would authorize the Washington Convention Center Authority to issue revenue bonds to finance the cost of constructing a new convention center in the District of Columbia. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that the bill would not effect governmental receipts. In addition, CBO estimates that the bill would have no impact on federal spending. Thus, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply to the bill. H.R. 4237 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is John R. Righter, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

VIII. SPECIFIC CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY FOR THIS LEGISLATION

Clauses 1 and 18 of Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution grant Congress the power to enact this law.

IX. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

On July 23, 1998, a quorum being present, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight adopted and ordered the bill favorably reported by voice vote.

X. CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT; PUBLIC LAW 104-1; SECTION 102(b)(3)

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act (PL 104-4).

XI. UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT; PUBLIC LAW 104-4, SECTION 423

The Committee finds that the legislation does not impose any Federal mandates within the meaning of section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (PL 104-4).

XII. FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ACT (5 U.S.C. APP.) SECTION 5(b)

The Committee finds that the legislation does not establish or authorize establishment of an advisory committee within the definition of 5 U.S.C. App., Section 5(b).

XIII. CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE
BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL,
AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONVENTION
CENTER AND SPORTS ARENA AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1995

* * * * *

TITLE I—CONVENTION CENTER

SEC. 101. PERMITTING WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY TO EXPEND REVENUES FOR CONVENTION CENTER ACTIVITIES.

[(a) PERMITTING EXPENDITURE WITHOUT APPROPRIATION.—The fourth sentence of section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (sec. 47-304, D.C. Code) shall not apply with respect to any revenues of the District of Columbia which are attributable to the enactment of title III of the Washington Convention Center Authority Act of 1994 (D.C. Law 10-188) and which are obligated or expended for the activities described in subsection (b).]

[(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—The activities described in this paragraph are—

[(1) the operation and maintenance of the existing Washington Convention Center; and

[(2) preconstruction activities with respect to a new convention center in the District of Columbia, including land acquisition and the conducting of environmental impact studies, architecture and design studies, surveys, and site acquisition.]]

[The fourth sentence of section 446 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (DC Code, sec. 47-304) shall not apply with respect to the expenditure or obligation of any revenues of the Washington Convention Center Authority for any purpose authorized under the Washington Convention Center Authority Act of 1994 (D.C. Law 10-188).]

* * * * *

UNITED STATES NAVAL NUCLEAR
PROPULSION PROGRAM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a significant milestone this August—the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United States Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. Since its inception, this program has steadfastly demonstrated the advantages to our Nation inherent in the safe, responsible

application of nuclear energy. This program's accomplishments have left an indelible imprint on our Nation's military, geopolitical, and industrial landscapes.

Development of nuclear propulsion plant for military application was the work of a team of Navy, government, and civilian personnel led by Admiral Hyman G. Rickover. Starting completely from scratch in 1948, then-Captain Rickover obtained Congressional support to develop an industrial base in new technology, pioneer new materials, design, build, and operate a prototype reactor, establish a training program, and deliver to our Nation a nuclear-powered submarine, heralding the first true subsurface. Within eight years, the U.S.S. *Nautilus*, broadcast her historic message "Underway on nuclear power." From that moment, our maritime military capability was dramatically revolutionized.

The use of nuclear power in our submarines and surface ships played a fundamental role in shaping our Cold War military posture. Starting with the "Forty-one for Freedom", our nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines, with their virtual undetectability, became recognized as the most invulnerable component of the strategic triad. The *Nautilus*, in becoming the first ship to reach the North Pole, demonstrated the unlimited endurance of our nuclear-powered attack submarines and their ability to traverse the seas virtually anywhere on the planet. When the U.S.S. *Enterprise* became the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, our Navy made further strides in being able to rapidly project power to forward positions around the globe with minimal logistic constraints.

While these developments were vital in demonstrating to the world community the United States' resolve to protect democracy from the advances of communism, the mission of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program remains equally crucial in today's post Cold War era. In light of growing global uncertainty and greatly reduced number of overseas U.S. bases, the need to be able to rapidly project force is more prevalent today than ever. The demands on our Navy/Marine Corps teams are sizable as we confront this reality, but the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program remains at the forefront of developing innovative technologies capable of surpassing any advances made by potential adversaries. Introduction of the *Seawolf*-Class submarine and the future New Attack Submarine ensures the Naval capability developed over the last fifty years will continue to prevail for decades to come.

At the same time, there is more to this fine program than what we observe in today's Navy. The Program developed the first full-scale atomic power plant designed solely for the production of electricity—an effort which became a prototype for the majority of today's commercial nuclear power stations. The Program developed a nuclear-powered, deep-submergence research and ocean engineering vehicle which not only has provided the Navy a valuable asset, but has been of benefit to other government agencies as well as research and educational institutions. Thousands of individuals have participated in this successful program, and the training and skills these people have acquired have made invaluable contributions to our Nation's industrial base.

Fifty years is a long time for any organization to flourish, let alone a government entity,

but while the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program has grown in size over the years, its basic organization, responsibilities, standards, and technical discipline have remained unchanged. As a result of this consistency in approach toward safeguarding an unforgiving technology, the Program has achieved a safety and performance record internationally recognized as second to none. After over 113 million miles steamed on nuclear power, there has never been a reactor accident nor has there been any release of radioactivity resulting in significant environmental impact. The fact that our nuclear-powered warships operate internationally, visiting numerous foreign countries and territories is testament to the confidence bestowed on the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program not only by our Nation, but by nations worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to note the accomplishments of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program over the past 50 years, and take particular pride in knowing the citizens of New York's 22nd District have played a tremendous role in the Program's success. At a time when we are reevaluating the role of government in our society, and are focusing our efforts on streamlining federal organizations, we must proudly recognize an organization that has stood the test of time without compromising quality or losing its sense of mission. I urge my colleagues to ensure these virtues are preserved through continued support for the unique structure and operating philosophy that has shaped this program's unwavering standard of excellence.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the dedicated men and women of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program who have forged its impeccable track record over the past fifty years, and wish the Program continuing success long into the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 31, 1998, I was unavoidably detained in traffic and missed rollcall vote No. 367.

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL'S UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR PROTECTING THE UNITED STATES FLAG

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report that on June 23, 1998, the Fresno City Council unanimously passed a resolution in support of H.J. Resolution 54 prohibiting the desecration of the United States flag.

The Fresno City Council represents over half a million residents of the City of Fresno. The Council took this action because of their firm support of the symbolic nature of our flag. Our flag is more than cotton or nylon, it represents our nation's spirit of freedom and independence, and therefore merits the proper

reverence of all those who have the privilege to live in this great nation.

We live in the most diverse nation in the world, and the City of Fresno is a microcosm of that diversity with people of every language, culture and religion living in its borders. Yet despite that diversity, the City of Fresno and all its citizens unanimously support and stand behind protecting our flag. For our flag reminds us of our shared history and freedom, both of which transcend our diversity.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the Fresno City Council's unanimous support of H.J. Resolution 54. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking them for their support and reminding us of the vast and diverse support for protecting our great flag.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH A. WALSH

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, when he talked about Medal of Honor recipients like Kenneth A. Walsh, President Reagan asked "Where did we find such men?" He answered: "We found them where we always did—in our villages and towns, on our city streets, in our shops and on our farms." We found Kenneth A. Walsh in Brooklyn, and, more recently, I am proud to say, in Orange County, California. His presence alone—for he never boasted, or bragged, or even talked much about his service—reminded us of the cost of freedom, and the bravery inspired by the American ideal. The nation lost another hero last week. I submit to the RECORD an article from Friday's Orange County Register, so that we will always remember him:

[From the Orange County Register, July 31, 1998]

ONE ENEMY HE COULD NOT DEFEAT

(Military: Kenneth A. Walsh, a Medal of Honor recipient, dies at 81)

(By Tom Berg)

SANTA ANA—His bags were packed by the front door when he died. His ride to the airport was idling outside. Another air show and another honor were awaiting Kenneth A. Walsh, American hero.

He died Thursday doing what he'd done for decades—promoting patriotism as a recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Here was a Marine who shot down 21 Japanese planes in World War II. A pilot who crashed or was shot down five times. A man who earned the highest military distinction given in this nation.

His death, at age 81, leaves just two other living Medal of Honor recipients in Orange County.

"He was a natural-born fighter pilot, with guts you wouldn't believe," recalled historian, friend and veteran George Grupe, 76, of Newport Beach. "To fly in when he's outnumbered 50 to one . . . he was a real tiger."

A pilot must shoot down five enemy planes before he is called an ace. Walsh had earned that title twice—downing 10 Japanese planes—before fate would usher him into the thick of two firefights in 1943 that would result in his meeting the president of the United States.

On August 15, Walsh led a squadron of five Corsairs into 30 Japanese Val bombers and Zero fighters massing to attack U.S. troops.

Walsh shot down two Vals and a Zero before 20mm cannon fire blew holes in the wing and fuel tank of his Corsair. He landed, but his plane never flew again.

Two weeks later, he spotted 50 Japanese planes while he was flying alone, away from his squadron. He dove into the fray against incredible odds and shot down two Zeros before rejoining his squadron. He then shot down two more Zeros before his Corsair took enemy fire and crashed.

"Everyone knew about Ken Walsh," said Medal of Honor recipient William Barber 78, of Irvine. "He was one of those few Marines who gained the day in competition with the Japanese air forces in the Solomon Islands in 1943."

After the war, Walsh and his wife, Beulah, walked timidly into the Oval Office, where Franklin Roosevelt handed him the Medal of Honor for gallantry above and beyond the call of duty.

Walsh uttered few words.

"Scared, young man?" FDR asked.

"Yessir!"

"Lieutenant Walsh, will you shake my hand?" Roosevelt asked.

"Yessir!" Walsh said again.

Quite a moment for a young man from Brooklyn who joined the Marines as a skinny teen-ager. He retired as a lieutenant colonel and settled in Santa Ana in 1962.

The Medal of Honor has hung on the chests of only 3,412 soldiers since the days of the Civil War. Only 163 survive today—11 in California and two in Orange County: Barber and Walter Ehlers, 76, of Buena Park.

All three men appeared often at patriotic events. They were among eight Medal of Honor recipients from Orange County who were honored with monuments last Memorial Day at the War Memorial Plaza in Santa Ana's Civic Center.

"He was very proud of that," said Sid Goldstein, 78, of Westminster, past national Commander of the Legion of Valor. "He took pictures. He wanted to make sure all his family back in Brooklyn got a picture of that concrete. He used to say, 'Here I was a poor Irish kid from Brooklyn when I got the Medal of Honor. I never could foresee being so honored and respected in society.'"

For all his bravery, Walsh rarely talked about his heroics.

"He was always asked by different people about what he did, and he would tell them," said Beulah, his wife of 57 years, "but he never talked to me much about it."

Walsh, who died of a possible heart attack, was on his way to Oshkosh, Wis., for an air show where he was to be among four Medal of Honor recipients honored (one for each branch of service).

"All I can say is he'll be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, I hope," Beulah Walsh said. "That was his wish."

Besides his wife, Walsh is survived by a son, Thomas. Funeral arrangements are pending.

IN HONOR OF THE SPONSORS OF PROJECT CHILDREN 1998

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a special group of people, the sponsors of Project Children '98 who have distinguished themselves with selfless dedication to the promotion and ultimate accomplishment of peace in Northern Ireland. Project Children

is an organization that provides young people from the north of Ireland a respite from the violence which for too long has been a part of their lives. Through their generosity of spirit, the children's sponsors serve as a vivid illustration of the best we, as Americans, have to offer: respect for individual freedom.

This year, the 52 families from my home state that have been kindhearted enough to open their lives to these young people include George and Victoria Amaratis, Rodney and Linda Bialko, Matthew and Mary Beth Bigley, Garry and Janet Baker, Gary and Linda Bardzell, Charles and June Bray, Edward and Carol Blakeslee, Kevin and Patricia Comer, Robert and Barbara Comito, James and Aljean Brennan, Philip and Kathleen DiCicco, Donald and Irene Diverio, Robert and Brianna Donohue, Al and Ellen Dorso, Peter and Robin DuHaine, Thomas and Cynthia Evison, Sr., Rick and Arlene Faustini, Ken and Arleen Ferguson, Robert and Elizabeth Gamble, Margaret Gilsenan, Michael and Pat Goodwin, Brian and Elizabeth Burdzy, Diane Capizzi, George and Margaret Hughes, Steven and Annette Carbone, Nicholas and Patricia Kaminski, Keith and Karen Kirby, Jeffrey and Carol Carlisle, John and Linda Camey, John and Louise McGlinchey, Raymond and Donna Flannery, Robert and Dyan Moore, Thomas and Michele Flynn, Anson and Patricia Grover, David and Cathleen Quinn, Raymond and Isabell Kayal, Kevin and Linda Kearney, James and Mary Ellen Ruitenbeg, Andrew and Lynne Klosowski, Gilbert and Sharon Mai, Robert and Linda McGee, Stephen and Catherine Simpson, Michael and Laura Sims, Cheryl Stone, Douglas and Susanna Stroud, Dan and Debbie McGovern, Robert and Denise Thompson, Jr., Elliot and Jean Scheps, Hoby and Joyce Stager, Keith and Barbara Stiehler, Kenneth and Makala Zollo/McQuiston, and Joseph and Barbara Wells.

The 57 Children we are privileged to have visit New Jersey are Darren Stirling, Michelle Donnelly, James Scullion, Gerald O'Reilly, Lesley Black, Steven Orr, Oriath McKenna, Ryan Corbett, Kevin Nellins, Michaela Doyle, Charlene McWilliams, Lindsey Todd, Louise McVeigh, Natalie Porter, Claire McKinley, Joseph Doak, Ryan Groves, Tanya Hughes, David Butler, Leonna O'Neill, Shauna O'Toole, James Adley, Seamus Nellins, Michael Duffy, Sean McKee, Karin Larkin, Daniel Lynch, Louise McConville, Leeanne Cahill, Hugh McKibbin, Robert Watson, Seamus McDermott Gemma Johnston, Jason Curran, Joanne Kerrigan, Emma Campbell, Mark Kennedy, Danielle Gorman, Richard Cunningham, Luke McKibbin, Christopher McCrory, Gillian Millen, Lisa McCloskey, Michael Rankin Hannah Ganley, Jennifer Dixon, Nicola McCabe, and Kenneth Murphy.

I would also like to pay special tribute to John and Joan Hughes, Area Coordinators, Liam Neeson of O'Donoghues on First for hosting our annual luncheon, and Committee Members Carolyn Malizia, Patti Morreale, Mary Ann McAdams, Joseph Masterson, Edward Phillips, and Dennis Collins.

It is an honor to applaud the outstanding benevolence of the Project Children '98 sponsors. Their efforts to further the cause of peace have served as a beacon of hope for the countless others throughout Northern Ireland and the world. These compassionate individuals are truly local ambassadors of peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during consideration of several amendments to the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act (H.R. 2183). If I had been present, I would have voted:

Yes on rollcall vote 367, an amendment by Mr. BARR to prohibit the use of bilingual ballots.

Yes on rollcall vote 368, an amendment by Mr. MCINTOSH to prohibit congressional communications regarding legislative positions of members from being interpreted as "coordination with a candidate."

No on rollcall vote 369, an amendment by Mr. HORN to allow the principle campaign committee for a House or Senate candidate to send campaign mailings at the reduced postal rate now provided to party committees with a limit of two mailings per household in the candidate's district or state.

Yes on rollcall vote 370, an amendment by Mr. SHAW to prohibit candidates for the House of Representatives from raising more than 50 percent of campaign funds out of the state in which the candidate is running.

Yes on rollcall vote 371, an amendment by Ms. KAPTUR to prohibit contributions by multicandidate political committees or separate funds sponsored by foreign-controlled corporations and associations.

Yes on rollcall vote 372, an amendment by Mr. STEARNS to prohibit presidential candidates who receive federal funding from soliciting soft money.

Yes on rollcall vote 373, an amendment by Mr. STEARNS to permit permanent residents who served in the Armed Forces to make contributions to political campaigns and committees.

ROMANI HOLOCAUST
REMEMBERED**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to commemorate the tragic events of fifty-four years ago when, on the night of August 2nd and 3rd, the Romani camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau was liquidated. In that single evening, 2,897 Romani men, woman and children were killed in gas chambers.

Although the Roma were among those targeted for complete annihilation by the Nazis, relatively little is known of their horrible suffering before and during World War II. In fact, institutionalized discrimination against Roma in Germany began well before the Nazi regime. During the 1920's and 1930's, these practices took on an increasingly virulent form and policies similar to those instituted against Germany's Jews were also implemented against Roma: race-based denial of the right to vote, selection for forced sterilization, loss of citizenship, incarceration in work or concentration camps, and, ultimately, deportation to and mass murder at death camps.

During the war itself, at least 23,000 Roma were brought to Auschwitz and almost all of them perished in the gas chambers or from starvation, exhaustion, or disease. Some also died at the hands of sadistic SS doctors, like Joseph Mengele. Elsewhere in German-occupied territory, Roma were killed by special SS squads or even regular army units or police, often simply shot at the village's edge and dumped into mass graves. Although it has been very difficult to estimate both the size of the pre-war European Romani population and war-time losses, some scholars put the size of the Romani population in Germany and German-occupied territories at 942,000 and the number of Roma killed during the Holocaust at half a million.

Unfortunately, after World War II, the post-Nazi German Government strongly resisted redressing past wrongs committed against Roma, seeking to limit its accountability. In addition, Roma have been discriminated against in court proceedings and their testimony has often been viewed as, a priori, unreliable. The first German trial decision to recognize that Roma were the victims of genocide during the Third Reich was not held until 1991, and Roma faced discrimination in seeking to re-establish German citizenship after the war. Moreover, since the war Roma have continued to face discrimination throughout the European continent and, in the post-Communist period, their plight was worsened.

In light of this deteriorating situation, I chaired a hearing, convened by the Helsinki Commission, on Romani human rights on July 21. I asked one of our witnesses, Dr. David Crowe, why so little is known about the Romani experience during the Holocaust. In answering, he noted several things. First, he said the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has devoted some attention to this issue. He said that the lack of attention to this issue reflects the ingrained prejudice throughout the Western world toward the Roma, and he said Roma scholarship on this subject is just beginning.

But how much attention can Roma themselves give to writing about yesterday's tragedies, when every day continues to be a struggle for survival? One writer has described the efforts of Emilian Nicholae, a Rom who painstakingly compiled the oral history of Roma Holocaust survivors in his Romanian village—only to have those handwritten testimonies destroyed during an anti-Roma pogrom in Romania in 1991. Not surprisingly, Dr. Ian Hancock, a Romani representative who also presented expert testimony before the Commission, asserted, "What do Roma want? The top of the list is security." Fifty years after the end of World War II, it is long overdue.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN
INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elec-

tions for Federal office, and for other purposes:

Mr. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, the English Amendment is an unfair assault on the ability of average Americans to participate in the political process, especially women who cannot afford for the current system of big money politics to go on.

The English Amendment would ban bundling which allows average Americans with limited resources to pool their contributions and support candidates through one organization. EMILY's List is a perfect example of an organization which accepts donations in support of woman candidates and bundles them for greater effect.

In 1996, the average donation to candidates supported by EMILY's List was \$95, and through these small donations \$6.5 million dollars was raised. Most of the money raised by EMILY's List came from women. The English Amendment would limit the impact women have on the electoral process as contributors and as candidates.

EMILY's List has helped to elect six women to the Senate, 44 to the House of Representatives, and three women governors.

According to a recently released study of the Joyce Foundation of Chicago, 81% of all individual congressional campaign donors who gave \$200 or more to one or more congressional candidates in the 1996 elections were men. Women contribute, but they contribute in smaller numbers and in smaller amounts.

We must also identify the English Amendment for what it really is: A Poison Pill, an attempt on the part of the Republican leadership to undermine bipartisan support for campaign finance reform in the form of the Meehan-Shays bill.

LEGISLATION TO CONTINUE OPERATING ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL TRANSIT OPERATORS IN LARGE URBANIZED AREAS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will address a serious problem facing certain small transit operators in large urbanized areas. My bill will allow for the continuation of operating assistance for small transit operators in large urbanized areas.

With the passage of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), a number of new programs will be implemented which will benefit and enhance mobility across the country and in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. However, due to the elimination of transit operating assistance to cities in large urbanized areas, funding for certain small transit operators will also be cut. The elimination of this funding will cause extreme hardship for those operators, particularly those that provide transportation exclusively to the elderly and disabled.

My bill will direct the Secretary of Transportation to allow small transit operators that have fewer than 20 revenue service vehicles located in a large urbanized area to continue to use funds for operating costs, if the Secretary finds that providing no assistance to the small

transit operator for such operating cost have caused, or will cause, the small transit operator to suffer undue hardship.

Small transit operators are usually more reliant on Federal operating assistance than larger operators since they do not have dedicated sales tax to help fund their systems. Federal operating assistance has been eliminated, from the fiscal year 1995 level of \$710,000,000 to \$0 in fiscal year 1999. The elimination of operating assistance over the 4-year period provided little time for many small transit operators in large urbanized areas to adjust, and without the resources to make up this gap, these small transit operators might have to cut service and raise fares.

In fact, two cities in my congressional district, Arlington and Grand Prairie, may be forced to cut back their Handitran transit service to the elderly and disabled by 50 percent. The loss of federal funds comes at a time when the North Texas Council of Governments is recommending that the City of Arlington substantially expand Handitran in response to a growing need for the service. According to Arlington officials, 64% of the riders of Handitran are disabled, 23% are elderly and 14% are both elderly and disabled. Without these funds, cutbacks in services to those most in need may prove to be a reality.

I urge my fellow colleagues to examine this legislation and support this important bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 372, it was my intention to vote "no." However, I was recorded as voting "yes."

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-BRIBERY AND FAIR COMPETITION ACT OF 1998

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, last week I was pleased to introduce, together with Mr. OXLEY, Chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials, the International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act of 1998. This legislation contains the changes to our laws necessary to implement the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions.

I believe that this Convention will help fight bribery overseas and level the playing field for American companies. I congratulate the Administration, and Secretary Daley in particular, for their role in negotiating this important agreement.

Our nation already has one of the strongest anti-bribery laws in the world. It is my hope that by introducing this legislation we will be taking an important step forward in creating a fairer and more transparent international business environment. American business and

workers, the most competitive and productive in the world, will be the biggest beneficiaries of fair and open competition.

I look at introduction of this bill as the first step in a process and welcome and encourage the input of those who have suggestions on how we can work together to improve and enhance this legislation. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Commerce Committee, with other Members of the House, with the Administration, with business and public interest groups and with other interested parties in developing the best possible legislation and moving the process forward.

RECOGNIZING THE KANSAS TOWN OF NICODEMUS AS A NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, Kansas is home to countless towns and communities that have legendary pasts and are full of historical significance. This past weekend one of our communities marked a very special homecoming; when Nicodemus, Kansas celebrated its annual Emancipation Celebration and its recognition by the National Park Service as a National Historical Site.

Descendants of the early settlers, area residents, state and national officials, and other visitors from throughout the country were on hand to celebrate this historic event. This past weekend visitors were treated to a Buffalo Soldier re-enactment, a gospel concert, parade, and services at the historic First Baptist Church.

While many of us have heard and read the tales of the old west, Wyatt Earp, or some of Kansas' rough-and-tumble cattle towns, too few have heard the story of courage and hope that are the heritage and history of Nicodemus, Kansas.

Nicodemus was first settled in 1877 by some 300 black Americans who fled the south following the Civil War and the horrors of slavery. While many similar black settlements were founded during this period, Nicodemus remains the only such community to survive west of the Mississippi River.

The town of Nicodemus, founded soon after the darkest days of our republic, is now properly recognized as a national symbol of freedom and courage.

Mr. Speaker our state motto in Kansas reads, *Ad Astra Per Aspera*, to the stars through difficulty. And I can think of no other community that better reflects this motto than the town of Nicodemus.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for Roll Call votes 373, 374, 375, and 376 last week, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on July 27th, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on the adoption of H. Con. Res. 311, a resolution to honor Det. John Michael Gibson and Pfc. Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the U.S. Capitol Police. Had I been present I would have voted yes on roll call #340.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, in a few tragic moments of July 24, the peace was shattered at the U.S. Capitol and two members of the United States Capitol Police lost were killed in the line of duty. The work of the Congress paused last week to remember the sacrifice of John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut.

The investigation into this horrible tragedy is continuing. Without seeking to prejudge the outcome of that investigation, the senseless death of two police officers has proved to the world what many of us already know: there are gaping holes in the network of services designed to identify, assist, and treat those people with mental illness.

To this end, I will be working with my colleagues, Representative MARCY KAPTUR of Ohio in particular, to develop an organized response to the Capitol tragedy. We will be working with the joint Congressional Leadership to design a method by which we can evaluate and respond to the mental health crisis facing this nation.

In this context, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to a column by Frank Rich which was published in the New York Times of July 29. It should be required reading for every Member of the House and Senate.

[From the New York Times, July 29, 1998]

THIS WAY LIES MADNESS

(By Frank Rich)

The Capitol police officers Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson had hardly been declared dead when Senator Robert Torricelli, the New Jersey Democrat, sent out a press release arguing that tighter gun control could have prevented the tragedy. Not missing a beat, Trent Lott was soon arguing that a \$125 million bunker-barricade camouflaged as a visitors' center would repel future assailants. But in a city where most politicians are so ignorant about mental illness that they still think Whitewater, not the disease of depression, drove Vincent Foster to suicide, no one said the obvious: It is the gaping cracks in American mental-health care, not in Capitol security or gun-control laws, that most clearly delivered Russell Weston Jr. to his rendezvous with history.

Mr. Weston's paranoid schizophrenia surfaced long ago. Yet, as The Times reported, this now 41-year-old man "received no regular psychiatric treatment or medication over the last two decades and [his] family seemed to understand little about how to seek help for him." This is hardly an anomaly. E.

Fuller Torrey, a psychiatrist who campaigns for better mental-health care through the Treatment Advocacy Center in Arlington, VA., says that of the 2 to 2.5 million Americans with schizophrenia, "40 percent are not receiving treatment on any given day." Cases like Mr. Weston's—in which a mental patient eludes follow-up care and medication after a hospital release—number "in the hundreds of thousands."

How does this happen? Nearly as heartbreaking as the preventable murders of officers Chestnut and Gibson is the plight of Mr. Weston's family. They obviously love their child; they knew he was sick; they wanted to get him help. But, as Russell Sr. said: "He was a grown man. We couldn't hold him down and force the pills into him." A comprehensive system of mental-health services, including support for parents with sick adult children who refuse treatment, doesn't exist. If it had, the Westons might have had more success in rescuing their son—as might the equally loving family of Michael Laudor, the Yale Law School prodigy charged last month with murdering his fiancée.

That safety-net system doesn't exist because mental illness is still in our culture's shadows—stigmatized, misunderstood and therefore the beggar of American health care. Though Mr. Weston's home state of Montana offers particularly skimpy services, the national baseline is "not high," says Dr. Torrey. Poorly covered by health insurance and spottily served by overcrowded and underfinanced public institutions, mental illness is "the last discrimination," as Michael Faenza of the National Mental Health Association puts it, even though we now have the science to treat mental illness at a success rate comparable to physical illness.

It's not only politicians who are complicit in this discrimination. The media sometimes compound the ignorance that feeds it. Too many commentators look at Mr. Weston's symptoms—such as his paranoid delusions about the CIA—and lump him in with gun-toting, anti-government ideologies, making no distinction between the clinically ill and political extremists. A Time reporter, on the hapless CNN show "Newsstand," expressed surprise that Mr. Weston would so easily be diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic given that he had no previous "episodes of violence."

In fact, the majority of those ill with paranoid schizophrenia are not violent, and the disease has no ideology. As Sylvia Nasar's new book, "A Beautiful Mind," documents, many of Mr. Weston's oddest symptoms (including the conviction he was being beamed encrypted messages) also characterized the paranoid schizophrenia of John Nash, the brilliant, nonviolent Princeton mathematician who won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1994.

Back in 1835, one of the very first patients at Washington's Government Hospital for the Insane—as St. Elizabeth's Hospital was then known—was Richard Lawrence, a pistol-armed man who tried and failed to assassinate Andrew Jackson in the Capitol's Rotunda and was then pronounced not guilty by reason of insanity in a trial whose jury deliberations took five minutes. More than a century and a half of medical and economic advances later, what kind of progress is it that we still so often fail to treat the mentally ill until after tragedy strikes?

RETIREMENT OF COMMISSIONER JOHN WARREN MCGARRY

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Warren McGarry, a friend and a devoted public servant. This past month, Commissioner John Warren McGarry, a long time member of the Federal Election Commission, retired from the United States Government.

Commissioner McGarry, a native of Massachusetts, retires after twenty years of outstanding public service to the agency. Commissioner McGarry brought to the Federal Election Commission a reputation for excellence in election law and leaves behind a legacy of superior support for public disclosures and uniform enforcement of America's campaign finance laws. His pivotal contributions in all the major FEC's deliberations and decisions balancing fundamental First Amendment interests against the long recognized compelling governmental interests in ensuring elections free from real or apparent corruption, will remain a testament to his years of public service during the administration of four different Presidents.

John, on behalf of many in Congress, thank you for over twenty years of patriotic service to the American people and the institution of free elections. Your contributions and dedication to the even handed enforcement of election law will be greatly missed. I have enjoyed working with you over the years. My sincere congratulations and best wishes go out to you and your family.

PROPOSITION 227

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, this past Friday, federal courts in California refused to block the implementation of Proposition 227, which will ban bilingual education. This initiative was passed with an approval of 61 percent from California voters, and it will replace the 30 year-old bilingual education system with one that favors English-only instruction.

Nationwide, 3.2 million students are classified as being of limited English proficiency, including almost 1.4 million in California. Communicating with each other is vital to our national unity, and teaching our children is vital to the future of our nation. In a vast diverse country such as ours, it is essential that we encourage our citizens to develop a national identity. Teaching our children through a common language is a key factor in achieving this goal.

I strongly believe one of America's greatest assets is our variety of backgrounds. I believe just as strongly that teaching our children with a common language will serve as a common thread to unite our Nation. And it is imperative that all Americans have the ability and skill to communicate in English if they are to work in the American labor force.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to supply our children with the best education possible. As a

father, grandfather, and former member of the Carlsbad school board, I have a personal interest in providing quality educational opportunities for our children. Nothing is more important to the success and prosperity of our Nation than the quality of education we offer our children. I commend those many, many citizens that have worked to ensure through Proposition 227, that every child in California can learn in English and have the chance to live their American Dream.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ERNEST A. YOUNG—DEPUTY TO THE COM- MANDING GENERAL, U.S. ARMY AVIATION & MISSILE COMMAND

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

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ernest Young, Deputy to the Commanding General at the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command in Huntsville, AL. Mr. Young is planning to retire this year after 42 years of outstanding work in the Civil Service. This afternoon in Huntsville, a special ceremony will be held to honor Mr. Young and recognize his distinguished career. It is a fitting tribute for one who has made such an enormous contribution to his community and his country.

Born in South Carolina, Ernie Young graduated magna cum laude from Furman University with a bachelor's of science degree in physics. He went on to receive a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Young began his Civil Service career in 1956. He was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 1981. He has held a wide variety of critical positions, culminating in his current assignment as Deputy to the Commanding General at AMCOM. In this position, Mr. Young has provided a wealth of experience, integrity, and leadership. From policy development through program execution to mission accomplishment, Mr. Young has done a truly extraordinary job in pursuit of the goals and objectives of this command.

Mr. Young's previous assignments were as Deputy for Procurement and Readiness, Assistant Deputy for Readiness, and Deputy Director for Maintenance and Engineering. During the early 1970's, he was assigned to United Technologies as a participant in the Presidential Executive Exchange Program. During the early 1980's, he chaired the U.S. Army Missile Command (MICOM) Readiness Organizational Refinements Planning Group, restructuring the total logistics functions within the command.

Mr. Young was selected as the first civilian Deputy to the Commanding General in June 1993. He serves as Chairman of the AMCOM Resource Committee, Acquisition Streamlining Committee, Materiel Release Review Board, and the Training and Executive Development Committee. He also serves as Alternate Chairman on the Materiel Acquisition Review Board.

Among the many honors he has received include the Meritorious Civilian Service Award (1983) and three Presidential Rank Awards (Meritorious—1989; Distinguished—1991; Meritorious—1994).

Mr. Young is married to the former June Barker. They have one daughter, Connie. Mr. Speaker, as the U.S. Representative for Alabama's Fifth Congressional District, I want to commend Mr. Young for his lifetime of service to our nation and wish him and his family the very best in his retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO MAJOR ERNEST
"HOSS" McBRIDE

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, Major Ernest McBride was a Mississippi country boy called "Hoss" because of his huge lumbering frame. Hoss is remembered by his comrades as a wonderful human being who gave his life for his country. He was always very popular because of his gentle personality and his guitar playing ability. His name graces the largest USAF Air Force Training Command Library at Keesler, AFB, Mississippi.

Major McBride was born on December 20, 1930 in Hattiesburg, MI. He graduated from Demonstration High School on May 27, 1949. He met his future wife, Helen Giraldo of Bogota, Colombia while she was an exchange student at Southern Mississippi University. It was love at first sight despite the fact she knew very little English and he knew no Spanish. He married Giraldo on September 13, 1953 in Hattiesburg.

Major McBride enlisted in the Air Force on April 16, 1952 and went through the Aviation Cadet program graduating in Class 53G. He was commissioned as 2nd lieutenant and as a USAF pilot on June 16, 1956 in Brian, Texas after which he immediately began flying fighter aircraft. The following year off the coast of Japan, Hoss was sent in his F-86 to help locate and recover a downed aircraft. His success in this mission earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In 1963, Major McBride graduated from Southern Mississippi. From there he went to Panama for service with the 605 Air Commando Squadron and flew T-28 and U-10 aircraft. He served in several South American countries with Military Training Teams (MTTs) teaching air forces how to conduct special operations against insurgent forces. In 1968, Hoss was assigned to the Air Operations Center in Savannakhet, Laos. According to the book, "The Ravens" Hoss would make candy runs over towns dropping candy to friendly troops and children. On November 27, 1968 Hoss mistook a column of North Vietnamese troops for friendlies. When he returned to drop candy, he was struck by a .30 caliber round in the chest. His plane landed upside down in a nearby river. Hoss was buried in Hattiesburg next to his father.

He is survived by his widow Giraldo who lives in Bogota, Colombia, a daughter Becky McBride of Canoga Park, California, a son who is curator of a museum in Cartagena, Colombia, and his mother, a sister, and two brothers all of whom live in Hattiesburg. The aircraft he flew were the F-86, T-28, O-1, and U-10. His decorations included the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and a Purple Heart. He was one of

the most popular pilots in the Air Force and will always be remembered by his comrades as a fine human being.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EMPIRE STATESMEN DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group from my district that has recently achieved a tremendous honor for the United States. Last week, the Empire Statesmen Drum and Bugle Corps of Rochester, New York traveled to London, England to participate in the World Marching Show Band Competition. There, it emerged from a group of 23 bands from 14 countries to become World Champions. Its winning score of 95.5 was also the highest score in competition history.

While in London, the Empire Statesmen were also invited to perform at the Royal Tournament of Drums at Earl's Court in London. This prestigious event, which has been in existence since 1820, allows groups to showcase their talents in front of some of Britain's most honored guests, including members of the Royal Family. Under most circumstances, groups are only allowed enough time to perform a sample of their work. However, in this case, the organizers of the event specifically requested that the Statesmen perform their entire 12 minute routine.

The Empire Statesmen, unbeaten in worldwide competition, represent the highest possible standard of excellence, determination and commitment. As well as being World Champions, they are also the defending American Legion National Champions.

Led by Mr. Vincent Bruni, who has sacrificed much to dedicate years to the group, the Empire Statesmen represented the City of Rochester, the State of New York, and the people of the United States with great pride. None of their success could have been attained without hard work and determination, and I commend all members for everything they have accomplished. The Empire Statesmen Drum and Bugle Corps have proven themselves to be the best at what they do. I congratulate them and wish them the best of luck in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, following a meeting this morning with farmers and grain shippers in Minot, North Dakota, I experienced an unavoidable travel delay on my return trip to Washington. As a result, I was absent for the roll call votes taken today, August 3.

STUDENTS' VIEWS OF ISSUES
FACING YOUTH

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the RECORD statements by high school students from my home state of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today. I am asking that you please insert these statements in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of these young people will benefit my colleagues.

STATEMENT BY DAVID HAY REGARDING VA
HEALTH CARE

DAVID HAY: For the record, my name is David Hay.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very much for coming.

DAVID HAY: I would like to talk about my dad. My dad is a Vietnam veteran who is permanently and totally disabled due to the war, and dying due to Agent Orange-related illnesses. He is on medication for seizure disorder, depression, physical pain, various forms of hepatitis and other diseases, including emphysema.

Even with these medications, he is sometimes confined to the house with pain and sickness. He gets about two to three hours of sleep at night, and sometimes none at all. He spends the first part of the morning vomiting and then takes his medications, and endeavors not to vomit in order that the medications may be effective.

My dad's average weight was 180 to 190 pounds. Now he is lucky to reach 130 pounds. He has to force-feed himself. No matter how much he eats, he still loses weight. He will gain ten pounds one week and loss 15 the next. When he wakes up from sleeping, he can hardly walk twenty feet from loss of breath. My dad is not old, he just turned 52.

Part of the reason why he is so sick is because of the medication he receives from the Veterans Association Hospital in White River Junction. It is not rare at all for him to receive the wrong medication, or a synthetic medication that affects him badly, or a prescribed medication for him that counteracts with other medications. They are constantly changing his prescription. These medications affect with malice his breathing, appetite, sleeping pattern, thoughts and pain.

Just three weeks ago, I was at home reading the warning label on one of his inhalers. It said not to take it with seizure medication. My dad has to take seizure medications every day, as with the inhalers. He has been using the inhaler for over a year, and both were given to him by the VA. And there are many other vets that this happens to.

I was wondering what you or Congress could do to correct the carelessness of the Veterans Association Hospital, if there could be laws or regulations that the doctors must look into background of the patient and the current medication the patient might be on before prescribing more drugs that could harm or even kill the patient, and if there are such laws and regulations, what can we do to enforce them.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very much David.

STATEMENT BY KAYLA GILDERSLEEVE AND
TESS GROSS REGARDING STRENGTHENING
POLLUTION STANDARDS

KAYLA GILDERSLEEVE: Our presentation is focused on a topic that a lot of people have

never even heard of before, the CAFE standards, which stands for the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards.

TESS GROSS: The Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards are also known as the CAFE standards. In the mid-'70s Congress created the CAFE standards to regulate the amount of gas used per mile by cars, and because they thought the U.S. needed economic independence, less dependence on foreign oil, and because they noticed the deterioration of the environment.

Between 1973 and 1987, American cars increased their average fuel efficiency from 14 miles per gallon to 28 miles per gallon. Without the government's involvement, cars would not have become so efficient so quickly.

KAYLA GILDERSLEEVE: Consumer Reports Magazine noted that this trend is now being reversed. Vehicles made in 1998 have the lowest average fuel efficiency for American cars in 16 years. According to the New York Times, 1996 was the first year in which cars going into the junkyard got better mileage than ones rolling off the dealers' lots.

There are several causes for this declining efficiency. During the Reagan and Bush administrations, the Department of Transportation allowed the standards to be rolled back, and the preferences of American car buyers have changed. Over 30 percent of new vehicles are trucks, sport utility vehicles and other four-wheel drive vehicles. These very inefficient vehicles are used by most of their owners as passenger cars, yet the government doesn't require them to meet the same fuel economy standards that the cars must meet.

Most truck owners are more likely to use their trucks to travel to the Grand Union than to a construction site. The government should recognize this fact and increase the requirements for sport utility vehicles.

TESS GROSS: America needs to make more efforts to consume less of the world's resources. Americans make up 5 percent of the world's population, but use 26 percent of the world's oil. Some Americans wish to provide more oil for the nation by drilling Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This action would have a huge environmental impact, but would only provide one-tenth of the oil that would be saved by raising auto efficiency to an average of 40 miles per gallon.

Since cars increased their mile-per-gallon performance nearly 100 percent between 1973 and 1988, big, gas-guzzling autos and sport utility vehicles are now reversing this process. Sport utility vehicles, minivans and pickup trucks are subject to much less stringent requirements than cars.

In conclusion, we believe that, in order to help fix the environment, increase economic independence, lessen the United States' dependency on foreign oil, and to save millions of dollars from importing oil, we would need to see a great improvement in the CAFE standards.

KAYLA GILDERSLEEVE: In 1991 hundreds of thousands of soldiers went to the Persian Gulf to fight in a war that was fought for a variety of reasons, but primarily to protect the America's oil supply. This example alone

should be enough to convince Americans that we should be consuming less oil.

Many changes will have to occur in American society to dramatically reduce America's consumption of oil. One of the simplest and quickest changes that we can make is for Congress to raise fuel economy requirement for new passenger vehicles, and all the vehicles that are used primarily for transporting people, including sport utility vehicles.

There are many benefits: A cleaner environment, reduced emissions of greenhouse gases, and less potential for being drawn into a military conflict to protect our foreign oil supply.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT BY NICHOLAS WEBB, GINGER IRISH AND PALMER LEGARE REGARDING SAFETY ISSUES FOR GAY STUDENTS

NICHOLAS WEBB: Last night, my mother said, "You know, Nick, I would never have chosen to have a gay son, but of all the people in the world, I would still have chosen you." The truth of the matter is, you can't pick your children.

And with that thought, I ask you, if your child, best friend, or someone close to you were gay, could they be honest with you? Too often, the answer is no. That is why the Gay-Straight Alliance at CVU was started, to provide people of all sexualities a safe avenue of support.

One in ten people are gay, and 30 percent of them are suicidal. And even my own parents don't fully understand homosexuality, but the important thing is that they accept it and they support me.

If you answered no to the previous questions, then I tell you with all factuality that you are endangering lives, quite possibly the lives of your children and loved ones.

Too often have people come to me and ask me if they should tell their parents that they are gay. Too often have I witnessed 15-year-old kids getting kicked out of their house simply because of their sexuality. If they even questioned talking about such an important issue to their own family, how can you expect them to live and trust their family?

We, the leaders of gay-straight alliances across the state, are helping to make schools safer for homosexual, bisexual and transgender students. But it is up to you, the society, to make your own homes and communities safe. It could be your child or your child's best friend who realizes how unfriendly and condemning this country, this state is to homosexuals. It could be them that decide it is not worth it to live in such a place.

Understand that, whether you believe in homosexuality or not, it's there, and you got to accept it. It's time for people to, once again, rise above another form of racism, the discrimination of sexual preference.

Finally, I ask you, each and every one of you, that if you think you know someone who is gay, or if you think that your child just might not be heterosexual, why can't they tell you and why aren't you helping

them? Because only inadvertently do we actually hurt the ones we love.

GINGER IRISH: Because of the reasons Nick has outlined, straight members of the CVU community have reached out to support GLVTU and to make our school a safer place for everyone. In the past year, our GSA has spoken to health classes, planned an AIDS awareness day, and has had various speakers come to our school to discuss sexuality issues.

Some of the closed-mindedness of students at our school has manifested itself in comments such as, "Oh, are you in that gay club?" But, over the course of the past year, students have learned to use gay-sensitive language, and have made leaps and bounds in accepting homosexuality as an integral part of our society.

As the leader and coordinator of the GSA next year, I plan to continue educating the student body and faculty. Through this education, and continual awareness, I hope to make CVU a safe environment for all students questioning their sexuality.

Accepting homosexuality within our community can open our eyes to all differences among people, such as race, disability or gender. The GSA will continue to make CVU a melting pot for diversity among all its members.

PALMER LEGARE: First, I would like to say that I was originally going to come here and make my own presentation, but because there are so many gay-straight alliances here, a lot of us had to combine, and leave out a lot of important parts.

But I wanted to come and talk about the importance of a public person like you going out and taking a public stand on this issue, as opposed to simply making a policy and law, which is also important. And I want to give an example of how inefficient a good policy can be without much publicity.

In 1995, a law was passed in Vermont saying that all public schools had to add sexual orientation to the anti-harassment list by 1997. Well, a couple of years later, I and some other people started looking into schools and what was going on. And we found out that, actually, less than half of the schools that were all supposed to have this, had it—less than half.

We continued to look, and even the ones that did have the anti-harassment policy didn't know how to enforce it. Oftentimes, the teachers didn't know that the school had the policy, and, often, the students didn't know that the school had the policy.

Recently Governor Dean has taken a new strategy, and, last week, he actually went to U32 and spoke publicly about the importance of speaking out against homophobia, and we expect that this is going to make a lot of change, and make a lot of other schools realize that they need this policy. And we ask that you also do something similar to that, maybe go to gay-straight alliances and speak, and maybe go to a place like Out-right, which works with gay and lesbian teens.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very much.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 1998, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 7

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic

To hold hearings on the employment-unemployment situation for July, 1998.

1334 Longworth Building

SEPTEMBER 2

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the impact of United States satellite technology transfer to China.

SR-253

SEPTEMBER 10

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Communications Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 2365, to promote competition and privatization in satellite communications.

SR-253

OCTOBER 6

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building