

Crusier-Destroyer Group Three. He was also the commander of Battle Group Foxtrot, and set sail on the U.S.S. *Enterprise* for her around-the-world cruise. On July 17, 1990, Rear Admiral Strasser became the 45th president of the Naval War College.

Rear Admiral Strasser has been awarded many decorations including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and various campaign and service ribbons. I know that this body joins me in wishing the best of luck to him as he becomes the CEO for Pennsylvania State-Dubois Campus. My congratulations and best wishes to Rear Admiral Strasser, his wife Barbara, and their four children.

TURTLE BAY ASSOCIATION SALUTED FOR PLAYGROUND REVITALIZATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to alert my colleagues to an exciting community development project that has taken place in my district.

Mr. Speaker, we are daily confronted with the news of the breakdown of our country's infrastructure, of crumbling communities that have ceased to care. Across this Nation, the most basic city institutions, such as parks and playgrounds, have seriously declined in recent years, as drug dealers and the homeless move in and residents and their children stay away. That's why I think it is important to herald the kind of community action that has resulted in a stunning turnaround for Gen. Douglas MacArthur Playground in New York City. Over the past year, the Turtle Bay Association, with the overwhelming support of neighborhood residents, has effected a revitalization for the embattled playground.

The new MacArthur Playground should serve as a shining example to all those who doubt that communities can rally to bring about substantive change. Beginning in 1994, the Turtle Bay Association organized badly needed renovations to the park, such as replacing contaminated sand in the sandbox and repairing damaged park equipment. Recently, the City Parks Foundation donated substantial funds for the construction of a state-of-the-art modular play system. To reduce installation costs, neighborhood residents actually raised money to purchase the equipment themselves. Now MacArthur Playground stands ready for its official ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 6th, a monument to community action as well as an oasis for hundreds of children and their parents.

The Turtle Bay Association and local residents should be commended for their devotion to this extremely worthy project. Richard and Amy Harary, and David and Susan Post Jensen in particular deserve special recognition and thanks for their efforts to turn MacArthur Playground around. I would also like to salute 860 and 870 UN Plaza, Chemical Bank, The Family School, Post Jensen Inc., Richard's In-

terior Design, the City Parks Foundation, and the Tenants of 301 East 47th Street. Finally, local merchants who donated food for volunteers at the project deserved recognition for their generous part in this revitalization. These people and organizations are a reminder to us all that urban decline is not irreversible, that caring neighbors can effect a world of good. They give us hope for the future of our troubled cities.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to report such good news to my colleagues, and to be able to congratulate all those who made it possible for New York's children to play in MacArthur Playground again. I am confident that their efforts will be enjoyed by generations to come, and I am hopeful that they will inspire others to do the same for their communities.

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Head Start. It is hard to believe that one of the most successful of the Great Society's programs is now 30 years old. For three decades this Federal program has been helping to improve the quality of life for children throughout out Nation.

Head Start Works. It has proven to be successful in contributing to the readiness of children beginning school. It is far more than child care. It is a comprehensive program that provides health, nutrition, and family services. It involves parents by encouraging them to participate in classroom activities, accompanying children on field trips, becoming substitute teachers, and teaching them to help their children learn and grow. This family focus is one of the reasons Head Start has been so successful. Unfortunately, many parents are unable to participate on a regular basis because they must work. For these parents, Head Start is a Godsend. Without Head Start, many children would simply lack adequate supervision because their parents must struggle to pay the bills.

Head Start is especially important for children with special needs. The identification of speech or language difficulties as well as more severe impairments allows early intervention to minimize and sometimes prevent the long-range effects of such obstacles. The health component provides youngsters an opportunity to have a complete health appraisal, another advantage that many of these children may not have had otherwise.

Today, the Macomb County Community Services Agency [MCCSA] is hosting a Birthday celebration to mark the success they have had in many of the communities I have the privilege to represent. According to their mission statement, the challenge of MCCSA Head Start is to empower participants towards self-sufficiency and skill development thereby removing barriers which limit the realization of individual potential. Since the summer of 1965, the MCCSA Head Start program has been removing barriers for literally thousands of children. Originally a summer program serving barely 100 children, Head Start in Macomb

County has grown to serve children in 41 classrooms and four home based clusters. A "Community Action Agency," MCCSA is dedicated to families and individuals seeking to improve their quality of life. For thirty years they have been meeting the challenge with positive results.

On this 30th anniversary, I applaud those who have made the program a success and I encourage my colleagues to join me in pledging continued support of Head Start.

CONGRESSIONAL REFORM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, May 17, 1995 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

REFORM OF CONGRESS

Congress has made significant progress in its efforts to prevent and prosecute ethics violations by individual Members. A ban on honoraria for speeches, full financial disclosure, a prohibition on the use of official funds for campaign expenses, and increased scrutiny by the ethics committee have all made Members of Congress more accountable to the public. But public confidence in the institution remains low, and further steps are necessary.

Congress must continue to prosecute personal ethics violations vigorously, but we must also strengthen Congress by addressing institutional integrity more broadly. Some congressional conduct, while it may be legal, hampers the democratic process in the interest of political gain. We must broaden our concept of public morality and the standards of conduct to include a sense of fairness, respect for honest differences, and responsibility to the democratic process.

I have often expressed the concern that money plays a disproportionate role in American politics. The high cost of campaigns is increasing the dependence of candidates on special-interest groups, forcing candidates to spend too much time raising money instead of focusing on issues of national importance and meeting with voters.

Congress as an institution is damaged by the perception that the flood of campaign money or favors from lobbyists are influencing the behavior of Members of Congress. Even though there is little evidence showing a direct impact on Members' voting records, the public cannot be blamed for thinking otherwise. The democratic process is also damaged when Members make unfounded allegations or denigrate Congress as a whole for personal political gain. Many important reforms came close to passage last year, only to falter in election-year politics. I support a number of additional reforms to improve the public image of Congress, including the following:

Campaign Finance Reform: The importance of Political Action Committees (PACs) should be reduced. We should cap the total amount of PAC contributions a candidate could accept per election cycle and reduce the maximum PAC contribution limit. Members of Congress should also be prohibited from running "leadership PACs", which some use to gain influence over other Members. Reform should require candidates to emphasize small individual donations, capping the amount of large contributions a candidate could accept per election cycle.

Gift Ban: I have cosponsored legislation to ban all gifts to Members, with limited exceptions for close personal friends or family. This bill would ban lobbyist contributions to a legal defense fund and prohibit lobbyists from making charitable contributions at a Member's behest. The bill also limits the ability of Members to profit from generous book-writing deals.

Lobbying Reform: Current registration requirements allow thousands of paid lobbyists to evade lobbying disclosure rules. Congress should act to close these loopholes and require lobbyists to disclose who pays them, whom they lobby, what issues they lobby for, and how much they are paid to influence the legislative process or the executive branch. In addition, Members of Congress and congressional committees should disclose information about legislation they introduce that was written by lobbyists.

Ethics Panel: I have introduced legislation to create an outside panel to investigate charges against Members. It is enormously difficult for the ethics committee to fairly investigate, prosecute, and judge ethics complaints against fellow Members. With less of an investigative burden, the committee could focus on important institutional ethics issues, including preventive education on ethics and guidelines on extremely harsh personal attacks.

Congressional Salary: I have consistently voted against congressional pay raises during my time in Congress, including the most recent increase in 1989. I support the proposals to freeze Members' salaries for several years. Current law provides for an automatic cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Members unless Congress votes it down each year. While Congress has blocked these increases in recent years, these automatic COLAs should be abolished. At the very least, Congress should not receive an increase until the budget is balanced.

Congressional Pensions: I support significant reductions in congressional pension benefits. Possible reforms include increasing Members' personal contributions, capping total pension benefits, and means-testing benefits for former Members in lucrative jobs. Congress should conduct a comprehensive study to bring congressional benefits in line with benefits in the private sector.

Franking: Since 1992, with my strong support, the House has cut its mailing budget by more than 70%, banned mass mailings within 60 days of an election, and required all mass mailings to be approved by a bipartisan franking commission to ensure that they are substantive and non-partisan. Additional reforms are still needed. Congress should further restrict unsolicited mailings and ban "postal patron" mailings to all residents unless they advertise public meetings or solicit information. All large mailings should be disclosed for public scrutiny.

Ongoing Reform Process: I am introducing legislation to require regular congressional reforms—taking reform up every Congress rather than having one-shot, omnibus packages every twenty or thirty years. Members should have the opportunity to vote on significant reforms at least every two years. Reform should be a continual, ongoing process, and not wait until problems force belated change.

Conclusion: No issue is more important than the restoration of the confidence of Americans in their government. Americans will forgive government's honest failings if they believe that it cares about their needs and is trying to do a better job. Members of Congress have an obligation to earn the public's respect and trust. Congress has taken some important steps, but other, broader reforms are necessary if Congress is to be the truly representative body the peo-

ple deserve and the nation's founders intended.

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 1995

HON. NORMAN Y. MINETA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation to celebrate key moments and presidents in American history, and by doing so help provide for the continued education of Americans about these subjects in the years ahead.

Commemorative coins have played a unique role in celebrating American history, as well as in providing a source of income for those nonprofit organizations which care for the legacies represented by these coins. This is part of the inspiration for the United States Commemorative Coin Act of 1995, which I am introducing today along with my colleagues Reps. LIVINGSTON of Louisiana, JOHNSON of Texas, SKELTON of Missouri, YATES of Illinois, HOYER of Maryland, STUPAK of Michigan, LIGHTFOOT of Iowa, and CUBIN of Wyoming.

Organizations supporting this effort include the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Mint, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee. Our purpose is clear. In the effort to streamline important U.S. commemorative coin legislation, this bill includes a program of six commemorative coins to be minted during the next 2 years. To explain why this is in the national interest, some background history is in order.

In November of 1994, the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee published its first annual report to Congress. The Committee, which is congressionally authorized, concluded that given the recent decline in commemorative coin sales there must be greater thought and limits to future coins. Offering numerous coin programs during the same period threatens the success of each individual program, does a disservice to those honored with commemorative coins, and increases the risk that the programs will operate at a loss to the Mint.

In its report to Congress, the Committee stated its full support of the 1993 Sense of the Congress Resolution, enacted as part of Public Law 103-186, which seeks to limit the number of commemorative coin programs in any 1 year. The legislation introduced today provides for the following coins to be minted: Bicentennial of U.S. Gold Coins (1995 minting), Harry S Truman and the United Nations (1996 issue), 150th Anniversary of the Smithsonian Institution (1996 issue), Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial (1997 issue), 125th Anniversary of Yellowstone National Park (1997 issue), and National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial (1997 issue).

Mr. Speaker, this is a well-balanced program with original sponsors to represent the subjects to be honored. In my added capacity as a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution, I had previously introduced H.R. 1079 with fellow House regents LIVINGSTON and JOHNSON to authorize the Smithsonian coin. But this omnibus bill offers several advantages to our

Nation, including a faster legislative process and the certainty of what our commemorative program will be in its entirety over a 2-year period.

I urge our colleagues to join in this effort and move this legislation quickly.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPORTS ARENA FINANCING ACT OF 1995

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, at the request of the District of Columbia, I introduced H.R. 1509 on April 7, 1995, in order to begin the necessary process that will enable the District to begin work on a new sports arena. Since then, the District has developed a different funding mechanism and has requested that a revised bill be introduced. Mayor Barry and the City Council have assigned a very high priority to the new arena because of its revenue-generating potential at a time when the city is in acute financial distress. The Council has given its wholesale support to the project and the Mayor has expedited the project in the District to free it from procedures that might otherwise delay it. We will try to do the same here in the Congress.

I particularly appreciate that Representative TOM DAVIS, chairman of the subcommittee that must carry the legislation through the Congress, has agreed to become an original cosponsor and to expedite the bill.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "District of Columbia Sports Arena Financing Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. PERMITTING DESIGNATED AUTHORITY TO BORROW FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SPORTS ARENA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An agency or instrumentality may borrow funds for purposes of developing and constructing a sports arena in the District of Columbia if the agency or instrumentality is granted the authority to borrow funds for such purposes by the District of Columbia government.

(b) TREATMENT OF DEBT CREATED.—Any debt created pursuant to subsection (a) shall not—

(1) be considered general obligation debt of the District of Columbia for any purpose, including the limitation on the annual aggregate limit on debt of the District of Columbia under section 603(b) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (sec. 47-313(b), D.C. Code);

(2) constitute the lending of the public credit for private undertakings for purposes of section 602(a)(2) of such Act (sec. 1-233(a)(2), D.C. Code); or

(3) be a pledge of or involve the full faith and credit of the District of Columbia.

SEC. 3. PERMITTING CERTAIN DISTRICT REVENUES TO BE PLEDGED AS SECURITY FOR BORROWING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The District of Columbia (including the agency or instrumentality described in section 2(a)) may pledge as security for any borrowing undertaken pursuant to section 2(a) any revenues of the District of