

which to grow and develop. Generous contributions from individuals, churches, businesses, and foundations, as well as reimbursement by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, provide the funding for Texas Boys Ranch. A recent capital campaign led to a much needed renovation project of cottages, Dining facilities and infrastructure at the Ranch. The Silver Anniversary Telethon is yet another opportunity for the community to help the Texas Boys Ranch in influencing the lives of young men.

At a time in our nation when young people have more obstacles and challenges growing up, and fewer quality role models, Texas Boys Ranch serves as a positive and stabilizing force in the lives in many young men. The success story of Texas Boys Ranch demonstrates how communities can come together and reach out to the needs of our young boys.

SERVICE 1ST CREDIT UNION
CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members and employees of the Service 1st Federal Credit Union in Danville, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of the credit union's upcoming 25th anniversary.

Service 1st was originally known as Geisinger Federal Credit Union when it was founded in August, 1975, by several employees of Geisinger Medical Center who saw the need to provide a financial services alternative to their fellow workers. The name change was made to reflect the expanded field of membership and the credit union's commitment to all of its members.

Over the years, the credit union has grown into a full-service financial institution with membership expanded well beyond the employees of the Geisinger Health System. With branches in Wilkes-Barre, Lewisburg and Selinsgrove, Service 1st now provides service to more than 150 employee groups, including workers at Bucknell University, Susquehanna University, and Tri-County Farm and Home Supply.

Service 1st also has a unique program, headed by Kathy Linn, chair of the board, that allows students at Danville Area High School to join and work in a branch that is based right in the high school.

Service 1st has come a long way since its founding 25 years ago and is now a well-established credit union with more than 13,000 members and more than 450 million in assets. In June, Service 1st opened its new headquarters in Danville at 1027 Bloom St., complete with a drive-up ATM and drive-through teller service as well as expanded business hours inside the lobby.

Mr. Speaker, Service 1st and its strong commitment to its members serve as a good example of why I and others in the Congress worked to enact the Credit Union Membership Access Act that President Clinton signed into law in 1998. Credit unions serve an important purpose as a non-profit provider of financial services to millions of Americans.

Pennsylvania in particular has the highest proportion of credit union membership of any

state in the nation, with one out of every four Pennsylvanians belonging to a credit union.

I send my best wishes to the members and employees of the Service 1st Federal Credit Union on their 25th anniversary and my wishes for continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Monday, July 17, 2000, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 401 through 404. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on rollcall vote 401, Yes on rollcall vote 402, Yes on rollcall vote 403, and No on rollcall vote 404.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, due to a travel delay in returning from my district, I was not present for rollcall votes last evening.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcalls 401, 402, 403, and 404.

TRIBUTE TO GOLDY S. LEWIS

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I celebrate the achievements of Goldy S. Lewis, of Rancho Cucamonga, California.

Mrs. Lewis has been active in the real estate and home building industry in Southern California for 45 years. She is the co-founder of Lewis Homes, a company distinguished for its commitment to quality housing. Since 1955, she has served as their Director and Executive Vice President, and she currently holds the position of Managing Partner. Mrs. Lewis has also been actively involved with Lewis Construction Company, Inc., Lewis Building Company, Inc. Las Vegas, Republic Sales Company, Inc., Kimmel Enterprises, Inc., Foothill Investment Company, and the Republic Management Company.

As a result of her leadership, insight, and vision, the Lewis Operating Corporation has built 56,773 homes, 7,000 apartments, 3,000,000 square feet of retail, office and industrial space, and developed 15,000 acres of land. Their quality work has netted numerous awards including a 1st Award of Distinction from American Builder Magazine and the Builder of the Year Award from Professional Builder Magazine.

Mrs. Lewis has also been honored for her contributions to her community. She is the recipient of the West End YMCA Homer Briggs Service to Youth Award, the City of Hope Spirit of Life Award, the National Housing Con-

ference "Housing Person of the Year Award," and the California 25th Senate District Woman of the Year Award.

Mrs. Lewis recently celebrated her 79th birthday, and she remains an active and energetic business leader. In fact, she still attends to her responsibilities in the office every day.

Goldy S. Lewis has long been admired and respected by home builders throughout Southern California and she is deserving of the accolades of this Congress.

HONORING DENVER'S NATIONAL
JEWISH MEDICAL AND RE-
SEARCH CENTER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Denver's National Jewish Medical and Research Center. For the third straight year, U.S. News & World Report has rated National Jewish as the top hospital in the United States for treatment of respiratory disorders.

Denver's National Jewish Medical and Research Center, one of the preeminent health care institutions in the world, has also proven itself to be a global leader in the research and treatment of lung, allergy and immune diseases. Recently, National Jewish completed its centennial celebration, ushering in a second century of providing health care, comfort, education and hope to both children and adults suffering from asthma, emphysema, tuberculosis, severe allergies and autoimmune diseases, such as lupus.

The U.S. News & World Report ranking is part of the 2000 "America's Best Hospitals" guide published by the weekly newsmagazine. Based on surveys of 150 board-certified respiratory specialists, National Jewish received the best reputational score of any of the 50 hospitals listed for respiratory disease treatment.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Denver's National Jewish Medical and Research Center for their outstanding rating and their dedicated and sustained service to those in need.

FOREIGN OPERATION, EXPORT FI-
NANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4811) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California. She has been a champion of justice in the developing world. She had been an advocate of American responsibility in the developing world. I know

that she offers her amendment with those noble intentions.

While I strongly agree with the intentions, I must oppose the means. Unless debt relief is de-linked from a requirement of countries to follow IMF economic policies, the main beneficiary of Congressional funding for debt relief is the IMF. That is because the IMF will receive control of hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars, while poor countries will have to follow IMF dictates about government spending, health and education policy, monetary policy, and privatization.

The IMF deserves much of the blame for the poverty, environmental degradation, and unemployment of heavily indebted poor countries, since it has been telling them what they could and could not do for decades. If the U.S. gives a real gift to the world's poorest countries, it should be freedom from the IMF's structural adjustment programs.

Indeed, that is what civic leaders from developing countries are asking for Lidy B. Nacpil of Jubilee South, a coalition of Jubilee 2000 campaigns from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean sent a letter to the Appropriations Committee. In the letter, Congress was asked to "oppose authorization of any funding mechanism that would empower the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to condition debt relief on adherence to macroeconomics and related structural adjustment programs. The effective imposition of these policies on our countries by the IMF, the World Bank and the other international financial institutions has had a devastating impact on large segments of our population, on our natural environments, as well as on our productive and reproductive capacities of our societies * * * It is the adjustment policies themselves, as the cause of our social, economic, and financial crises, which must be addressed."

Appropriations for the IMF and World Bank should be conditional. The IMF and World Bank should no longer be able to impose structural adjustment programs over the economic choices and options of developing world countries. Otherwise, we are deceiving ourselves that our good intentions will lead to good results. Indeed, the only time Congress can promote reform at the IMF and World Bank is when those institutions have a request for funds before us. As multilateral institutions, they are not directly subject to wishes of Congress. Instead, the U.S. has a representative at each institution who works, according to Treasury, at developing consensus among the other nations' representatives. The only moment when the IMF and World Bank are susceptible to the unmediated wishes of Congress is when they come to Congress for funds. Then Congress is able to condition release of such funds on changes in IMF and World Bank practices.

Unfortunately, this amendment, however well-intended, places no new conditions on the IMF and World Bank. In fact, there is no requirement that the IMF and World Bank actually give any debt relief. Congress cannot take for granted that the funds we appropriate for debt relief will make a difference for the world's poorest citizens we hope to help. Congress has appropriated or authorized hundreds of millions of dollars to the IMF and World Bank in the past for debt relief, but almost none of it has been passed through to the poor countries as relief.

Again, Congress is being asked to give hundreds of millions of dollars to an IMF and World Bank administered account. That is the only certain thing Congress is being asked to do. For the amount, let us set aside the obvious question of the IMF's and World Bank's sincerity. If Congress sends the IMF and World Bank funds for the goal of relieving the foreign debt burden, we should ask what the IMF and World Bank require of poor countries to qualify for the debt relief.

According to the IMF and World Bank, it is not simply enough that a country be poor to qualify for debt relief. On the contrary, to qualify, countries must impose all sorts of harsh economic medicine to their countries. They must privatize national businesses. They must deregulate their banking industry; they must impose fees on social services—making the poor residents of poor countries pay for basic education and health services. They must be willing to allow the largest corporations in the world to take over ownership of their economies. They must open up their forests and minerals to large multinational corporations. They even sometimes have to oppose increases in their minimum wages. The IMF and World Bank then evaluate the countries' compliance with these painful prescriptions, and wait several years to see if the countries are repressive enough to make these policies stick.

If the IMF and World Bank wanted to relieve the debts of the world's poorest countries, they could do so immediately and without any additional funds from Congress. The General Accounting Office has simply reported to Congress about the adequacy of IMF accounts. The cause of debt cancellation does not require further Congressional funds. The IMF and World Bank clearly do not want to cancel the debt of poor countries.

Unlike the IMF and World Bank, I am in favor of immediate, 100 percent debt cancellation for the world's poor countries. If Congress is to make a real difference in the lives of the world's poorest, it must put a stop to IMF and World Bank structural adjustment programs when these institutions ask for funds from Congress.

DON'T FORCE A BAD DEAL AT
CAMP DAVID

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, securing a just and enduring peace in the Middle East is a paramount goal of the United States and vital to our national interests. I sincerely hope that the day will come when the region is a stable, peaceful home of emerging democracies and U.S. allies.

The ongoing dialogue about the future relationship between Israel and its neighbors in this volatile region is essential if a true peace is ever to be realized. The current talks may be a meaningful step toward achieving our common goal.

However, I am concerned that the pressure to reach a deal—any deal—will outweigh that of securing a good one. A deal for deal's sake is not in the interest of Israel or the United States, nor is it in the interest of long-term

peace and stability in the Middle East. In this volatile region, a flawed agreement that produces greater instability would be worse than the status quo.

Accordingly, American leaders must not abuse our unique relationship with Israel to force acceptance of destabilizing strategic concessions. True peace can only be obtained if both sides are confident that they are negotiating freely and in the interest of their people—free from outside pressures. I was quite alarmed to hear the Administration's spokesman stating that there is tension between the two sides due to the President's pressure on negotiators to come up with an agreement. Clearly, Israel should not be forced to negotiate away what's in its best interests to accommodate the political interest of any group.

Israel has been a longtime ally of the United States. The struggle of the Israeli people to maintain their sovereignty and security from hostile neighbors has been long and valiant. As Americans, we recognize their struggle is also our own—that beyond our strong ties of kinship, a strong and secure Israel is undoubtedly in America's best interest. An Israel with secure boundaries, free from threats or acts of war, is essential to long-term peace and stability in the region.

Over the last 50 years, Israel has shown its willingness to work with its neighbors to find peace, sometimes successfully—sometimes not—but in all cases the outcome was contingent on the determination of both sides to truly secure peace.

At this time, it is unclear to me that this is the case in these negotiations. In fact, the threat of the Palestinians to unilaterally declare statehood on September 13, regardless of the status of negotiations, call to question their commitment to peace and respect of Israel's autonomy and security. Any attempt by the Palestinians to unilaterally declare an independent state would have severe consequences to the relationship between the U.S. and the Palestinians. Make no mistake, this Congressman will not support such a unilateral declaration, particularly outside the confines of an agreement with Israel.

The U.S. Congress has a responsibility to ensure that any agreement the American people may be asked to embrace will truly protect Israeli and American interests, enjoys the support of the Israeli and Palestinian people alike, and brings a lasting and durable peace to the region. Accordingly, any final agreement must carry a real chance for meaningful peace before committing U.S. support.

No one should assume that the Congress will simply sign off on committing enormous American resources to a deal that contains compromises which would seriously undermine Israeli or U.S. security. Before a financial commitment is made by the U.S., the Israeli people must have their referendum, and we must have had an opportunity to examine the proposed agreement on its merits from an American perspective—both for the security of Israel and the security of the United States.

Finally, I remain gravely concerned that the Administration has yet to adequately consult the Congress on the status of the negotiations. The prospect that an agreement will contain an ongoing American commitment requires that the Administration work closely with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to build a broad consensus in support of the deal.