

Bruce Alan Hinds II, David Andrew Hoover, Kevin Thomas Hoover, Christopher Andrew Hudock, Matthew David Jacobs, Elijah Kareeme Jones, James Joseph Kania;

Daniel Steven Kankiewicz, Christopher James Keen, Christopher Warren Keller, Brendan Kevin Kelly, Jared Raymond Kennedy, David John Kinney, Rory Francis Kirwan, Rhyann Lee Kleiner, Neil Charles Klinges, Nicholas Andrews Kopco, Raymond Louis Krzak, Brett David Kunkle, Charles Cushing Ladd V, George Leibman, Matthew Lipo, Billy Joe Lora, Phillip Glenn Losito, Andrew Lukashewski, Brian Lukashewski, Joseph Andrew Lukashewski, Matthew Lupico, Nicholas Richard Lynn, Leonard John Macking III, Brian Jason Martin, William Frank Marusak, Michael Aloysius McKeown, Adam Charles Metz, Kenneth Paul Miller, Jr., Robert Jason Miller, Robert John Miller, Paul Minnick IV, David Joseph Miscavage, Cliff Antonio Morales, Joseph John Novackowski, Patrick Francis O'Boyle, Walter Robert Ohl, Thomas Robert O'Leary, Charles Alex Pavlick, Francis William Petroski, Kris Sean Petrosky, Sr., Tony Phan;

Francis Joseph Poperowitz, Neil Aaron Ravitz, Jason Rexford Robbins, Timothy Michael Roberts, Jeremy John Rusczyk, Stephen Mark Rutkowski, Sean Paul Sarokas, John Sedon IV, Daniel Thomas Seip IV, Christopher Jude Sicurella, Jonathan Neil Suva, Anthony William Skrypski, K. Jaime Sorber, Daniel Christian Stella, Robert Paul Sternick, William Fredrick Stiefel, Jr., Jamie Lee Sult, Justin George Thomas, William Lewis Thubbron, Jonathan David Torres, Daniel Kieran Walsh, Nicholas William Walters, Wesley James Waters, Leonard Kenneth Weston, Jr., Adam Thomas Wilcox, Aron Preston Wright, Joshua Paul Yetter, Michael Lee Yetter, Eric Mark Zagata, and Robert Louis Zarnoch.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in thanking these soldiers for their courage and love of country. It is truly an honor to serve them in the United States Congress. Please join me in welcoming these fine Americans home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on January 25, 2005, during rollcall vote No. 8 and rollcall vote No. 9, I was unavoidably detained due to travel back to the United States from Africa where a few of my colleagues and I on Chairman ROYCE's codel learned firsthand about the terrible genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both resolutions: H. Con. Res. 16, congratulating the Ukrainian people on their recent democratic election, and H. Res. 39, commending countries and organizations for marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and urging a strengthening of the fight against racism, intolerance, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination, and anti-Semitism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I apologize for missing votes on the evening of January 25, 2005. I was on my way back to the United States from Chad and Algeria, where I witnessed first-hand the results of the genocide occurring in Sudan. Had I been able to, I would have voted: "Yes" on H. Con. Res. 16 (rollcall vote No. 8); "yes" on H. Res. 39 (rollcall vote No. 9).

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE OLD FORT LIONS CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to an outstanding service organization located in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. On December 14, 2004, the Lion's Club of Old Fort, OH, celebrated its 60th anniversary.

The village of Old Fort, my hometown, is a community renowned for its civic pride and commitment to service. In 1944, it was home to five active churches, an active Grange as well as school organizations dedicated to helping others. There was not, however, an agency which could coordinate these services to provide for the entire community.

My father, P.M. Gillmor, who served as the first president of the Old Fort Lions Club, along with Ralph Blaney, were members of the nearby Tiffin Lions Club. Together, they proposed that Old Fort should form a club of their own. After enlisting 41 good citizens of Old Fort, they became charter members and joined Lions International.

The Lions Club was a good fit for Old Fort and the members were active in the community from the very beginning. Throughout its history there has never been a lack of enthusiasm or volunteer labor for its many projects. In addition, the Old Fort Lions Club has been active throughout the years in zone, State and International Lions. Ralph Blaney served as an international director, David Biddle and Ralph Gillmor served as district governors, and the Club has had many zone officers.

Anniversaries are a time to reflect upon a steadfast tradition of service. They are also a time to look toward new horizons. Lions have made it their responsibility to serve those in need by keeping pace with the ever increasing challenges facing mankind.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the community and the members of the club have greatly benefited from the effort that was started in 1944. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the achievements of the Old Fort Lions and encourage them to continue to uphold what has become the standard for service in Ohio.

IN HONOR OF TOMMY G. THOMPSON

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to recognize before this body one of our Nation's most dedicated public servants—Secretary Tommy G. Thompson of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Here in Washington, DC, most folks know Tommy for his role in transforming the Department of Health and Human Services into a highly sophisticated, highly organized agency equipped to combat the threat of bioterrorism. His hard work and steady leadership helped steer our Nation through some of its darkest moments, and America is a far safer place today because of his tireless efforts.

But the service of Tommy Thompson will be heralded for decades far beyond the D.C. Beltway as well. As a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly, followed by a historic 14-year tenure as Governor of the Badger State, Tommy solidified his place as one of the greatest public servants in American history. Personally, Tommy encouraged me to run for the State Assembly and later the U.S. Congress, and he has played a monumental role in shaping the political careers of countless others.

Mr. Speaker, as Secretary Thompson prepares to leave his post at the Department of Health and Human Services, I would like to once again thank him for his years of devoted service to the State of Wisconsin and our great Nation, and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVATION ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATION ACT (GRADE-A)

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to fully fund the Impact Aid program. Earlier today, along with twenty-seven bi-partisan co-sponsors I introduced the Government Reservation Accelerated Development for Education Act or GRADE-A bill.

This bill is intended to fulfill an obligation the Federal Government made in 1950 when Congress established the Impact Aid program. Impact Aid was created because Congress recognized the obligation of the federal government to assist school districts and communities that experience a loss in their local property tax base due to the presence of the federal government. Between 1950 and 1969, the Impact Aid program was fully funded by Congress. Since that time, the funding level has not kept pace with the amount required to cover the federal government's tax obligation.

Overseas, the Department of Defense runs many schools for the dependents of U.S. service personnel. Many people ask why the Department does not run such schools within the United States. The answer is that the children of military personnel already suffer enough