

However, over the past several years, Russia's work on the components has fallen far behind schedule, causing significant delays and cost overruns which have spilled over into NASA's share of the work. Russia's Finance Ministry has repeatedly misled NASA and the American people, and we should not tolerate this continued foot-dragging. As I have said over the past six years, NASA's dependence on Russian participation in the space station will cripple other, more worthwhile U.S. space programs, and this will most likely continue to result in more assembly delays and cost overruns.

When the Administration approved the space station redesign in 1993, NASA promised the taxpayers that no more than \$2.1 billion would be spent each year for the program. At that time, it was estimated that Russia's inclusion as a partner would reduce costs by \$1.6 billion. Nevertheless, NASA has told us that the cap should be broken, despite Russia's repeated promises that the money and the critical hardware components like the Service Module would be delivered.

Far too many questions remain unanswered. NASA has yet to determine or release any cost figures for the program reflecting the likely scenario that Russia will drop out of the partnership, but continues to offer robust assurances that it will save money. While I support efforts to engage our former adversaries, and sharing our knowledge of important scientific issues, I do not believe it is prudent to perpetuate a back-door foreign aid project that makes Russia look more like an international welfare recipient than the major partner in the single largest construction project in the history of mankind.

While space station cost overruns to date are currently estimated at \$800 million, NASA has cut mission control, shuttle safety, and more deserving programs such as Mission to Planet Earth and space education grants. Already \$227 million has been diverted from space station science and \$200 million has been shifted from the space shuttle payload and utilization operations. This year, NASA has asked for the authority to shift an additional \$375 million.

Like our efforts aboard Mir, NASA has cannibalized the station's scientific research missions simply because all the funds are being consumed on construction. NASA has transferred a whopping \$462 million from its science funding to space station development in fiscal years 1996 through 1998. Case in point: NASA dropped the centrifuge, a critical research component, and now depends on negotiations with the Japanese Government to provide it.

Throwing more money at the space station is adding fuel to the fire. We should not continue to approve NASA's repeated request for supplemental funding. Rather, we should hold NASA and the Russian Government's feet to the fire. The American taxpayers deserve accountability and demand that the integrity of our space program be maintained. We should therefore end this program before it kills NASA and its mission.

Mr. Speaker, for several years, we have known the solution to the many problems associated with the space station. In fact, the House almost got it right in 1993, when my amendment to terminate space station funding lost by a single vote. I suggest that we allow NASA the time and resources to improve its

management structure, redefine its mission first, rather than move ahead with a mammoth, multi-billion dollar program whose costs will assuredly go over and beyond all reasonable budgetary expectations. All of the station's problems can be solved by simply canceling this wasteful, over-budget boondoggle, returning \$80 billion to the American taxpayers, and saving the life and health of the rest of the U.S. space program. I will continue to fight this program and strongly encourage my colleagues to closely monitor this program as cost overruns and schedule delays will most assuredly continue to cheat the scientific community of funding that could be better spent on more worthwhile space research endeavors.

TRIBUTE FOR MAJOR GENERAL CLAUDE W. REINKE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge a brave soldier, strong leader, caring father and a very good friend. Major General Claude W. Reinke is the retiring Commanding General of the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, which is located in my District. I have grown very fond of General Reinke and would like to commend his leadership at the base.

General Reinke is a Texan by birth but has always been ready to move anywhere the Marines needed to send him, including a tour in Vietnam. The position of Commander General to a base like Pendleton is often like being the mayor of a city, as both require outstanding managerial skills. General Reinke has gone above and beyond the call of duty as Commander. His leadership has had a positive impact on both the Marines and the entire community.

Part of what makes General Reinke so special is how much he cares for his troops. Very few Commanding officers are more sensitive to the needs of their troops than Claude Reinke. General Reinke has become a champion for quality of life for our troops by emphasizing the need for improved base housing and training facilities for members of the Corps.

General Reinke has been decorated with the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V," Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon. He is a proud husband and father of five. I might also add that he plays a very good game of golf! If he reacts to the challenges of work like he reacts to the challenges on the golf course, I think the men and women of Camp Pendleton have been in very able hands!

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish Claude my best and commend him on a job extremely well done.

A TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING HOUSE
BANKING COMMITTEE STAFF
ROBERT AUERBACH AND
STEFANIE MULLIN

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two dedicated members of the House Banking Committee Minority staff who are leaving the Committee this week to pursue endeavors in higher education. The efforts of Robert Auerbach, the Democratic staff economist, and Stefanie Mullin, the Democratic press secretary, will be greatly missed by all members of the Committee.

Bob Auerbach is a first-rate financial economist with a keen understanding of money and banking, the payments system, and the Federal Reserve System. He has served the members of the House Banking Committee well in more than 10 years and two separate tours of duty on Capitol Hill. During this time, he has worked on a number of initiatives from the deregulation of interest rates to the promotion of openness at the Federal Reserve Board. I have personally worked with Bob on a number of issues pertaining to monetary policy and have found his knowledge, insight, and guidance to be invaluable.

Bob is leaving Capitol Hill for the ivory tower of academia. Starting this fall, he will be a Professor at the LBJ School of Public Policy at the University of Texas where he will be teaching courses on money and banking. He also has plans to write a book. Though I will miss Bob's wise counsel here in Washington, I know that our loss is most definitely the University of Texas' and his students' gain.

As press secretary for the Democrats, Stefanie Mullin has the often thankless job of reminding the world that there is another perspective on the Banking Committee. For the past five years, she has accomplished this with grace and dignity, always making sure that the views of the minority were heard by the world outside the Rayburn Building. Stefanie is also leaving us to return to school, but as a student. She will be attending Columbia University in a masters program in the prestigious School of Journalism. I wish her luck, and look forward to the day when I meet her again as a member of the news media.

COMMEMORATING "HEARTS AND STARS"

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize James M. McNeely's recent bronze sculpture "Hearts and Stars" that depicts the anguish, pain, honor and heroism displayed by young men and women while engaged in war.

Born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, James M. McNeely, was drafted into the United States Army in May of 1969. He served as an infantryman with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, American Division, in I Corps, CCU Law, Vietnam. Serving courageously, McNeely

rose to the rank of Sergeant and was awarded the Purple Heart and 3 Army Commendation Medals. After being discharged, he joined the Ramsey County Sheriffs Department in June of 1972. He has worked in Detention, patrol division and is currently working in the court security unit.

Jim McNeely is a self taught artist and member of the Vietnam Veterans Art Group. In the past, Jim's sculptures have recaptured the experiences of war and its effects upon humanity. In 1985, the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Snelling, Minnesota commissioned McNeely to sculpt a bronze battle memorial of the Mexican American War to commemorate its bicentennial birthday. Currently, this celebrated bronze sculpture is on display at the Fort Snelling Museum in St. Paul, Minnesota.

His latest work, "Hearts and Stars" reminds us all that we must remember the suffering and agony endured by young men and women while engaged in war. The sculpture is a bronze sculpture of a soldier carrying another soldier on his back. The figures stand astride a creek bed with the silhouette of North and South Vietnam. A branch lays across the creek symbolizing the split between the North and South. On the front of the oak pedestal is a 10 inch bronze medallion of a bamboo grove and dragon with the words inscribed "Republic of South Vietnam 1965-1975." The stone is polished and crafted from rough cut limestone. After being on display at the St. Paul City Hall/Ramsey County Courthouse the sculpture is going to the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum in Chicago on August 11th. Vice President ALBERT GORE and seven United States Senators who served in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War will be attending the event. This ceremony will open McNeely's work and bring to life the experience and memories of Vietnam that might educate and guide the understanding of our history and the American experience. "Hearts and Stars" is a honorable and captivating tribute to those young men and women who have courageously served in the Armed Forces.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 315, 319 and 320 last week. Let the RECORD state that I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 315 and 320 and "yes" on 319.

PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, today the American people are feeling the pressure of rising health care costs paired with dwindling health care choices. They have called on us to do something that will make their lives better, to put health care decisions back in their hands.

Given that mandate, we have two choices. We can choose to task the government and

lawyers with improving our health options. Or, we can choose to task the marketplace with offering us more health choices. My constituents have tasked me to do the latter.

For those who believe in the benevolence of lawyers, for those who believe in the wisdom of bureaucrats, the Dingell substitute is available to you today.

But for those who believe that the individual makes better choices about his family's health care than a government official does, you will share my excitement about the Patient Protection Act introduced by Speaker GINGRICH and Mr. HASTERT.

The Patient Protection Act protects the patient in three key ways. First, this legislation protects the patient's choice of doctors. For those patients in HMO's, the bill provides that they have a point-of-service option—so that patients can visit doctors outside of their HMO network. For those patients not in HMO's, the bill expands their access to Medical Savings Accounts—accounts that offer complete freedom of doctor and treatment. For all patients, the bill—for the first time—allows a woman to choose an OB/GYN as her primary care physician and allows a parent to choose a pediatrician as his child's primary care physician. These new choices assure patients that they will be able to choose the best doctor for their health care needs.

Second, the Patient Protection Act protects the individual's access to the care to which he is entitled. The bill moves the decision about access to care away from the insurance company and back to the patient and the doctor. For example, when a patient reasonably believes he or she is having a medical emergency, he or she should be able to seek care at a local emergency room and that care should be paid for by his or her insurance plan. Under the Patient Protection Act, the patient now has that freedom without being second-guessed by the insurance company. The Act also prohibits "gag rules"—insurance company restrictions on what information a doctor can give a patient. With the prohibition, we restore the complete disclosure—the complete freedom of communication—that is so essential to the doctor patient relationship.

Finally, the Patient Protection Act protects the individual from arbitrary decisions from the insurance company to deny care. We are all aware of the too familiar pattern of a patient calling his or her insurance company to request care and having the untrained, non-medical reviewer deny the care without even reviewing the patient's medical history. The Patient Protection Act ends that practice forever. Under this bill, if the patient and her doctor believe that a certain medical procedure is indicated—but the insurance company declines to cover the expense—the patient has the right to an immediate appeal to a panel of doctors—not bureaucrats—who will decide whether the medical care is necessary. This new right of appeal will ensure that only medical professionals will make decisions about a patient's need for health care.

We have heard so much in this debate about the patient's right to sue. I'm so tired of that red herring. Patients sue their doctors and sue their insurance companies every day. While I abhor the litigious nature of our society today, I certainly support the patient's right to be made whole when malpractice of breach of contract or any other misconduct occurs.

In all my years, however, I've never met a patient who really believes that the legal proc-

ess makes them whole. When you lose some of your hearing, or part of your sight, or any of your abilities, money is no substitute. Unfortunately, after the harm has occurred, money is all that society has left to offer. After the harm has occurred, it's too late to be made whole.

This is why the Patient Protection Act focuses on preventing the harm from occurring. Why spend two years to win a lawsuit for your injury when you can spend 1 hour on an appeal to your doctor that will prevent the injury all together. Our bill is about patients and doctors and healing. We provide access to the doctors, assure choice for patient, and believe that gives us the best chance at healing.

My constituents and I thank all of my colleagues for the many months of hard work that went into this bill. With the very first patient that is healed by a doctor rather than frustrated by an insurance company, we can all be certain that we have succeeded in our efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on July 27, 1998, I was away from the House on official business during Monday's rollcall vote No. 340, on agreeing to the resolution honoring the memory of Detective John Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yes."

As the official designee of the House Minority Leader, I was present in Albuquerque, New Mexico on July 27 along with three of my Congressional colleagues representing the Speaker of the House, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Senate Minority Leader to join the President of the United States as participants in "The Great Social Security Debate #3." May I note for the record that immediately prior to the commencement of this debate President Clinton asked all in attendance, in person and via television, to observe a moment of silence in memory of the two heroic officers.

I join with my colleagues in the House to express my deepest condolences to the families of Detective John Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Chestnut who sacrificed their lives for our nation. For their acts of courage, this country is forever grateful; their memory will never be forgotten.

PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I spoke with Congressman HARRIS FAWELL, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, on the occasion of the passage of H.R. 4250, the Patient Protection Act. I told Chairman FAWELL that instead