

his training did not prepare him for what he had to endure next. On April 16, 1966, SAM's F-4 was shot down over North Vietnam. It took only seconds for the enemy to capture SAM, but it took nearly seven years for SAM to see his wife, three children and his home again.

The enemy tried to break SAM JOHNSON on numerous occasions, but SAM was unbreakable. His faith in God and his strong will to live enabled him to survive. SAM was an officer, a leader, and a teacher. He would secretly communicate with the new prisoners that were brought into Hanoi, teaching them how to survive. These were the qualities of a true leader, risking his life to protect his fellow man.

SAM JOHNSON is a fighter. He fought for his country, his family and his faith. As a member of Congress, SAM valiantly wages this fight today—for all of us.

Today we honor the heroes who endured the horrible pain and suffering as prisoners of war. Today is a celebration of SAM JOHNSON's strength and courage. He demonstrated an unflinching devotion to duty, honor, and country. Let us commemorate SAM and all American POWs for their courage and determination in upholding the principles of freedom and democracy.

“EQUALITY FOR ISRAEL AT THE
UNITED NATIONS ACT OF 1998”

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the “The Equality for Israel at the United Nations Act of 1998.” With the strong support of over 60 original co-sponsors, including both the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee, this bill seeks an end to the institutional discrimination Israel has faced at the United Nations for far too long.

Specifically, this bill requires that the Secretary of State report on actions taken by our Ambassador to the United Nations to encourage the nations of the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) to accept Israel into their group.

The bill also calls on the Secretary of State to solicit and receive responses from each of the nations of WEOG on their position concerning Israel's acceptance into their organization. In this manner, Congress can know which nations are supporting Israel's admittance to WEOG and which nations are opposed.

As many of my colleagues are already aware, the State of Israel has been a member of the UN since 1949. But what my colleagues and the American public might not know is that Israel is the only long-standing member of the United Nations to be denied acceptance into any of the organization's five regional blocs.

Membership in a regional bloc is critical because it is a prerequisite for any nation to serve on the powerful Security Council or other key U.N. bodies such as the Economic and Social Council. Due to its exclusion from a regional bloc at the United Nations, the State of Israel has been precluded from fully participating in the workings of that world body.

This amounts to institutional discrimination against Israel at the United Nations.

The real story here is two-fold: On the one hand there are Arab states who have denied Israel the consensus vote it needs to join its natural, geographic, regional bloc—the Asian bloc. On the other hand, there are the member states of the Western Europe and Others Group, otherwise known as the WEOG regional bloc, who have failed to embrace Israel's request to temporarily join their grouping.

This is where the United States must step up and show true leadership. And this is why I have introduced “The Equality for Israel at the United Nations Act of 1998.”

WEOG, to which the U.S. belongs, is one of the five regional blocs at the United Nations. Other non-European countries: Western-style democracies such as Canada and Australia already belong to the WEOG. Israel would be a perfect fit, at least temporarily.

The issue is not whether Israel deserves to be treated as an equal among nations, it surely does. The challenge is how to achieve equality at the United Nations. World-wide recognition of Israel as an equal at the United Nations would be the right message to send now to help advance the struggling Middle East peace process.

But this is not just an Israel issue, this is a United Nations issue. And clearly, Israel's acceptance into the WEOG would be a welcome sign of real reform taking place at the United Nations.

There already has been a groundswell of support in the U.S. Congress for this issue. Seventy-six Members of Congress, many of whom serve on the House International Relations Committee, joined me and Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN last year in sending letters to the member states of the WEOG, asking them to allow Israel to join the WEOG as a temporary member.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and our Ambassador to the United Nations, Bill Richardson, both agree that this issue needs to be pursued. In fact, Ambassador Richardson told me personally that he will work to “re-dedicate U.S. efforts on this issue.”

Supporting Israel's right to be a full member of the United Nations is the right thing to do. We owe no less to Israel, a strong U.S. ally, and to the United Nations, whose credibility is threatened if all countries are not treated as equals.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to lend their support for “The Equality for Israel at the United Nations Act of 1998.”

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT
RAUSCHENBERG

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I recognize a native of Port Arthur, Texas who has gone forth into the world and become a legend in the world of art. Robert Rauschenberg is the first American to win the prestigious Venice Biennale Grant Prize, as well as the first living American artist to have his work published on the cover of Time Magazine. In a career that has spanned

the latter half of this century, Robert Rauschenberg's groundbreaking work has been included in the most prestigious collections and won awards around the world.

Robert has used his artistic voice to benefit humanitarian causes. He created the first Earth Day poster in 1970. In 1990, he established the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation to promote medical research, education, the environment, and to aid the hungry and homeless in the United States and across the globe.

This weekend, Robert Rauschenberg will be honored in Houston for the greatness of his life's work. Though Robert left Port Arthur to seek his fortune in the world, he is a symbol of the greatness that lurks within each child. A child who grows up among oil refineries became one of the most important artists of his generation. He is a native of our area and we are duly proud, but we know that Robert Rauschenberg, through his work, belongs to the world and to the ages.

TRIBUTE TO LEVI PEARSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to pay tribute to a true pioneer, Levi Pearson. As today is the 89th anniversary of the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, I should note that he was President of the Clarendon County, SC, branch of the NAACP. However, it is the work he did as an ordinary citizen from a small county in South Carolina for which he should be remembered.

Last week, I paid tribute to the 20 plaintiffs of *Briggs v. Elliott*. Those plaintiffs were the foundation on which the case of *Brown v. Education of Topeka* was based that eventually won the battle of public, desegregated education in our nation. Today, I pay tribute to the man who took the first courageous step on that very long road.

In 1947, the search was on in Clarendon County for a parent who had the courage to test the legality of the discriminatory bus transportation practices that were the norm. Pearson had three children who attended Scotts Branch school nine miles from their home with no public transportation. On July 28, he signed a petition asking that “school bus transportation be furnished, maintained and operated out of public funds in School District Number 26 of Clarendon County South Carolina for use of the said children of your Petitioner and other Negro school children similarly situated.” The petition was submitted to the local school board chairman and the secretary of the State Board of Education by the Reverend Mr. Joseph Albert DeLaine, a prominent Clarendon County schoolteacher. No response was given.

After 8 months of silence, Pearson's attorneys filed a brief in the United States District Court. In the brief, they cited the “irreparable damage” Pearson's children suffered from being denied the free bus service to which white children were entitled. The case was dismissed saying Pearson has no legal standing because his farm straddled the line between the school district where he lived and where his children went to school.

Pearson's courageous stand made him a hero among his friends in the community, but a villain to his foes. Because he dared to question the status quo, the white community cut off the credit Mr. Pearson needed for farm supplies and refused to buy goods raised on his farm. Despite the severe hardships placed on Pearson and his family, he stood his ground and remained in Clarendon County with his family as many black families moved north.

Although his name is not on the list of 20 petitioners in the landmark case of *Briggs v. Elliott*, Pearson was the driving force that led to equal education for all. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in paying tribute to Levi Pearson for he is indeed a pioneer, a hero and an outstanding American.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ARROWHEAD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY EAGLES

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the Arrowhead Christian Academy (ACA) 1997 varsity football team of Redlands, CA. On December 13, 1997, the ACA Eagles made history by winning the 1997 CIF-Southern Section Division XII Championship, thus becoming the first team to win back-to-back CIF championships in San Bernardino County, CA. The Eagles' remarkable season was further highlighted by being ranked fifth in the state by Cal-Hi Sports in Division V.

Despite competing against several higher division teams, the Eagles racked up a total of 567 points over the course of the season and won four shut-out games. With their renowned offense scoring an average of 40 points per game that their unmovable defense holding its opponents to an average of just 14 points per game, it is no surprise that the Eagles ended their season with a remarkable record. 11-3.

Special recognition is in order for Head Coach Dan Finrock, Assistant Coaches Drew Rickert, Dave Wiseman, Dave Marshall, Jon Burgess, Nate Finrock, and Trainer Ben Mulder for their leadership and service. Additional congratulations go to Coach Finrock for being named CIF Southern Section Division XII Coach of the Year for the second year in a row.

Many of the Eagles were honored with awards. CIF All-Southern Section awards included: First Team—Dan Jeffers (Defensive line), and Second Team—Steve Wharry (Linebacker). All Southern-Section CIF Division XII awards included: Offensive Player of the Year: Jonathan Reed (Fullback), and Defensive Player of the Year: Dan Jeffers (Defensive Tackle). Other All CIF selections included: Brandon Camacho (Nose Guard), Danny Schaper (Offensive Tackle), Ben Ballard (Quarterback), and Trevor Wilson (Wingback).

First Team All Christian League selections were: Trevor Wilson (MVP), Steve Wharry (Defensive MVP), Brandon Camacho (Nose Guard), Ben Ballard (Quarterback), Jonathan Reed (Fullback), Robbie Ramos (Corner Back), Dan Jeffers (Offensive Tackle), and Joe Ramos (Corner Back).

Second Team All Christian League selections were: Allan Kavalich (Center), Carl

Overholt (Wing Back), Robbie Ramos (Wing Back), D.J. Gallagher (Tight End), Danny Schaper (Offensive Tackle). Honorable mention: Nick Selle (Offensive Tackle), Steve Hale (Tight End), and Ben Gradias (Tight End).

Other members of the 1997 Eagle championship team include: Robbie Whittenburg, Jeff Harry, Israel Marshall, Will Kimble, Chad Aldaco, Ben Foster, Jeremy McAllister, Joey Morrison, Paul Avila, Jacob Southworth, Noah Rivera, Nick Goldtry, Bryan Traynmham, Gavin Fort, Danny Paul, Chris Hardin, Steve Avila, Daniel Meers, Nik Kreutzer, Tim Mason, and Jared Richards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, the team's families and many friends in honoring the 1997 Arrowhead Christian Academy football team. It truly has been yet another unforgettable season for the Eagles and it is only fitting that the House recognize them today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE MANAGED HEALTH CARE SUN- SHINE ACT OF 1998

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will require health maintenance organizations (HMOs) under Medicare to disclose certain information to individuals who subscribe to an HMO, or who are a prospective subscriber to an HMO.

Specially, my bill would require an HMO to provide Medicare subscribers or prospective subscribers with a description of the medical education and training received by the HMO's physicians, the physicians' history of domestic or foreign medical practice, and the position each physician currently holds in the HMO. In addition, my bill would require an HMO to disclose to subscribers upon request its audited financial statements, as well as the salaries of its five highest paid executives. Any promotional material by the HMO would state that the above information is available upon request. Overall, my bill would allow Medicare HMO subscribers to scrutinize their HMO's financial condition to ensure that quality health care delivery is being achieved.

It is time for HMOs, who receive federal dollars and ask for the trust of our nation's seniors, to be open and candid about their operations. It is time for Medicare HMO subscribers to benefit from efficient management. It is time we allowed a little sunshine into our nation's Medicare HMOs.

Mr. Speaker, my bill builds on the reforms passed last year as part of the Balanced Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-33). Those reforms gave HMO subscribers greater protection by giving them access to pertinent information about HMOs. This bill is also similar to a bill I introduced in the last Congress, H.R. 2249.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

VICE PRESIDENT GORE EMPHASIZES BIOSCIENCE AND COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION TAX CREDIT IN VISIT TO GENENTECH, INC. OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to report to my colleagues about the visit of our Vice-President, AL GORE, who is a former colleague of many of us here in this house. I had the pleasure of joining the Vice President on Thursday, January 29, 1998, for his visit to Genentech, Inc., which is located in the city of South San Francisco in the heart of my congressional district. Genentech is an innovative pioneer in the significant and increasingly important universe of biotechnology.

Mr. Speaker, Vice-President GORE's visit serves as an exclamation point—not only to the necessity of federal investment in the exciting, path-breaking research and development that will lead us into the 21st century, but also to the humanitarian nature of biotechnology as practiced by outstanding companies such as Genentech. By supporting research and development such firms conduct, we are aggressively fighting against cancer, prevailing against both rare and common diseases, and rallying against those intrepid enemies of our times that we have come to know as heart-disease, stroke, and diabetes, among others. In short, by supporting research and development, we are improving the quality of the lives of all Americans.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to bring to the attention of my colleagues the highlights of the remarks of Vice-President GORE in relation to the specific accomplishments of Genentech, Inc., which were made during the meeting at the corporate headquarters during our visit.

Genentech serves as a unique and commendable model for the high-tech industry. As Vice-President GORE pointed out, "Here at Genentech, you have taught us another lesson: in the 21st Century, research and experimentation—innovation and ingenuity—is about our livelihoods as well as our lives." In these remarks, Vice-President GORE referred to both the high-wage levels of the high-tech industry, as well as the high-tech industry's status as one of the largest employers in the United States. The fostering of the high-tech industry spurs economic growth and a healthy and vital job market that benefits whole communities.

Vice-President GORE also referred to the Administration's proposal in its annual budget to extend the \$2.2 billion Research and Experimentation (R&E) Tax Credit from June 30th, 1998 to June 30th, 1999. The extension of this tax credit is especially encouraging to the growing Bay Area bioscience industry and to all of our high tech industries which depend upon the R&E Tax Credit to make their extensive and dynamic research feasible. By allowing firms such as Genentech to claim a credit against their federal taxes for a portion of their extensive research and development costs, we in the federal government are taking a critical step to ensure new, high-wage jobs in the