

occasion and discharged their leadership responsibilities to the institution.

Marilyn Elrod is a person who understands the right and responsibility of an American to thoroughly investigate government policy and, using her influence as a staff person, would always try to craft the best legislative product. She did it with a sense of humor, a sense of duty and above all, a sense of patriotism. She is a dedicated American in the finest tradition, and this institution will greatly miss her.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE PLANT A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY PROJECT

#### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 2, 1998*

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many Coloradans who contributed hard work, selfless dedication, community spirit and fresh produce to the Plant a Row for the Hungry Project. This locally organized, nationally recognized project asks local gardeners to donate fresh produce for local people in need.

Last spring, seed packets were given out to many participants in the program. Now, their gardens are overflowing with fresh vegetables, many of which were donated to local residents living below the poverty line.

Susan Moore, Becky Simmons and the rest of the staff at Gully's Greenhouse contributed storage space, time and labor as did Chuck Gill and Paul Blackburn of the Larimer County Food Distribution Center. These fine people handled, stored and distributed bushels of cucumbers, carrots, squash, lettuce and peppers locally for the program.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ms. Susan Moore, Ms. Becky Simmons, Mr. Chuck Gill and Mr. Paul Blackburn for all of their fine efforts. Particularly, I would like to recognize the many participants in the program. Their toil has brought forth produce from the land, and food for the needy.

Often, we don't recognize those who provide us with the essentials of life like food, water, shelter and security. Like the many farmers in Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, these local gardeners strengthen the age-old bond between land, labor, food and happiness.

#### CHILD POVERTY AND BLOCK GRANTS

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 2, 1998*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would link HHS award granting to child poverty rates.

As part of welfare reform, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant program (TANF), provides over \$1 billion for incentive awards to states. Beginning in FY 1999, TANF's High Performance Bonus Award program will give bonuses to states that reduce the number of welfare recipients. In an unrelated section of the bill, TANF requires that states determine the rate of child poverty

each year and initiate corrective action if the rate increases above five percent from the previous year due to the TANF program. There is no linkage between the receipt of a high performance bonus award and child poverty rates. Therefore, under the current system, a state could sustain a dramatic increase in child poverty rates and still qualify for a bonus award if enough adults have been removed from the welfare rolls.

Such an outcome would not only constitute a major "disconnect" in welfare policy but is highly likely. For instance, in recent testimony about the Summer Food Service Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) found that TANF caused half of the states to reduce the number of food items in the meals or reduce the number of meal locations. GAO predicted that 2 million children would be provided insufficient meals, would travel further to obtain meals or may go hungry because meals will not be served in an accessible location. Under the current rules, states that reduced the lunch program would be eligible for bonus grants. I am sure my colleagues will agree with me that this result, though unintended, is something we cannot ignore, or allow to continue.

This legislation would require HHS to consider child poverty rates prior to granting awards and prohibits an award to any state that allows child poverty to increase more than 5 percent per year. My colleagues, if you share my concern about the well being of children under welfare reform, join me in support of this timely and needed legislation.

#### HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMY RESERVES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO CALIFORNIA

#### HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 2, 1998*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great contributions of the United States Army Reserve to our country. I particularly want to recognize the 63rd Regional Support Command in California. The Army Reserve was started as a pool of people whose professional skills were not regularly needed during peacetime, but were critical during deployment and mobilization. The Reserves have grown to fill a critical need for our armed services in war and peace.

The Army Reserve has served in every major American military operation since its establishment and has played a key role in supporting international peacekeeping missions around the world. Additionally, the mission of the Reserve goes far beyond aiding American interest missions abroad. An often forgotten contribution of our Army Reservists is their role here at home supporting fellow Americans in the event of disasters.

No discussion of the United States Army Reserves would be complete without mentioning their greatest resource of all—their people. These are citizen-soldiers—the fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, husbands and wives—that give their time to serve and protect us at home and abroad. These noble men and women make up 20 percent of the Army's

organized units, provide 46 percent of the Army's combat service support and 30 percent of the Army's combat support. All of this is done for about 5 percent of the Army's budget. Having served for 8 years in strategic intelligence with the Army Reserve, I can attest to the important role for these men and women.

In Southern California, the U.S. Army 63rd Regional Support Command proudly stands as our regional branch of the Army Reserve. This Support Command was established originally to help the 63rd Infantry Division support relief efforts during natural disasters and other regional crises more quickly. Headquartered in Los Alamitos, California, the 63rd Regional Support Command continues to support Active Army missions with more than 14,000 soldiers.

In response to a downsized force and frequently shifting missions, the United States Army Reserve announced in 1995 its largest realignment in decades. This realignment led to the 63rd having its geographic boundaries realigned to conform with the standard Federal district observed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The 63rd Regional Support Command continues to provide combat support and combat service support to field units during deployments. The 63rd adds flexibility to our Active Army force by filling in for troops deployed abroad. Furthermore, the 63rd is trained to provide medical units; port, rail, and other transportation support; as well as acting as a training base during full mobilization.

Presently, the 63rd Regional Support Command has control of more than 14,000 men and women serving in approximately 140 units in my home State of California, as well as Arizona and Nevada. Commanded by Brigadier General John L. Scott, the 63rd will certainly continue to shine as a keen example of the importance and prominence of the United States Army Reserve.

Today, the Army Reserve is positioned better than ever to be an active and vital player in America's Active Army. The Army Reserve stands as a symbol of the strength of the American citizen-soldier and I want to thank the Army Reserve for the continuation of their past efforts and their 90 years of dedicated service.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 2, 1998*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on October 1, 1998 for roll call votes 474 and 475. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 474 and "yea" on roll call vote 475.

#### THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF REPRESENTATIVE LEE HAMIL- TON OF INDIANA

SPEECH OF

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 28, 1998*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, being unable to attend the Special Order for retiring Congressman LEE HAMILTON, I take this means to

congratulate him for a highly successful career in the House of Representatives and for being a role model for those Members who follow.

LEE has been a leader, both as chairman and ranking member of the International Relations Committee. His knowledge of America's efforts in this world has proven invaluable. His advice has been sought by other Members concerning our relations with other countries. His contributions to the field of foreign affairs will be sorely missed. But most of all, LEE HAMILTON serves as a role model as an honorable, decent, hardworking, and knowledgeable Member of this House. I have admired him as an individual and I have respected him as a Member. I am proud to call him my friend. I wish all the best for LEE and his charming wife Nancy as they enter private life at the close of this session.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK KELLEY  
AND MABEL SWAFFORD

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 2, 1998*

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two of my constituents that operate a farmers market on Highway 34 near Greeley. Small business owners and hard-working entrepreneurs across my home state of Colorado are the heart and soul of our thriving economy. At the heart of every small business owner is the entrepreneurial spirit of our forefathers who founded and shaped this great country. I commend Mr. Patrick Kelley and Ms. Mabel Swafford for their hard work, good business, and devotion to making their customers happy. Mr. Kelley and Ms. Swafford sell fresh-picked fruit and vegetables with a warm smile and a kind hand. I commend them for their selfless dedication and extra effort for their customers. These good people set a fine example of why rural Colorado is such a wonderful place and their work contributes to building a better Colorado and a stronger America.

TRIBUTE TO EARL AND EVA KIRK

**HON. GLENN POSHARD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 2, 1998*

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Earl and Eva Kirk of West Frankfort, Illinois. It is a great honor to recognize this distinguished couple. They serve as excellent role models for Illinois and for future generations to follow. Their loving family celebrated Earl and Eva's milestone last month at a surprise party for them in West Frankfort. They are very dedicated Franklin county constituents, and it is my pleasure to acknowledge them as they celebrate their anniversary.

I have known the Kirks for many years now, and Earl has always been a tremendous help, especially when I need his assistance with legislation relating to people with disabilities. He has been blind for the past eight years, and has been very active with the blind com-

munity focusing his attention on their concerns. Eva has been a great asset and strength for Earl and the Illinois Council of the Blind. Earl is not only an activist on their issues, but is also one of the founders of the Three County Blind Support Group in my hometown of Marion. Every year, when the nation's budget is decided in Congress, Earl and Eva participate in the legislative process by organizing letter campaigns, making appointments with various lawmakers, and pushing for the necessary research and funding for national blind programs. Their energy and attention on these issues has been tremendous and Illinois will be forever grateful for their dedication.

The Kirks are Illinois natives, and are proud of their state and their nation. Earl served faithfully in the United States Infantry Division during World War II. As soon as he returned, he wanted to complete college at Southern Illinois University, but finished at Lockyears Business College in Evansville, Indiana. He met Eva in high school on a double date, but was interested in her, not the blind date he was with. But in 1948, he met Eva all over again. She was working as a cashier at the GTE West Frankfort office, and they were married the same year. Earl and Eva stayed in West Frankfort for a few years until he was hired as a miner and construction worker in New Mexico. Earl even got involved in local politics there, serving on the Democratic Policy State Central Committee. The Kirks called New Mexico home for almost six years, and it was there where they started raising their children Debbie and George.

They eventually returned to West Frankfort in 1958, and helped increase the booming coal economy in southern Illinois as Earl worked in the construction of Freeman #5 Mine in Benton. Earl understood the power of unions, and immediately joined the United Mine Workers of America District 12. He later worked at Freeman #4 Mine near Johnston City, and retired in 1987. The Kirks have remained in southern Illinois since then, and have been faithful citizens of Franklin county. They are dedicated participants in civic organizations, such as the American Legion and the Lions Club. Moreover, the Kirks are faithful Christians and long time members of Ezra Church of God. They even have enough time to assist their local government and health associations. From the Williamson Human Services Agency to the Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities and the Illinois Council of the Blind, they exemplify the essence of Illinois citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Kirks as they reach their milestone. What an honor to have such distinguished constituents like the Kirks serving their community, and their nation. I wish them my very best, and many blessings as they celebrate their 50 years of marriage.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
SIDNEY R. YATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 1998*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to join my col-

leagues in paying special tribute to my good friend and colleague from Illinois, Mr. SID YATES. During my tenure in Congress, Mr. YATES has been an inspiration and a friend. He welcomed me here on my first day in Congress after my special election in 1988 and I am glad to call him a friend.

SID YATES has represented the 9th Congressional District and the State of Illinois well. He has dedicated himself to representing the citizens of the Great State of Illinois. He has been a great representative for our state and as an fellow Illinoisan, I salute Mr. YATES for his dedication and good work. He is a true statesman.

Mr. YATES' distinguished career began as an attorney in Chicago. He was first elected to this House in 1948. As a member of this body, Mr. YATES has been a quiet yet strong voice.

Mr. YATES has risen through the ranks to hold positions on the Appropriations Committee. I have worked closely with Mr. YATES in his capacity as the Ranking Member on the Interior Subcommittee to develop an interpretive center at the first campsite of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. This project is very exciting, especially since we will be celebrating the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's historic journey to explore the American West in 2003-4. Mr. YATES has worked diligently to help establish this important center. If this project comes to fruition, it will be in part due to Mr. YATES. I appreciate his interest and hard work on the issue.

Mr. YATES has used his influence on the Appropriations Committee to create new national parks, wilderness, seashores, lakeshores and wild and scenic rivers. He has been a great champion for the arts and humanities. During years of attacks on the National Endowment of the Arts, Mr. YATES has been its chief defender. I believe we as a nation owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. YATES for his perseverance on preserving the integrity and, in fact, the institutions themselves that promote artistic expression and our cultural heritage for future generations.

SID YATES has served this institution well and he will be missed. I wish Mr. YATES and his family well in the years to come.

THOMAS M. BARRY ACCEPTING  
NEW POSITION AND CHALLENGE

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 2, 1998*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Thomas M. Barry, on his promotion to President of the SBC International's Telkom South Africa.

When Tom arrived in this town just a few short years ago to take the helm of SBC Communication's Inc. Washington office his assignment was a modest one: to work to modernize the rules by which the United States telecommunications industry was governed.

Now, Tom Barry was not your ordinary Washington lobbyist. Having spent some 30 years with the telephone company and most recently having come to the world of strategic planning, he knew a whole lot more about the true impact of our telecommunications rules governing universal service and competition in local and long distance than many who had