

(B) the date on which—

(i) the United States first applies the NAFTA to Panama upon its accession to the NAFTA; or

(ii) there enters into force with respect to the United States and Panama a free trade agreement comparable to the NAFTA that makes substantial progress in achieving the negotiating objectives set forth in section 108(b)(5) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3317(b)(5)), and that should remain in effect at least until the end of the agreement period.

SEC. 5. APPLICABILITY OF BENEFITS.

The tariff treatment under section 4 may be accorded to goods of Panama only during such periods as a designation of Panama as a beneficiary country under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act is in effect.

SEC. 6. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

Section 213(a)(1) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act is amended by inserting "and except as provided in section 4 of the Panama Relations Act of 1998," after "Tax Reform Act of 1986,".

IN TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MORRIS,
JR.

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend Bill Morris, Jr., who was recently awarded the prestigious and rare 50 Years of Service plaque from Chevrolet Corp. He is the second of three generations to operate Chevrolet dealerships in Simi Valley-Moorpark, Fillmore and Santa Paula. He also has the distinction of being the second generation holder of a 50-year plaque; his father, Bill Sr., also earned one. His son Jeff is continuing the family business.

If service to motorists of all shapes, sizes and automotive tastes was all Bill Morris had accomplished in the past 50 years, it would be quite a feat. But service is a byword with Bill: service to his business, to his family, and to his community. It is an attitude that helped his business to thrive. Many of his customers are second-generation buyers who bring with them bits of memorabilia or family pictures when they arrive to buy their car.

Bill's father moved his family to Ventura County from the San Fernando Valley in 1929 to open a dealership in Fillmore. Soon thereafter, Bill Sr. opened a second dealership in Moorpark, which eventually moved to Simi Valley. A third location, in Santa Paula, was opened in 1939. The father passed to his son his business savvy and his belief that dedication to your family and community are the responsibilities of a successful man.

Bill Jr. learned that lesson well. He and wife Jean have seven children and 14 grandchildren. Son Jeff is the newest operator of Wm. L. Morris Chevrolet. Bill has been a tireless supporter of our community's youth as continuous sponsor of community Little League teams and, most significantly, through Bill's tremendous involvement with the YMCA. His dedication to the business community earned him the distinguished Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce Businessman of the Year award in 1988.

Bill raised his sons through the YMCA Indian Guide program. In 1984, he initiated the

drive to start a YMCA in Simi Valley and served as the campaign chairman. In 1987, he served as Chairman of the Board for the Southeast Ventura County YMCA, which includes Simi Valley. As the years passed, the Simi Valley YMCA expanded from its initial leased classroom at a local church. The philanthropy now serves 400 children before and after school at 11 school sites, and 500 children and families in the YMCA's Indian program. Countless others participate in teen, Y-camper and grief support programs. When the board decided it needed a central facility, Bill once again stepped to the plate, taking on the chair of "The Time Is Now" capital campaign. Its aim is to build a \$2 million, state-of-the-art, 23,000-square-foot facility with aquatics and fitness centers, a child-watch area, a multipurpose room, meeting rooms, offices and a park. With Bill at the helm, I have no doubt the dream will come true.

Bill was also instrumental in building equestrian trails in Simi Valley and throughout Ventura County. He is honorary Past President of the Ventura Taxpayers Association, a 50-year member of Rotary International and a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Foundation.

His success as an entrepreneur and his willingness to share have helped to generate a successful community.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in recognizing Bill Morris, Jr. for his many years of service to his community through his business and philanthropic prowess.

IN HONOR OF MR. HARRY
OFFENHARTZ AND THE ELEANOR
ROOSEVELT TRIBUTE CONCERT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note a concert commemorating Eleanor Roosevelt's leadership in promoting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which will celebrate its 50th Anniversary on December 10, 1998. The tribute to Mrs. Roosevelt will feature the world premiere of a cello concerto commissioned especially for the event from the renowned composer Chen Yi and will be performed by the Women's Philharmonic Orchestra in San Francisco at the Herbst Theatre with cello soloist, Paul Tobias. It will be cosponsored by the New Heritage Music Foundation and Amnesty International. Mr. Harry Offenhartz, a good friend of mine, served as President of the New Heritage Music Foundation until his death last July at the age of 93. Mr. Offenhartz worked in the Roosevelt Administration and with Eleanor Roosevelt, and was a tireless advocate for human rights and the cause of the disadvantaged.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to share the upcoming concert with this body, and to thank and honor those who are working to commemorate Mrs. Roosevelt and the Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

IN TRIBUTE TO GENERAL GEORGE
OLMSTED

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a man who lived a long life which was spent wisely and in service to his country. General George Olmsted was 97 years of age when he passed away on October 8th at his home in Arlington, VA. Although I did not have the honor of knowing him personally, I am grateful that General Olmsted's grandson State Senator Locke Burt, a friend and constituent of mine, has brought his life to my attention.

General George Olmsted, was successful entrepreneur, an advocate of education, a decorated war hero, an activist in the Republican party and a leader in his community.

A life-long entrepreneur, George Olmsted's civilian time was spent in the banking and insurance industries. In 1955, he purchased control of International Bank of Washington and in 1959, he purchased Financial General Corporation, the 7th largest bank holding company in the country at the time. Headquarter in Washington, DC, Financial General Corporation controlled interests in 26 banks located in 7 States and the District of Columbia. He helped to bring availability and affordability of products and services to a market battered during the Great Depression and was a champion of the idea of better jobs and opportunities for all people.

As I read a recent Washington Post article about him, I found myself wishing that I had known this retired Army General who was originally from Iowa. A short, but true, story of General Olmsted's actions during World War II may illustrate my point:

At the end of World War II, some 30,000 allied prisoners were being held in Japanese POW camps in China. As the Japanese collapse appeared imminent, the Allies were concerned about the safety of the prisoners, one of which was General Johnathan Wainright, the hero of Bataan.

A resourceful man, General Olmsted went to his commanding officer and proposed a plan. It has been said that his superior told him it was the "craziest scheme" he'd ever heard in the Army and informed him that they were already readying court-martial charges against him if his plan failed.

But, because of the lack of troops to send in, or the planes to carry them out immediately, they went ahead with the General's plan. First they dropped leaflets by aircraft on each of the 11 camps immediately after the surrender. Then, a team of seven unarmed men were to parachute into each camp carrying with them letters stating that the war was over and that the allied powers know how many prisoners were in each camp and would hold each camp commander personally responsible for the safety of those prisoners.

Far from being court-martialed, General Olmsted's ideas saved the prisoner's lives and his valor did not go unnoticed. He not only received the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star from the United States, but was awarded the Legion of Honor from France, was made an Honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire

by Great Britain, and was honored with the Order of the Sacred Tripod and the Special Order of Pao Ting from China. The General was also praised by President Harry Truman for his handling of surplus war equipment still in China after the war.

President Truman was not the first U.S. President to notice General Olmsted's abilities. President Herbert Hoover noticed General Olmsted's abilities even as a young man, inviting him to the White House and asking him to direct the activities of the Young Republican Division of the party in the 1932 election. General Olmsted continued to be involved in politics and even attempted a run once for Governor of Iowa.

From a young age, Olmsted showed his leadership abilities as a cadet at West Point. He was President of his class, ranked second in his class academically, was the feather-weight boxing champ of the Academy and second-string quarterback for the Army football team.

In later years, he did not forget his allegiance to West Point or his tenacity for learning. In 1959, he and his wife Carole established a foundation whose principal activity is The Olmstead Scholar Program.

As a member of the Naval Academy's Board of Visitors, I am proud to say that this program has made financial grants available to hundreds of graduates from three service academies and the ROTC. The graduates enroll as full-time resident students at a foreign university of their choice. They must conduct all their studies in the language of that country and are expected to travel extensively throughout the region to learn as much as they can about the local customs and history of the people there.

Since its founding, 293 officers have been selected as Olmsted Scholars, including one former Chief of Naval Operations. These scholars have attended over 100 different universities located in 37 countries.

General Olmsted was the American success story. He worked hard, enjoyed tremendous success, and shared his good fortune with others. His accomplishments are ones of which Americans can be proud and his patriotism should be an example to our children.

THE CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIFERY MEDICARE SERVICES ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce "The Certified Nurse Midwifery Medicare Services Act". This legislation will correct several inequities in the nurse-midwives' ability to provide health care services to Medicare recipients. This bill specifically increases the reimbursement rate to 95 percent of physician payment as well as permitting free-standing birth centers to receive Medicare reimbursement.

Currently, under the Medicare program, nurse-midwives are reimbursed for only 65 percent of physician's payment for providing the same services. Fifty-six percent of women who are cared for by CNMs live in areas that are designated as underserved, within inner city or rural areas. In fact, 70 percent of women and newborns seen by nurse-midwives are considered vulnerable by virtue of age, socioeconomic status, education, ethnicity, or place of residence. As of 1996, over 50,000 women, in the Medicare program, had a primary diagnosis related to "pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium". While Medicare has provided for coverage of the professional services of CNMs since July 1, 1988, the low 65 percent reimbursement rate results in payments of \$800 to \$1,200 for nine to ten months of care for pregnancy, including deliveries. At this level, nurse-midwives can not afford to serve the Medicare population, a population which is clearly increasingly in need of access to health care providers.

The second major inequity corrected by this bill would allow free standing birth centers to be reimbursed. Currently, the Medicare program does not recognize free-standing birth centers. Birth centers have a 20 year history of providing quality services with excellent outcomes for mothers and babies. In fact, the first urban birth center was established in New York City in 1975. The excellent quality of care with great savings has been demonstrated in many research studies. The most recent data released by the Health Insurance Association of America and the National Association of Childbearing Centers showed that in 1995 there was a cost savings of over \$3,000 per birth when comparing a birth center to a hospital birth. Medicare can realize consider-

able savings and improved outcomes for disabled women and their infants who use nurse-midwives and birth centers.

Mr. Chairman, while this legislation is being introduced in the last days of the 105th Congress, I am confident that this measure will receive serious consideration in the next Congress. We must continue to work to increase access to health care for underserved populations. All too often chronically disabled women have specialists as their primary care providers who neglect their obstetrical and gynecological needs. I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve the payment restrictions on access to nurse-midwifery services for Medicare recipients.

LET'S REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS
AT GPO AS WE LEAVE FOR OUR
DISTRICTS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, as we close the 2nd Session of the 105th Congress, our ability to come to an orderly close is due, in great part, to the tireless efforts of our friends in the U.S. Government Printing Office.

The GPO recently performed a yeoman's task by printing all of the Kenneth Starr reports that were sent to them by the House Judiciary Committee. These massive reports were printed with great speed and professionalism.

Now, as we draw our Session to a close, these dedicated government employees are called on to print an incredible-sized piece of legislation, in addition to reprinting it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, plus putting it online—and all with around-the-clock work schedules.

For over 137 years, the GPO has been a loyal, dedicated partner of the Congress.

Its critics have taken easy pot-shots at this valuable agency, but they have never provided any reliable means of producing congressional products that are as dependable as those from GPO.

As we leave Washington to return to our congressional districts, I would like to salute the men and women at the U.S. Government Printing Office for their steadfast efforts to make the operations of Congress run smoothly.