of the State of West Virginia. Joining Governor Wise in ratifying this landmark agreement were David C. Hardesty Jr., the president of West Virginia University; Patrick R. Esposito Sr., the president of Augusta Systems Inc., on behalf of the tenants of the Collins Ferry Commerce Center; and Ralph A. Carabetta, deputy director of the National Energy Technology Laboratory, or NETL.

These officials, and the organizations they serve, are to be commended on their efforts to more fully integrate NETL-developed technologies into the marketplace. Their memorandum of understanding re-affirms Senator ROBERT C. BYRD's foresight in promoting energy research, and will further capitalize on his success in building a strong fossil-fuel portfolio at NETL.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to salute the partners in this agreement, and to wish them much success in their new collaboration.

IN HONOR OF THE SUCCESS OF ST. MICHAEL AND UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise in congratulations to the success of St. Michael Hospital in maintaining the tradition of high quality, community health care.

Last year, the life of St. Michael Hospital, a full service community hospital, was threatened by a buyer who sought to close it. Without notice, patients were told to find other physicians, wards were closed, ambulance service was stopped and units were shut down. Once the community learned of the pending closure, they sprang into action to save St. Michael. A massive effort began. Neighborhood residents spoke out, the City Council supported, doctors and nurses worked tirelessly and my office filed an amicus brief to prevent the closure, supported by hundreds of constituents.

Today, St. Michael Hospital is not only in stable condition, but growing its services and expanding its facility. Not even a year after it stood at the brink of closure, it is now in the middle of plans to increase the size of the emergency room by 50 percent. Construction will begin in a few months to allow the hospital to create more treatment areas for trauma patients. Later this month, two renovation projects are slated to begin. A new inpatient gero-psychiatric ward was opened last December after renovation was completed on the fourth floor. St. Michael has even started a shuttle service for patients without transportation.

For 117 years, St. Michael Hospital (formerly St. Alexis) has done a remarkable job of tending to the health of Clevelanders. It has provided high quality health care to hundreds of thousands of patients, no matter their color, country of origin, age or ability to pay. Over 20 percent of its patients are unable to afford health care, but they are treated at St. Michael.

Our community has long known the institution's strength of compassion, and we are now so lucky to witness its strength of determination and resilience. St. Michael has rebounded with new medical care programs, an increase in patient volume and an improved financial situation. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the work of St. Michael Hospital and the University Hospital Health Network which came to its rescue. I ask that you join with me in congratulating all who have brought St. Michael Hospital back to life.

CONGRATULATING WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION JOHNNY ''THE QUIET MAN'' RUIZ

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, Johnny ''The Quiet Man'' Ruiz, a young man from my district, for winning the World Boxing Association Heavyweight title this past weekend in Las Vegas. I do not stand here today to boast about the athletic prowess of a world class champion but rather to commend Johnny for the grace and dignity with which he has carried himself throughout his climb to the upper echelons of the boxing world.

As the first Latino heavyweight world champion, Johnny is truly a hometown hero to the people of Chelsea, Massachusetts. Johnny was a hero long before his upset victory over four-time champion Evander Holyfield on Saturday evening. Last August, after losing a very close and controversial decision to Holyfield, Johnny came home from Las Vegas to find hundreds of his supporters waiting on his doorstep to cheer his arrival. They knew they already had a champion among them.

Like many young husbands and fathers throughout the country; Johnny spends his free time coaching Little League baseball, Pop Warner Football and is actively involved in the parent's group at his children's school. That is the man that is the new heavy weight champion. That is Johnny Ruiz. Like many of his neighbors, Johnny Ruiz is a hardworking family man, who proudly represents a city of hard working people. Johnny just happens to go to work at the Somerville Boxing Club under the watchful eye of his trainer Norman Stone.

Years from now we will surely be hearing many stories about the boxing triumphs of this heavyweight champion from Chelsea. People will talk about how they used to watch him run by their house or storefront while he was training. We will hear about rematches and world rankings. However, there is one story that stands out in my mind. On the evening of the first Holyfield-Ruiz fight, the then-WBA champion Holyfield was hosting a postfight victory party at the Paris Hotel. Accompanied by his boyhood friends, Ruiz, an exhausted and defeated challenger walked through the many reporters, cameras and Holyfield fans to extend a congratulatory hand to his most recent opponent. This gesture caught Holyfield by surprise more than Johnny's overhand right last Saturday night. The champion told Johnny ''that was the most class an opponent has ever shown after a fight''. That story truly embodies Johnny Ruiz.

It is reassuring to know that behind all the hype and trash talking in professional sports there are still athletes out there who are true gentlemen. There are still men like Johnny ''The Quiet Man'' Ruiz: a neighborhood kid who had a little bit more talent and worked a little bit harder to get his shot. More importantly, he never forgot his roots—he never forgot the neighborhood and city he was fighting from. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate ''the neeewww WBA heavyweight champ of the worllllld Johnny Ruiz!!!''

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Peace Corps as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

The Peace Corps is a powerful symbol of America's commitment to encourage progress, create opportunity, and expand development at the grass roots level in the developing world and at home.

Today, its volunteers are working to bring clean water to communities, teach children, help start new small businesses, and stop the spread of AIDS.

Since its beginning, in 1961, more than 161,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps Volunteers in 134 countries. These are people who are dedicated and committed to making this a better world.

After serving and teaching in other countries, Peace Corps volunteers return to the U.S. with a greater understanding of other cultures and peoples.

It is truly a mutually beneficial cross-cultural exchange.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the thousands of Peace Corps volunteers, past, present, and future, and in commending the Peace Corps for empowering and encouraging progress around the world for the past four decades.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday March 5, 1 missed two votes numbered 26 and 27. I missed these votes on account of illness. If present, I would have voted ''yea'' on both suspension bills.

OPPOSING NATIONAL TEACHER CERTIFICATION OR NATIONAL TEACHER TESTING

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to forbid the use of federal funds to develop or implement a national system of teacher certification or a national teacher test.

My bill also forbids the Department of Education from denying funds to any state or local education agency because that state or local educational agency has refused to adopt a federally-approved method of teacher certification or testing. This legislation in no way interferes with a state's ability to use federal funds to support their chosen method of teacher certification or testing.

Federal control of teacher certification will inevitably lead to a national curriculum. National teacher certification will allow the federal government to determine what would-be teachers need to know in order to practice their chosen profession. Teacher education will revolve around preparing teachers to pass the national test or to receive a national certificate. New teachers will then base their lesson plans on what they needed to know in order to receive their Education Department-approved teaching ceirtificate. Therefore, I call on those of my colleagues who oppose a national curriculum to join me in opposing national teacher testing and certification.

Many educators are voicing opposition to national teacher certification and testing. The Coalition of Independent Education Associations (CIEA), which represents the majority of the over 300,000 teachers who are members of independent educators associations, has passed a resolution opposing the nationalization of teacher certification and testing. As more and more teachers realize the impact of this proposal, I expect opposition from the education community to grow. Teachers want to be treated as professionals, not as minions of the federal government.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to join me in opposing national teacher certification or national teacher testing. Training and certification of classroom teachers is the job of state governments, local school districts, educators, and parents; this vital function should not be usurped by federal bureaucrats and/or politicians. Please stand up for America's teachers and students by signing on as a cosponsor of my legislation to ensure taxpayer dollars do not support national teacher certification or national teacher testing.

DON'T FORGET THE MUSTANG FREEDOM FIGHTERS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, March 10th is the 42nd anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising Day and the Chinese occupation of Tibet. Every year we appropriately celebrate this solemn day by recognizing and remembering the thousands of Tibetan people who gave their lives on March 10th struggling for their freedom. This past year the brutality of the Chinese occupation government has been exceptionably cruel to Tibetan Buddhist religious practitioners. Many monks and nuns have been executed and tortured to death for their beliefs while the Panchen Lama still remains under detention. Accordingly, it is fitting that this month the Bush administration will introduce a resolution in Geneva at the United Nations Human Rights Commission condemning the Chinese government's contemptible lack of concern for the rights of the Tibetan and Chinese people.

We welcome the Bush administration's open-eyed approach to dealing with the Chinese government on human rights issues and its signals that it is willing to assist our friends on Taiwan. We are therefore hopeful that our government's policy toward Tibet will be brought in line with this refreshing pragmatism. A good start would be by remembering and recognizing the people of Kham who began their resistance against Chinese expansionism almost 51 years ago when the Communists launched their invasion of eastern Tibet in 1950. The brave Khampas and people from Amdo being intensely loyal to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and willing to sacrifice their lives to protect their religious beliefs and institutions, bore the brunt of the PLA's brutal effort to conquer Tibet. Years before Mao's hardened shock troops marched into Lhasa, the people of Kham and Amdo struggled against all odds to turn back the atheist Communist invaders. To this day they still pay dearly for their religious beliefs and struggle for their rights. Their lands and their monasteries have yet to be completely returned to them and the Chinese government has yet to pay reparations.

During the 1950's and up until the early 1970's our government supported the Tibetan cause by training and equipping their fighters and by drawing attention in the international community to the Tibetan plight. When our government ended our assistance to the Tibetan fighters in the early 70's who were then operating out of Mustang, a remote area of northern Nepal, many of them stayed in Nepal. To this day, a number of these men and women still struggle for their survival while some have passed on.

Fourteen years ago, the Congress passed a resolution condemning China's occupation of Tibet. When President Reagan signed it, Lodi Gyaltsen Gyari, a great Khampa, a good friend and His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Special Envoy urged Congressman Charlie Rose and myself to send two of our staff assistants to travel to India and Nepal to learn more about the Tibetan issue. Towards the end of that visit, they met with a number of the Mustang fighters in a small camp in Pokara, Nepal. Our congressional staff reported back to us that these Khampas were still prepared to give their lives for their nation and remained intensely loyal to the United States. They continued to believe that we would never abandon them although it appeared to the outside world that that was exactly what we had done. The camp leader remarked to our staff, ''friends don't abandon friends and America stands up for what is right.''

When the Congress heard about these brave, earnest Khampas, we committed ourselves to renewing our Nation's contact with the Tibetan people. We passed the historic sense of the Congress resolution stating that Tibet is an occupied country and His Holiness the Dalai Lamia and the Tibetan Government-in-Exile are the true representatives of the Tibetan people. In addition, we directed the Voice of America to transmit into Tibet, thus giving the Tibetan people their first clear window to the outside world. Moreover, we ensured that various forms of political and material assistance began to flow to the Tibetan diaspora.

Accordingly, on this March 10th anniversary, may the Khampa fighters and all the elderly men and women of Tibet who continue their struggle inspire us today by their courage and enduring devotion to the cause of Tibetan freedom. As America—who offered them hope and then withdrew its promise—is especially indebted to the freedom fighters, I will look into how we might offer them more than just our sincere thanks. I have learned that many Tibetan elders are living in destitute conditions in Nepal and India. Let us all bear in mind the Mustang freedom fighters on this occasion and begin to consider how we can demonstrate in real terms that their cause remains our own.

DISAPPROVING DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RULE RELATING TO ERGONOMICS

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, the ergonomics issue is not new. It was first proposed by Secretary Elizabeth Dole under the Bush administration and has since been subjected to over a decade of intense scientific analysis. It did not surprise anyone last year, because we have had many hearings on the topic, received hours of testimony, gone through a lengthy public rulemaking process, and debated the matter extensively here on the floor of the House.

This joint resolution, on the other hand, has been launched with no public hearings, no committee markups, no committee reports, no committee study, and almost no debate. Forcing this resolution through is a backdoor attempt to undermine the legitimate public rulemaking process in a way that has never been done before.

Thousands of employers have successfully implemented ergonomics programs resulting in the significant reduction of ergonomic injuries and illnesses and the savings of millions of dollars. Companies as diverse as 3M, Ford Motor Co., Fieldcrest-Cannon, Red Wing Shoes, Perdue Farms, and the Fresno Bee have implemented ergonomics programs that not only substantially reduced injuries and illnesses, but produced significant productivity improvements as well.

The fact is that ergonomics works. The National Academy of Sciences has said so, hundreds of successful businesses have said so, and the American public has said so.

If there are problems with the existing ergonomics standard, then the appropriate way to address them is through rulemaking. Passage of a CRA resolution not only dooms the existing standard, but delays for years and perhaps indefinitely the development of any general ergonomics standard. This is not just bad for workers, it is bad for business, and it is bad government.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this resolution.