Athan Gibbs' TruVote system was a timely invention, and the product of a unique career. As a student of both business and theology, Mr. Gibbs entered public service in 1970 as a financial analyst with the Tennessee Public Service Commission. But while he pursued this public service career and later his own tax business, he served double duty as a pastor, most recently at the Mount Zion Baptist Church. In the words of a friend, The Reverend Enoch Fuzz, ''Athan was consumed by a desire for justice, equality and freedom for all people.''

Mr. Gibbs' desire for justice and equality was matched only by his tenacious drive to realize these goals. After reading studies quantifying the unequal treatment of African-American votes in the 2000 Florida election, he saw an opportunity to put his accounting skills to work in pursuing his overall democratic goals. In 2001, he founded TruVote in order to prevent disenfranchisement and restore faith in the democratic system. His invention caught on quickly and earned the backing of state and local officials, the World Conference of Mayors, and Microsoft. Last spring, my colleague Mr. HOLT introduced H.R. 2239, a bill requiring that voting systems provide a verifiable paper receipt, just as Mr. Gibbs had envisioned and invented two years previously. This bill now has bipartisan backing from 128 cosponsors.

While the nation and the democratic world lost a dedicated patriot and talented innovator when it prematurely lost Athan Gibbs, his vision and mission live on through his family and colleagues who pledge to carry on his work. On behalf of the fifth district of Tennessee as well as my colleagues in Congress, I send my deepest condolences to Athan Gibbs' family and loved ones, and celebrate the life of this remarkable American.

REMOVING NAME AS H.R. 1673 COSPONSOR

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I want to explain why I sought and obtained unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1673, the bill to establish a Department of Peace.

I joined as a cosponsor of a similar bill in the 107th Congress. That bill was introduced in July 2001, a year after the observance of UNESCO's International Year for the Culture of Peace in 2000 and in the context of a UNESCO resolution declaring an International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children 2001–2010.

I cosponsored H.R. 2459 in the spirit of these events and at the urging of a very persuasive group of young high school students from my district because I wanted to underline the symbolic importance of promoting justice and democratic principles to expand human rights and developing policies that promote the peaceful resolution of conflict. I do not believe these ideas require the establishment of a new bureaucracy.

After careful review, I have determined that while the bill's goals are idealistic and worthy, its specific provisions and practical application are problematic. In particular, I think that endorsing the establishment of a new bureaucracy—even if only symbolically—would not be appropriate at a time when the federal budget is in deep deficit. The recent recession and the urgent need to spend more for national defense and homeland security, combined with excessively large and unbalanced tax cuts have brought us to the point where both the entire Social Security surplus and massive borrowing—which will have to be repaid with interest—are required to cover the shortfall.

Under these circumstances, I think proposals for further expansion of the federal government must be subject to even more strict scrutiny. In that light, I have reviewed the legislation that I have supported and have concluded that it is no longer appropriate for me to remain as a cosponsor of H.R. 1673.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SAMUEL AMASA PEER

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life of Samuel Amasa Peer of Beloit, Wisconsin, who passed away on March 7, 2004, at 79 years of age. Sam was a courageous veteran of the Second World War, and his hard work, diligence and willingness to face the most difficult of problems have inspired those who knew him. He will be greatly missed by his family and loved ones, and I ask my colleagues to join me in sharing my thoughts and prayers with them during this difficult time.

I am honored to pay tribute to this outstanding individual and would like to read before the Congress the eloquent eulogy given by his grandson, Adam Peer.

EULOGY OF SAMUEL AMASA PEER, MARCH 13, 2004

My grandfather like all of us was complex, understood only by his Creator. Early on he learned that there was little he could expect from his own parents. Born during the midst of the Great Depression, he was thrust into manhood when duty called him to care for and protect his younger siblings.

It is hard for me to imagine the world he came into. When he answered his second call to duty aboard the USS West Virginia, a question of whether a free world would survive was very real and very unknown. The hardship that was born into and the war that tempered him during his youth is what exemplified him as a self-made American in the very truest sense of the term. And he took great pride in that.

Much of what he did to do his part in making the world safe for democracy will be lost to antiquity. He always kept the most essential parts of himself so private and well-guarded that it put limits on the things he could talk about, even to those that most desperately needing his acknowledgment and love.

But, the unspoken gifts he leaves all of us are very real.

I have never met someone more diligent and hard-working than my grandfather, and that lives on in my father. My grandfather was so proud of the man you became.

I have never met someone who expresses what they feel so passionately and with greater conviction, and that lives on in my sister. The same passion for right over wrong and freedom over oppression burns in her heart.

And I hope I never lose his optimism for the future; he never met a problem that couldn't be solved.

Today, as another member of the ''greatest generation'' passes from this life to the next, we inherit what they have instilled in us and the unfinished tasks now left to younger hands.

It is now our charge to leave this world a better place than we found it, and like my grandfather and his generation, inspire another generation to great things.

TRIBUTE TO GRANT MITCHELL ARMSTRONG

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and commend Grant Mitchell Armstrong on his retirement that celebrates a career spanning 34 years of steadfastly guarding the ideals of criminal justice at the County of Santa Clara's Office of the Public Defender.

With Mr. Armstrong's assistance, the Santa Clara County Office of the Public Defender was awarded the National Defender Leadership Institute's prestigious Gideon Award of Excellence for 2003. The Office was specifically recognized in areas of accountability, cost-efficiency, innovation and effective representation of clients, and was cited as a ''Best Practices'' model for public defender offices nationwide.

Mr. Armstrong played a key role in the recruitment and training of a multi-ethnic, multicultural cadre of attorneys within the Office. In May of 2000, the Office of the Public Defender was awarded the County Executive's Unity in Diversity Achievement Award for the significant staff diversity the Office achieved. While less than 15 percent of the lawyers in California are Black, Hispanic or Asian, 35 percent of the lawyers in the Office are minority group members and 45 percent are women.

Mr. Armstrong also played a vital role in the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court through his leadership roles with the Mentoring Program that pairs young participants with adults committed to the development of healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

I am proud and grateful to thank Grant Mitchell Armstrong for his significant contributions to our criminal justice system.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I was not present for several recorded votes because pressing business required me to remain in Colorado. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 42—H. Res. 519—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the earthquake that occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California, on December 22, 2003, I would have voted ''yes.''

Rollcall No. 43—H. Res. 392—Congratulating the Detroit Shock for winning the 2003 Women's National Basketball Association championship, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 44—H. Res. 475—Congratulating the San Jose Earthquake for winning the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 45—On approving the Journal, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 46—S. 1881: to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to make technical corrections relating to the amendments by the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002, and for other purposes, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 47—H. Con. Res. 373: expressing the sense of Congress that Kids Love a Mystery is a program that promotes literacy and should be encouraged, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 48—Amendment to H.R. 339 offered by Mr. SCOTT (VA) to add a new section which provides that the bill does not apply to an action brought by a State agency to enforce a State consumer protection law concerning mislabeling or other unfair and deceptive trade practices, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 49—Amendment to H.R. 339 offered by Mr. WATT to limit the provisions of the bill only to cases brought in Federal court, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 50—Amendment to H.R. 339 offered by Mr. ANDREWS to permit civil liability suits to be brought in cases related to a food that contains a genetically engineered material unless the labeling for such food bears a statement providing that the food contains such material and the labeling indicates which of the ingredients of the food are or contain such material, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 51—Amendment to H.R. 339 offered by Mr. ACKERMAN to expand the definitions in the act to exclude any establishment that manufactures or sells meat from downed animals for human consumption from the protections of the bill, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 52—Amendment to H.R. 339 offered by Ms. JACKSON-LEE (TX) to provide that the bill would not apply to civil actions that allege a product claiming to assist in weight loss caused heart disease, heart damage, primary pulmonary hypertension, neuropsychological damage, or any other complication which may be generally associated with a person's weight gain or obesity, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 53—Amendment to H.R. 339 offered by Mr. WATT to strike section 3(b) of the bill which provides that a qualified civil liability action that is pending on the date of the enactment of the bill shall be dismissed immediately by the court in which the action was brought or is currently pending, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 54—Final passage of H.R. 339, to prevent legislative and regulatory functions from being usurped by civil liability actions brought or continued against food manufacturers, marketers, distributors, advertisers, sellers, and trade associations for claims of injury relating to a person's weight gain, obesity, or any health condition associated with weight gain or obesity, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 55—Final passage of H.R. 3717, to increase the penalties for violations by television and radio broadcasters of the prohibitions against transmissions of obscene, indecent, and profane material, and for other purposes, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 56—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 15, Commending India on its celebration of Republic Day, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 57—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 540, as amended, expressing the condolences and deepest sympathies of the House of Representatives for the untimely death of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO MARK HAWKINS PRESIDENT GREATER RIVERSIDE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Mark Hawkins is one of these individuals. On Thursday, March 25, 2004, he will be honored at the Chamber's Inaugural Dinner.

Mark began his career in business in 1974 when he obtained his bachelors degree. After completing his Masters of Business Administration from Florida Southern College in 1987, he assumed to the post of Chief Executive Office of Riverside County's Credit Union. He also attended continuing education at Stanford in 2000.

Mark serves on the board of each of the four Riverside County Credit Union's subsidiary companies as well as the board of the credit union's scholarship foundation. In addition to his leadership within the business community, Mark is also very active in community organizations. He serves on the board of the Kiwanis Club of Riverside; the Raincross Club; the Riverside Orange Blossom Festival Association; the United Way of the Inland Valleys; and the Mayor's Youth Action Plan. Mark has also been involved with the Riverside Art Museum, the Parkview Community Hospital Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of Riverside's Endowment, the Riverside Educational Enrichment Foundation, and the City Manager's office for the City of Riverside.

In recognition of Mark's tremendous contributions to our community and the business climate in the Inland Empire, he has been a recipient of several awards including the California Award for Performance Excellence; being named "Top Company to Work for in the Inland Empire" in 2001, 2002, and 2003; Business of the Year in 2002; voted best financial institution by the Press Enterprise in 2003; and voted best employer by the Press Enterprise in 2003.

Mark's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community and business environment of Riverside, California. He has been instrumental in many community organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service as President of the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce and salute him.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF MR. MARVIN H. FELDMAN

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Marvin H. Feldman, the 2004 recipient of the Circle of Life Award of the Million Dollar Roundtable.

Mr. Feldman is a native of East Liverpool, Ohio and a nationally recognized leader in the financial services industry. As an agent for New York Life, Marvin is well known in the world of insurance and financial planning as a global leader in sales. His hard work and record of accomplishment earned him a place in the prestigious Million Dollar Roundtable Foundation. Not only has Marvin been a member of this exclusive organization, he also served as past president. Membership in this Foundation requires agreement to a stringent code of ethics and conduct and exceptional professional knowledge and client service.

Mr. Feldman is a member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, the Mahoning Valley Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, the Ohio Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, the Society of Financial Service Professionals, the Association for Advanced Life Underwriting and the Financial Planning Association. His previous industry experience includes serving as a member of New York Life's Strategic Planning Committee and the Universal Life Product Committee, as well as secretary of New York Life's Agents Advisory Council.

Marvin has not only been a leader in his profession, but has also been a civic and philanthropic leader in his hometown of East Liverpool, Ohio. He has contributed to East Liverpool through his work on the Economic Development Committee, the Megafund Committee and the East Liverpool City Hospital Fund Raising Committee. He has also served as chair of the East Liverpool United Jewish Appeal, co-chair of the Kent State University local branch, and Advanced Gifts Capital Campaign Program. Mr. Feldman was a founder and is currently a director of the First National Community Bank in East Liverpool. In addition, he has served as a trustee and chairman of the East Liverpool City Hospital.

Before beginning his career with New York Life, Marvin attended Ohio State University in Columbus. He and his wife Vicki are the proud parents of two daughters, Terri and Barbi.

Appropriately, Mr. Feldman's outstanding leadership, commitment, and dedication will be honored later this month at a ceremony in Pittsburgh, when he will be named a "Circle of Life Award Honoree" by the Million Dollar Roundtable Foundation.