

nation's small business owners and his dedication to ensure that our tax laws do not impede the growth and development of small businesses. The legislation we are introducing today will implement a key element of the President's plan, expansion of the benefits available to small businesses under Internal Revenue Code Section 179.

Our bill will improve our tax laws to make it easier for small businesses to make the crucial investments in new equipment necessary for continued prosperity. Under Code Section 179, a small business is allowed to expense the first \$24,000 in new business investment in a year. Our legislation will permanently increase this amount to \$40,000. Furthermore, our bill will index this amount to ensure that the value of this provision is not eroded over time.

This legislation will also allow more small businesses to take advantage of expensing by increasing from \$200,000 to \$325,000 the total amount a business may invest in a year and qualify for Section 179. It is important to note that this amount has not been adjusted for inflation since its enacting into law in 1986.

The "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act" also improves the small business expensing provision by following the recommendations of the IRS National Taxpayer Advocate in his 2000 Annual Report to Congress. Specifically, our legislation clarifies that residential rental personal property and off-the-shelf computer software qualify for expensing under Section 179.

Mr. Speaker, in times of economic uncertainty, we must do all we can to encourage new investment and job creation. The "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act of 2002" will help accomplish this worthy goal, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

HOPING TO LIVE ONE DAY IN AN
ENVIRONMENT FREE FROM POL-
LUTION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, soon after I delivered my remarks on the House floor this morning, I received numerous calls from news organizations. Unfortunately, these calls were not about the importance of the Clean Air Act, which was the subject of my one-minute speech. Instead, the press was more concerned about a pause I took during the Pledge of Allegiance—as I was trying to determine if I had my back to the American flag—than what I said about protecting our environment. I would hope the media pays closer attention to the issues affecting our air quality so that the people of this Nation, under God, will be able to one day live in an environment free from pollution.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE NINE-
TIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GIRL SCOUTS

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional organization, the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Since Juliette Gordon Low assembled the first Girl Scout troop in March of 1912, the Girl Scouts have not only grown in number, but also in the scope of their mission. Generations of young women have developed positive values and a greater sense of self-worth by participating in Girl Scout programs.

For 90 years, the Girl Scouts have opened doors of opportunity for girls from all walks of life, and they continue to expand their outreach efforts. They have renewed their commitment to reach beyond racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and geographic boundaries. Diversity can be found in all the activities in which these young women engage. From science and technology, to money management and finance, to global awareness, Girl Scouts experience it all.

Mr. Speaker, the Girl Scouts of the Hudson Valley Council in New York State are fine examples of the Girl Scout mission. Girl Scouts in my district are committed to developing leadership skills and honing a finer sense of social conscience by engaging in a wide range of activities. When they collect supplies for the Merilac Women's Shelter in Albany, when they plant flowers and trees outside of the Colonie Town Hall in remembrance of the lives lost on September 11th, and when they make cards of thanks to the firefighters of New York City, Girl Scouts are making a difference. Thousands of girls in the Capital District will be forever impacted by the experiences they had and the friendships they made while participating in the Girl Scouts.

We must also extend our gratitude to the adults, both women and men, who volunteer their time to ensure that the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism and service continue to be imparted on our Nation's girls and young women.

I congratulate the Girl Scouts on their 90 years of service. Our communities have benefited from their accomplishments and I wish them many more decades of success.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSWOMAN
JANE HARMAN ON ISRAELI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, Secretary of State Powell leaves the Middle East having failed to secure a cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians, or make substantial progress toward peace. It was perhaps too much to hope for a dramatic breakthrough, but the status quo remains unacceptable.

As we celebrate and commemorate Israeli Independence Day, it is more important than ever to remember why the United States has such a strong relationship with Israel.

Fifty-four years ago, the creation of the state of Israel gave hope to Jews everywhere that safety, freedom, and justice could be found at last—in the ancient cradle of the Jewish faith and civilization. A half-century of friendship and cooperation between Israel and the United States began with President Truman's courageous recognition of Israel shortly after its establishment. Throughout many battles, our relationship has remained strong, and it continues today, with our common search for security and peace in the Middle East.

Israel is now engaged in one of its most challenging wars ever, the war against terrorism. Since the latest Palestinian intifada began, more than 400 Israeli civilians have been killed by suicide bombers—over 125 since March. Hundreds more have been injured in these attacks—attacks that are designed to strike at the heart of Israel itself.

The Palestinians have also suffered hundreds of casualties, and innocent civilians, including children, are being used as human shields by terrorists hiding in refugee camps.

Peace is the only way to move forward, a peace that contemplates two states coexisting side-by-side. But Israel can only achieve peace from a position of strength. I have long been an advocate for a strong US-Israel security relationship. Now is not the time to back away from our security relationship or to give any credence to the misguided efforts of the European Union to impose economic sanctions against Israel.

A critical contribution towards resolution of the current crisis must be taken by moderate Arab regimes—our allies such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia—to pressure the Palestinians to genuinely renounce terrorism. Chairman Arafat's recent statement deploring terrorist attacks—delivered in English to an American—served no more purpose than to bring Secretary Powell to Ramallah. Far more revealing was a recent statement from Mr. Arafat's wife—in Arabic to the Arabic press—saying that she would be proud to have a future son become a suicide bomber.

It has unfortunately been shown time and time again that the parties in the region will be unable to achieve peace on their own. All past breakthroughs for peace have been the result of US and international leadership and every future breakthrough will require the same. I commend the Administration for resuming a leadership role in the Mideast, and I urge it to remain engaged with the parties and moderate Arab states in the region.

Last week, in a ceremony commemorating Yom ha-Shoah, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice made the connection between our remembrance of the Holocaust and our continued fight against evil in the war on terrorism. I would ask that her remarks be entered into the RECORD.

May our memories of the horror of the Holocaust fuel our hunger for a permanent peace.

REMARKS BY CONDOLEEZZA RICE, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, AT THE 2002 NATIONAL COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE—U.S. CAPITOL ROTUNDA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

As Prepared

Survivors, liberators, Members of Congress, Members of the Cabinet, Ambassador Ivry, other members of the diplomatic corps, Benjamin Meed, Fred Zeidman, Elie Wiesel, Ruth Mandel, other honored guests, ladies

and gentlemen: Thank you for inviting me to join you for Yom ha-Shoah.

We gather today to remember that evil is real and present in our world. We gather to remember that hatred and bigotry are always and everywhere wrong. We gather to remember that the commission of monstrous sin requires not our consent, but only our indifference, our neutrality, or our silence. We gather to light six candles, so that we may never forget six million acts of murder.

With each passing year, the number of living Holocaust survivors and liberators grows smaller. When all the eyewitnesses are gone, the Holocaust's history will be taught not from the searing pain of memory but from the pressing call of conscience.

Last year, when the President spoke here, the Holocaust seemed somewhat removed from our era—part of a bloody century now behind us. Sadly, this year we need no prompting to appreciate the Holocaust's importance and its relevance. Fanatical, unreasoning hatred has intruded upon our lives in ways that no one could have imagined months ago.

From the Holy Land, we see daily images of carnage, and from Europe, come images of synagogues and Torah scrolls burned. Our own land has seen the mass destruction of innocents, guilty of nothing more than going to work in a country called America on a beautiful, but terrible autumn morning. And the world was sent obscene videotapes where evil leaders celebrate the slaughter, and yet another tape where a man is killed after being made to say the words, "I am a Jew."

This year, evil has spoken to all of us, and on this day we need no reminder to answer back, but firmly: "never again."

As our world prevails through these difficult days, and as we pray for peace for all the children of Abraham, it is important to recall not just the Holocaust's horrors, but also its heroes: bearers of witness like Jan Karski; rescuers like Wallenberg and Schindler; writers like Anne Frank and Elie Wiesel; and resisters like the Danes and the righteous of many nations who hid and saved many thousands of their Jewish neighbors.

And, of course, we recall those who fought from inside the Warsaw Ghetto in April 1943, and who, as Elie Wiesel wrote, lit a flame that "continues to burn in our memory" even through the distance of six decades.

We draw strength from these names—all familiar to our lips—and we gain inspiration from their stories. Less often, we think of the other heroes, the countless ordinary Jews, Roma, Jehovah's Witnesses, gay people, and disabled men and women who defied the machinery of murder with quiet acts of courage and piety. Their names are mostly unknown to all but Him, yet their lives too instruct.

I remember visiting Yad Vashem and seeing a photograph of a handsomely dressed Jewish couple in the Warsaw Ghetto. The guide at the museum said that people often express consternation at the photograph, wondering how odd it was that against the ghetto's backdrop of danger and desperation this couple had obviously gone to great lengths to ensure that their clothing and grooming were impeccable.

I had a different reaction. I said immediately, "I understand that photograph. These people are saying, 'I'm still in control, I still have my dignity.' They are saying, 'You can take everything from us, including life itself. But you cannot take away our pride.'"

I've often wondered what became of that couple. I imagine that long after they were no longer able to control their appearance they still found subtle ways to say, "You cannot control me, you cannot take away my pride and dignity." I've wondered wheth-

er they were part of the uprising; whether they perished in a camp; whether they were among the few who survived; whether they may even have had children like Marek Edelman or Bronislaw Geremek who survived and went on to become members of Solidarity and leaders in a free and democratic Poland.

And I have thought about that couple from the ghetto even more in the days since September 11. Because right now, all of us are enduring a time of testing, loss, and fear; a time when our vulnerability to evil and the certainty of our mortality are all too clear; a time when once again our intellect is insufficient to answer the question, "Why?" And at these times more than ever, we are reminded that it is a privilege to struggle for good against evil.

We do not choose our circumstances or trials, but we do choose how we respond to them. Too often when all is well, we slip into the false joy and satisfaction of the material and a complacent pride and faith in ourselves. Yet it is through struggle that we find redemption and self-knowledge. This is what the slaves of Exodus learned. And it is what slaves in America meant when they sang: "Nobody knows the trouble I've seen, Glory Hallelujah!"

None of our current travails approach those of the Holocaust. The evil of the Holocaust is singular. Yet its lessons are universal.

So today, we remember that ignorance and cruelty are never far away, and that their atrocities demand action and justice.

We remember that every life has value and all lives are ennobled by opposing hate and bigotry.

We remember that not even mankind's worst depravities can be allowed to dissuade us from our search for worldly and spiritual peace.

In this nation of immigrants, surrounded here by the symbols and totems of tolerance and freedom, we remember our very great responsibility to protect freedom and to welcome all of God's creatures into its loving embrace.

And we remember the words of the Kaddish, "Oseh shalom beem'roh'mahv, hoo ya'aseh shalom, aleynu v'al kohl yisrael v'eemru: Amein."

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD SWINGLE,
JOHN SHUMEJDA, THOMAS
BOYDSTON, ROBERT NORTON
AND TIMOTHY VANDEVORT

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express our most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Edward Swingle, John Shumejda, Thomas Boydston, Robert Norton, and Timothy Vandevort who lost these loved ones in a tragic airplane accident on January 4, 2002, in Birmingham, England.

In honor and memory of these individuals, I will be presenting a flag to each of the families, to Chairman, President and CEO of AGCO, Mr. Bob Ratliff, and to CFO of Epps Aviation, Ms. Marian Epps on April 22, 2002. Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to know what great individuals these men were.

AGCO Corporation, headquartered in Duluth, Georgia, USA, is one of the world's largest manufacturers, designers, and distributors

of agricultural equipment. AGCO provides several brands of products which are sold in more than 140 countries around the world.

John Shumejda was President and Chief Executive Officer of AGCO. He was appointed to the position in 1999 and provided a strong source of leadership for the company.

Edward "Ed" Swingle was Senior Vice President of Worldwide Marketing of AGCO. He had been with the company since its formation in 1990, and greatly contributed to the growth of the company.

Both men were leaders at AGCO from its founding in 1990. Due to their leadership, AGCO is considered one of the top companies in the farming equipment industry.

Epps Aviation, headquartered at Dekalb-Peachtree Airport just outside of Atlanta, Georgia, lost three of its finest and most experienced members of its team:

Thomas "Tommy" Boydston, Director of Operations of Epps Aviation. He had been with the company for over 26 years, and was instrumental in the growth of the Charter Department's fleet and pilots.

Robert "Bob" Norton was a distinguished pilot from Atlanta, Georgia who worked over 20 years for Epps Aviation.

Timothy "Tim" Vandevort was a distinguished pilot from Duluth, Georgia who had worked for Epps Aviation for over 4 years.

Each of these five individuals will be greatly missed by their loving families, their many friends, and by their business associates and customers. I hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in recognizing their dedication to their companies, their families and their country.

IN APPRECIATION OF CATHEY J.
NEWHOUSE

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Cathey J. Newhouse, a teacher at Parnall Elementary School in Jackson, Michigan and recipient of the 2001 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. I request that her recent testimony before the Science Committee be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

STATEMENT OF CATHEY J. NEWHOUSE

Thank you Chairman BOEHLERT and Congressman SMITH for holding the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD open and allowing me to add my ideas on improving science education to those shared on March 20, 2002.

I have been an active learner and lover of science for most of my life. I have been an elementary teacher in Jackson, Michigan for 14 years. I believe that at the elementary level, enthusiasm for and interest in science are crucial, probably even more important than the teaching of facts and concepts in science. Young children need to know with certainty that science is fun to learn! However, science is a scary subject for many elementary teachers.

I would like to see a two-fold commitment to funding for improving science instruction. First, teachers need professional development to increase their knowledge in specific science disciplines. This needs to be an ongoing and consistent professional development, not just a one-time event. Teachers