across the world to use his skills to better the lives of people who live in nations which do not enjoy the medical care available in our great country. Thanks to Dr. Wilson, children around the globe have been given a precious gift—the opportunity to grow up healthy and happy. I have attached an editorial from the Norwich Bulletin commending Dr. Wilson which I request be included following my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I join residents from Norwich in congratulating Dr. William Wilson, Jr. on receiving this prestigious award. He is a humanitarian, a tribute to his family and a great ambassador for our country.

DR. WILLIAM R. WILSON, JR. IS NATIVE SON FOR 1999

William R. Wilson Jr., M.D., today will be awarded the Norwich Rotary Club's Native Son honor for 1999. Bill left Norwich many years ago, and since that departure he has distinguished himself both throughout this country and internationally as a cardiac surgeon and, specifically, a pediatric cardiac surgeon.

The son of Margaret Sullivan Wilson and the late W. Robert Wilson—and the brother of Margaret, known hereabouts as Peggy—Bill was born in Norwich in 1954 and grew up on Lincoln Avenue and Canterbury Turnpike.

During his early years here, Bill learned to golf and ski. He and his sister volunteered for Head Start, and Bill had stints locally with a bank and the American Ambulance Service.

His early learning took place at the John Mason and Samuel Huntington schools, Kelly Junior High and, finally, the Norwich Free Academy from which he graduated in 1972. While his curriculum vitae and individual honors are much too extensive to enumerate here, his education continued at Kenyon College, the University of Connecticut, the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont and Case Western Reserve University.

During his time in Kenyon, Bill served as a town volunteer firefighter. In the course of those duties, he responded to a horrific car accident where one person died at the scene, another at the hospital. That spurred his initial interest in medicine.

Bill's skill today—which includes surgery on infants and more than 125 heart transplants—takes brilliance, a steady hand and enormous dedication.

Bill was 35 before he finished training and went to work.

He has taught anatomy, been staff and chief physician, and today is chief of cardiovascular surgery at The Children's Hospital, University Hospital and Clinics in Columbia, Mo.

He's licensed in Vermont, Minnesota, Illinois, Ohio and Missouri. He's led medical missions to Peru and the Republic of Georgia in the former Soviet Union.

Today, when he's not saving or improving the quality of human lives, Bill and his wife, Joan, and their children Bobby, Brandon and Alaina make their home in Columbia, Mo.

With family, job and an occasional round of golf, the demands on Bill's time are considerable. And though today he calls Missouri home, he will always be a Norwich native, one of whom this community is enormously proud.

The Norwich Rotary Club has made a fine choice in selecting Dr. Wilson as 1999 Native Son. On behalf of the community, we extend our congratulations to a man who has made us very proud.

Well done, Bill, and welcome home.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRAN GRADISAR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor Mr. Fran Gradisar. Later this month, Mr. Gradisar will retire after 39 years as a leading veterinarian in Pueblo, Colorado, and I would like to pay tribute to him for his hard work, dedication and service to citizens of Pueblo and their pets.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Gradisar was drafted and served two years in the Army. Searching for a career after completing his military service, Mr. Gradisar remembered his admiration of dogs and decided to become a veterinarian.

He enrolled at Colorado State University, was accepted to vet school and in 1960, he graduated and returned to Pueblo to work for Dr. Ed Eden for several years. After gaining valuable experience from Dr. Eden, Mr. Gradisar established his own practice which he has maintained since 1964.

His dedication to the health of animals has instilled in the owners of his patients a sense of trust which now brings the third generation of some families to his office. Mr. Gradisar has not only cared for the animals which have visited his office, but he has also volunteered time and services to the humane society.

Individuals such as Mr. Fran Gradisar, who contribute to the community in which they live, and set a good example for all, are a rare breed. Today, as Mr. Gradisar opens the page on a new chapter in his life, I would like to offer my gratitude for his work ethic and for the inspiration which he has provided. It is clear that Pueblo has benefitted greatly from his practice. I would like to congratulate him on a job well done, and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE HEALTH COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would provide coverage for hearing aids under the health benefits program for Federal employees.

Hearing loss is a health issue. If hearing loss is not treated, it can affect the general and psychological health of an individual. Studies show that people with hearing loss often suffer serious emotional and social consequences. Untreated hearing loss can lead to depression, anxiety, stress and chemical dependency which results in an increase in medical visits and hospital stays.

Many people feel that there is a stigma attached to hearing loss and try to hide it. This is especially true of employees who fear that they will be seen as less than competent in the workplace if they admit that they have a hearing loss.

Hearing loss affects about nine million Americans over the age of 65 and 10 million Americans between 45 and 64. About three out of five older Americans and six out of seven middle-aged Americans with hearing loss do not wear a hearing aid. More than one-half of the non-users cite the cost as a reason for not wearing a hearing aid.

Hearing aids are a major uncovered health care expense. The average cost of a hearing aid in 1997 was $971. By providing health care coverage, this legislation will ensure that federal employees and their families will be able to afford much-needed hearing aids.

There are a number of insurance policies that cover hearing aids. The California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) provides coverage for hearing tests and hearing evaluations, at no cost. This plan also covers up to $1,000 every three years for hearing aids.

The State of Minnesota Employees Insurance provides coverage for hearing exams and up to 80 percent of the cost of a hearing aid for all its employees. And Hartford Insurance offers hearing testing and the full cost of two aids every five years.

Mr. Speaker, hearing loss is one of the most prevalent chronic conditions in America. We must address this serious problem by making hearing aids more affordable, so that hearing-impaired individuals and their families can improve the quality of their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say that I missed votes numbered 204–238 from June 14 to 18, 1999, as I was attending the inauguration ceremony of South African President Thabo Mbeki.

Under the authorization of Chairman BEN GILMAN of the House International Relations Committee, I was the sole representative of the U.S. Congress at the inauguration.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF DAYTON, KENTUCKY

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and celebration of the 150th birthday of Dayton, Kentucky.

Dayton is a city that has overcome much adversity in its 150 years, including three major floods. Dayton's resilience can be traced to the strong work ethic of its people. The people of Dayton, including its government, business, and education leaders, have always had a ''roll up your sleeves and get to work'' attitude. It's that kind of work ethic that helped build America's great cities—big and small.

Earlier this month, I was honored to take part in Dayton's sesquicentennial parade to commemorate Dayton's many accomplishments and to celebrate this important milestone. And today, in the U.S. House of Representatives, I rise to congratulate the city of

Dayton. To the people of Dayton on the occasion of your city's sesquicentennial—Happy Birthday to you.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF THOMPSON SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHERS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the ceaseless service of over 20 school teachers and principals upon their retirement from the Thompson School District in Loveland and Berthoud, Colorado. From first grade to twelfth grade, these hard working citizens have dedicated their lives to America's youth. Through education, these mentors selflessly helped students of all ages to believe in themselves and strive to achieve their goals. A majority of these teachers served the Thompson School District for at least 20 years, and others have dedicated as much as 30 years in the district. Their unrelenting work is truly a tribute to the Thompson School District and to American public schools.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby personally recognize each of these educators on behalf of the House of Representatives of the United States of America: Debra Biernat, Bonnie Bonewitz, Frances Clark, Carol Dormer, Nancy Erickson, Martha Grohusky, Cecilo Gutierrez, Wayne Gutowski, JoAnn Hanson, Vicki Hout, Ellyn Johnson, Marion Kolstoe, James McReynolds, Lee Parsons, Mary Peterson, Sandra Roorda, Terry Roulier, Charles Schoonover, Susan Schoonover, William Shields, William Speiser, James Spoon, Karen Storm, Valerie Trujillo, Mary Vogesser, and Joan Zuboy. These educators' devotion to children has earned the respect of their colleagues, parents, and students. I wish them a very fulfilling retirement and the best in all of their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO JANE QUINE, FORMER CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER; AKRON, OHIO, ACTIVIST

HON. TOM SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, with her lilting Milledgeville, Georgia, accent, Jane Quine became an improbable but highly effective political leader in Akron, Ohio, for 25 years. Jane Quine died at age 81 last Thursday in Jacksonville, Florida. She has left us with abundant memories of her leadership, her grace, and her seemingly boundless energy.

Mrs. Quine served twice as a congressional staffer. First, she worked for Rep. Carl Vinson during the build-up and height of World War II. This was where she met Akronite John Quine. Mr. Quine, on assignment to Vinson's Naval Affairs Committee, was persuasive enough not only to marry her, but to convince her to make Akron her home.

We didn't call it the ''mommy track'' back then, but Jane Quine did give up active politics for about two decades while she raised six children. Then she returned to the political arena in 1970 as a campaign worker for John Seiberling, my predecessor in Congress. With Rep. Seiberling, she reprised her role as congressional staffer, becoming his District Director for several years.

Then she ran a number of key local campaigns, including my own campaigns for Mayor of Akron and for the U.S. House of Representatives. Unlike the smoke-filled rooms that local politics sometimes bring to mind, Jane Quine used her gracious home as the setting for countless meetings, both formal and informal, as she built a strong party network. She mentored, and some would say mothered, politicians from across the county. All along, the values she espoused were democratic, in the broadest sense of the word—duty, activism, inclusion, participation, service.

In 1986, Governor Richard Celeste appointed her to the University of Akron board of trustees, where she served through 1995. In 1990, Jane Quine became the first woman to chair the Summit County Democratic Party. She also served on the board of the Akron-Canton Regional Airport for most of the 1980's as it prepared for a period of unprecedented growth.

Those of us left behind in snowy Ohio regretted her leaving in 1995 for St. Augustine, Florida, where she immersed herself in still more worthy causes. Still, a whole generation of Akron's public officials found her departure left a distinct void in our lives, compounded by Thursday's sad news.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Tuesday's editorial from the Akron Beacon Journal, recounting Mrs. Quine's many contributions to the Akron area, by printed in the RECORD.

JANE QUINE: ALWAYS A DEMOCRAT, ALWAYS THERE FOR DEMOCRATS

If ever there was a person associated with polite politics, it was Jane Quine. A genteel, old-fashioned Southerner, Mrs. Quine believed that slash-and-burn campaigns did the practice of professional politics, which she loved, far more harm than good.

Mrs. Quine, who died last week in Florida at age 81, was the rock on which many local political careers were built. She was a mainstay of local Democratic politics for several decades, including service as the first female county Democratic chairman. A self-described ''stamp-licker'' for U.S. Rep. John Seiberling's first successful campaign, Mrs. Quine is credited either with launching political careers or helping to sustain them with wise counsel, vast energy and unwavering loyalty.

She couldn't resist the call to help Democrats. She became active in party politics in St. Augustine, Fla., where she moved in 1995. After all, she said, ''There aren't many of us down here.''

Her innate sense of right and wrong kept her involved. Politics requires two strong parties, and she was a true Democrat. She also believed in her duty to the community, serving on the boards of the University of Akron and the Akron-Canton Regional Airport.

If local politics has turned harsh, it may be because people such as Jane Quine aren't on the scene to give it a firm but far gentler push toward reason.

TRIBUTE TO MS. CECELIA B. HENDERSON, AREA DIRECTOR, THE LINKS, INCORPORATED ''THE BIG APPLE CLUSTER''

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the accomplishments of Ms. Cecelia B. Henderson of The Links, Incorporated for her contributions to African Americans, especially the youth in eastern cities and communities, preparing them to meet the challenges in professions and fields where African Americans are few in number.

The first Links club was founded in November 1946 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with only nine members. The purpose of the organization at its inception was to foster friendship and render service to needy African-American families. The membership has grown to more than 10,500 today, with 270 chapters located in forty (40) US cities, Nassau, Bahamas, and in Frankfurt, Germany.

Today, The Links is a volunteer service organization of concerned, committed, and talented women who through service, linked in friendship, commits itself to enhancing the quality of life in the larger community. Because of the rich legacy of the organization, it has contributed over 15 million dollars to worthy causes through grants-in-aid, and through many effective initiatives within communities across the country. Through its participation in UNICEF, the organization is active abroad, in building elementary schools in South Africa, contributing to the construction of water wells elsewhere in Africa, and aiding the Caribbean Women's Health Association to improve the lives of Caribbean women and children.

Ms. Henderson has served as the Eastern Area Director of The Links for the past four years. She became a member of the Buffalo, New York, Chapter in 1974, and has held numerous leadership positions in the local chapter, and at the National Level.

In 1997, and again in 1999, under the leadership of Ms. Henderson, The Eastern Area Links presented a classroom-based educational program entitled, HeartPower to school districts in New York City and Philadelphia with a simple message, ''you too can have a healthy heart, it's as easy as 1–2–3''. This program fits with the overall theme which Ms. Henderson developed for the Eastern Area, ''Serve up Success: Build Linkages . . . Empower the Black Family.''

A retired educator with a long and commendable professional career in the Buffalo, New York, school system, Ms. Henderson has served the Links with her expertise in promoting health education.

As the community celebrates her years of leadership and service at the thirty-fifth Eastern Area Conference, I offer our congratulations to her as she is recognized for the differences that her efforts have made in cultivating the talents, and developing the abilities of the youth of today, with the potential of becoming local, national and world leaders of the twenty-first century.