

event ever held in the history of New England. Her name is Dusty Rhodes.

Eight years ago, immediately following her success in producing Sail Boston 92, Dusty, as President of Conventures, Inc. flew to London to attend the Annual International Sail Training (ISTA) Race Committee Conference. Although not on any agenda, she lobbied committee members, ISTA officials, ship captains, diplomats, and governmental officials, promoting Boston as a potential Race Port for the year 2000.

Energetically and tirelessly (and pregnant), she fought for Boston. It was just the beginning of her persistent and often frustrating attempts to have Boston officially designated for the Tall Ships 2000 Race. Dusty returned each year, from 1993 to 1997 continuing her mission and, I will add, all at her own expense.

In 1996 the International Race Committee selected Boston as a result of her efforts. OPSAIL then entered the competition for the first time attempting to have New York designated as the Official Race Port in place of Boston. Race Ports were required to pay a port fee to ISTA under the Race Committee Rules. New York refused and Dusty Rhodes committed her own funds to assure Boston's involvement. These funds, like many others which accrued during the planning process of Sail Boston, were totally at risk, but Dusty's belief in the potential of this millennium tall ship event made her even more determined. She took that risk and, when the dust settled, Boston had been selected and the OPSAIL, New York/Boston battle began.

Sail Boston was a huge success, from a maritime as well as a financial point of view for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Hotels, restaurants, tour boats and retail establishments all benefited substantially from the millions of people who came to Boston for the return of the Tall Ships. Thanks to Dusty Rhodes and her efforts on behalf of the City, Boston will continue its prominence as a destination point for national and international tourism. In a 1992 Boston Globe article, she was referred to as "the Unsinkable Dusty Rhodes." With all the obstacles thrown in her way, Dusty has proved to be just that, and we all can thank her for making the Summer of 2000 a most memorable one.

MISSED OPPORTUNITY ON MEDICAL PRIVACY

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, today I spoke regarding the unfinished business of ensuring Americans that their personal medical information will be kept confidential. Despite a consensus that an individual's health information is easily accessed and susceptible to manipulation, Congress failed to act on this crucial issue.

This is certainly not a new issue. I first introduced comprehensive medical privacy legislation at the beginning of the 104th Congress. Last year, in an effort to reach a consensus, I worked closely with Rep. HENRY WAXMAN, Rep. ED MARKEY and Rep. JOHN DINGELL to develop a bill that could gain the support of

the majority of our colleagues. The product of this effort was H.R. 1941, the Health Information Privacy Act. In addition to the four primary sponsors, 66 of our colleagues joined us in sponsoring this legislation.

We were not alone in our efforts to protect these sensitive records. The Secretary of Health and Human Services, directed by provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, issued proposed health privacy regulations on November 3, 1999 after Congress failed to meet its self imposed deadline. In all, these proposed regulations represent a good solid start, but failed to address several key items since the Secretary's scope was limited to health plans, clearinghouses and providers that share health information electronically.

Therefore, the proposed regulations did not cover health records that have never been maintained or shared electronically. Additionally, the Secretary's proposal does not cover all entities that come into possessions of health information. Safeguards given to an individual's health record should be applied equally, whether it is in the hand of a health care provider, researcher or a lending institution.

Unfortunately, the issue of medical privacy was never given the attention it deserves in this Congress. The leadership of the next Congress, should make this issue a priority and make a public commitment to schedule a full, fair and open floor debate within the first three months of reconvening the next session. This will be the only way we can come to an agreement on comprehensive medical privacy legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MIZELL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR RECEIPT OF THE 2000 ALABAMA QUALITY AWARD

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding business in my congressional district which was recently honored with a prestigious state award for operational excellence.

Earlier this month, Mizell Memorial Hospital in Opp, Alabama was named the winner of the 2000 Alabama Quality Award for excellence in leadership; strategic planning; patients, other customers, staff and market focus; information and analysis; process management; and organizational performance.

The Alabama Quality Award, modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, honors organizations whose recent innovations increased productivity and quality within the organization.

For years, Mizell Memorial has served rural South Alabama with a level of professionalism equal to and surpassing Alabama's most innovative and progressive businesses. I am pleased that its employees' fine work and dedication has finally been recognized with this prestigious award.

My congratulations go out to Mizell Memorial Hospital's management and employees for their exemplary efforts to improve the lives of south Alabamians.

TRIBUTE TO HANNAH JOANN LANZHEN SIMONS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pride to extend this official welcome to one of our nation's newest citizens, Hannah JoAnn LanZhen Simons of Hood River, Oregon.

Hannah was born November 8, 1996 in Magongtan, Zhejiang Province in the Peoples Republic of China. Her first months were spent in the Lanxi Social Welfare Institute, an orphanage. In the summer of 1997, she was adopted at Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, PRC by her mother, Marta Simons, and brought to the United States to live. On September 26 of this year, she became a citizen of the United States.

It's a wonderful thing that China allows for these adoptions which have lifted little babies out of orphanages and placed them into arms of loving families here in America.

Mr. Speaker, it's also important to acknowledge the continued efforts of this Congress to expand the opportunity and affordability for adoption. Together, with families like Hannah's, we're making life better for children from around the world.

ABBOTT LABORATORIES OVER- CHARGES TAXPAYERS AND JEOPARDIZES PUBLIC HEALTH

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am today submitting for the RECORD a letter I sent to Mr. Miles White, Chief Executive Officer of Abbott Laboratories. Recent congressional investigations have collected evidence that Abbott has reported inflated prices and has engaged in other improper business practices in order to create windfall profits for providers submitting Medicare and Medicaid claims for certain Abbott drugs.

Such drug company behavior overcharges taxpayers and jeopardizes the public health system. The letter follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 31, 2000.

Mr. MILES WHITE,
Chief Executive Officer, Abbott Laboratories,
Abbott Park, IL.

DEAR MR. WHITE: You should by now be aware of Congressional investigations revealing that Abbott has for many years reported and published inflated and misleading price data and has engaged in other deceptive business practices. This letter is a call for your company to immediately cease overcharging taxpayers and jeopardizing the public health.

The price manipulation scheme is executed through Abbott's inflated representations of average wholesale price ("AWP") and direct price ("DP") which are utilized by the Medicare and Medicaid programs in establishing drug reimbursements to providers. The difference between the inflated representations of AWP and DP versus the true price providers are paying, is regularly referred to in