

work with the Bilingual Education Project was unprecedented in the efforts to protect the precious culture of the Chamorro people through their language. His genius and contributions to the Chamorro language as well as all the languages of Micronesia cannot be overstated.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I would like to extend our condolences to the family of the late Dr. Donald Topping. The people of Guam will always be grateful for his work with the Chamorro language. It is through the work of a man like Dr. Topping that a greater understanding and appreciation of the cultures of the world can be gained.

**MILITARY RETIREE SURVIVOR
COMFORT ACT**

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act. This legislation is a simple provision aimed to provide a small amount of relief to surviving beneficiaries of military retirees.

As my colleagues may be aware, federal regulations require the Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS) to terminate payment of the retired pay upon notification of the retiree's death. Once the surviving spouse or beneficiary notifies the finance center, DFAS then electronically withdraws the entirety of the last payment from the deceased retiree's checking account. Then several weeks later, the retiree's beneficiary will receive a check in the mail containing a pro-rated portion of the military pay for the days for which the retiree was still living.

The current process rightfully and sensibly seeks to only pay military retirees for when they are alive, but it can and often does have an adverse impact on the retiree's beneficiary. Many of these surviving spouses or caregivers are living on fixed incomes. When the retirement pay is deposited, they use those funds to pay things like rent, medical expenses, or other living expenses. Automatically withdrawing those funds can inadvertently cause rent checks to bounce and place great additional financial strain on a beneficiary when they are already faced with great loss and the prospect of additional costs associated with the military retiree's death.

In many respects, a military spouse has provided equal service and sacrifices as the military members themselves. While they may not face the perils of combat, they often raise families alone, endure long separations, and provide a mutual safety net for other military families. This legislation seeks to recognize that sacrifice by forgiving the overpayment made to the surviving beneficiary if that beneficiary has a joint bank account with the military retiree. In order to offset some of the minimal cost, the recipient receiving the overpayment would forgo the first month of Survivor Benefit Plan payments. The individual amounts will be small, but they will provide great comfort to those who are already losing much.

In closing, I would like to thank the Fleet Reserve Association for their great assistance in working with me on this legislation. They are dedicated advocates for military personnel

and their families, and this is just one more example of their efforts. I look forward to working with the Fleet Reserve Association and many other colleagues in seeing enactment of this legislation.

**PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET
ACCESS ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in strong support of H.R. 2427, a bill that will help lower the cost of prescription drugs for our seniors. I applaud the efforts of Representatives EMERSON, GUTKNECHT and EMANUEL to get this bill to the floor for a vote.

For many years now, I have supported adding a prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program. While I have strong concerns about the bill that passed the House last month on this subject, I am hopeful a good final product can be worked out with the Senate that will indeed give prescription drug relief for our seniors. This bill tonight is an important part of that effort. While helping seniors with the costs of their drugs is critical, we must also take steps to lower the cost of prescription drugs.

It is no secret that U.S. seniors pay far more for the same drugs than seniors in Canada, Europe and other parts of the world. For example, the same prescription for Prilosec costs \$112 in the U.S., but only \$59.00 in Canada and \$49.25 in Europe. H.R. 2427 would allow the reimportation of U.S.-produced drugs into the U.S. to take advantage of these lower prices.

However, the pharmaceutical industry is desperate to maintain its ability to force seniors to pay the highest possible prices for prescription drugs. Seniors in the U.S. should not have to supply the profit margin for the prescription drug industry. Too many people have to make the choice between eating dinner and buying their medicine. Too many people are cutting their pills in half to make their prescriptions last longer. We can do something about that by passing this bill tonight.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate prescription drug legislation contains a reimportation provision. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so it can be included in the final version of the Medicare prescription drug bill. By conservative estimates, we can save our seniors \$630 billion over the next decade by passing this legislation. Our seniors deserve equity with seniors elsewhere in the world. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 2427.

SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2210) to authorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes:

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Chairman, Head Start is one of the semiannual innovations in education in the history of America. The bill before us, the School Readiness Act of 2003, is not as catastrophic as its critics tonight are suggesting. No program, however successful, is immune to improvement. On the other hand, the kind of demonstration block grant approach included in this legislation could over time transform Head Start programming in such a way as to weaken the federal nexus and allow states discretionary authority that could, in the name of seeking higher standards, actually diminish those standards.

Of particular concern to me is that the bill authorizes the removal of certain civil rights protections that have historically accompanied virtually all federal programs. I have voted in the past to allow religious organizations in their religious pursuits to be exempt from certain federal mandates, but organizations using federal funds for secular missions should not be allowed to operate outside the scope of the laws that apply to everyone else.

The irony of removing civil rights standards from Head Start programs is that Head Start is an opportunity initiative disproportionately aimed at disadvantaged kids. The message of removal of civil rights protections from Head Start programs is that kids would be asked to work hard but not expect to work here.

Under Title 1 of the School Readiness Act, there are certain quality improvements called for that were consensus in the committee and are acknowledged as steps forward by both sides in the debate this evening. The principal controversy relates to the block grant approach in Title 2 and on this subject, I support the amendment of Representative George Miller of California which embraces the Title 1 provisions of the bill but remolds Title 2 to more closely parallel the way Head Start services are currently provided.

My sense is that this evening's Floor debate has been rife with rhetorical excesses on both sides, but while I am convinced of the good will of the bill's architect, Mike Castle of Delaware, I share the reservations of experts in the field about the approach the majority proposes. While all federal programs deserve to be reviewed with an eye to improvement, the case for structural change of the kind envisioned in this legislation is unconvincing.

Head Start is an American success story. It deserves the respect of this body.

**TRIBUTE TO CHESTERFIELD
SMITH**

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, this nation lost one of its greatest lawyers, leaders, and statesmen last week. Chesterfield Smith was not only my neighbor and friend; he was a role model and an icon of probity, integrity, and decency.

Chesterfield Smith set the bar for anyone who aspires to a legal or public service career. His model of leadership, vision, and strength of character had an enormous impact upon my family. He sought the truth, regardless of the political consequences. His dedication to our nation's justice system rightly earned him

recognition as "America's Lawyer" and as "the conscience of the legal profession."

Reared in the Southwest Florida town of Arcadia, Chesterfield Smith served his country heroically in World War II, earning the Bronze Star while fighting with General George S. Patton's 3rd Army in Europe. Following his discharge with the rank of major in 1945, he returned to his native Florida to attend law school at the University of Florida.

He began his law practice with the firm of Treadwell & Treadwell in Arcadia, joining the firm of Holland, Bevis, & McCrae in the neighboring community of Bartow one year and one-half later. Achieving the status of partner in record time, Chesterfield Smith began to build what would become the nation's eighth largest law firm upon a foundation of skilled professionalism, unassailable ethics, and dedicated public service.

In 1964, the Florida Bar recognized Chesterfield Smith's extraordinary leadership abilities by electing him its President. He was appointed Chairman of the Florida Constitutional Revision Commission in 1965, where he challenged and defeated the grip on power of the "Pork Chop Gang," a group of rural Florida legislators who had dominated Florida's state government through the repugnant device of malapportionment.

The entire nation became familiar with Chesterfield Smith's courage and unwavering commitment to principle during his presidency of the American Bar Association in 1973 and 1974. Stating his reasoning simply but powerfully through the words "no man is above the law," he issued the first public call for an investigation of President Nixon's role in the Watergate break-in.

While his potent sense of justice helped steer our nation through a period of great peril to our Constitution, Chesterfield Smith's fundamental sense of right and wrong helped guide his beloved Florida through the turmoil of the civil rights movement. He served as an outspoken opponent of segregation, while transforming his law firm into a model of diversity.

In 1997, Governor Lawton Chiles formally recognized Chesterfield Smith as a Great Floridian. In 2002, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg presented Smith with the Laurie D. Zelon Pro Bono Award, describing him as "among the brightest, boldest, bravest, all-around most effective lawyers ever bred in Florida and the USA."

Mr. Speaker, as we mourn the passing of this great American, may the light of his passionate commitment to the legal profession, to our nation, and to humanity at large continue to animate our dreams and aspirations as public servants.

BARBARA CRITTENDEN SCHOTT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Barbara Crittenden Schott of Detroit, Michigan, who passed away in her home in Riverside, California on June 13, 2003 at the age of 90. Her unselfish efforts to better the lives of those around her will be remembered through her dedication and commitment to numerous volunteer organizations.

Barbara was the wife of the late General Wes Schott and mother of the late Christopher D. Schott. She is survived by her son, Kenneth and daughter-in-law, Marian Castro Schott of San Diego, California. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Derreth Schott Painter of Herndon, Virginia, Gwendolyn D. Schott of Hickory, North Carolina, and Charles Wesley Schott III of Escondido, California and four great-grandchildren.

Barbara Schott will be remembered for her volunteer work which began in 1940 with the American Red Cross. She was a tireless volunteer in both the military and private sectors, especially medical services organizations. Barbara served on the board of directors for both the Fort Worth and Roswell Good Neighbor Council. She also established the Arlington Ladies, a military wives club, and the Air Force-wide Dependents Assistance Program, now referred to as Family Services. But the people of Guam will especially remember Barbara for actively promoting broader military interaction with the civilian communities on Guam.

Barbara will also be remembered for her efforts to advance the Fine Arts. Her cultural contributions include the Guam Arts Society, the Children's Theater Guild, the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists, the Costume Club of Los Angeles, and the Auxiliary of the Neighborhood Youth Council. Barbara was also an active member in the Los Angeles and Santa Monica Pi Beta Phi Club.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend our condolences to the family of Barbara Crittenden Schott. Her selfless love of humanity will serve as an example for us to model our lives after.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL
RAILROAD HALL OF FAME IN
GALESBURG, ILLINOIS

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to introduce a Resolution that would recognize the National Railroad Hall in Galesburg, Illinois.

The American Railroad industry has enjoyed a long history in this country. Its impact on the economy, science, technology, national defense, and our national lifestyle is immeasurable. For that reason, a private group has gathered in Galesburg, Illinois to create a National Railroad Hall of Fame. The mission of the Hall of Fame focuses on the men and women whose ingenuity and labor built, developed and maintained one of our nation's greatest forms of transportation. They are building this to remind us of the history of this industry and to inspire us to continue the American ingenuity that developed our railroad system.

For 2001, they introduced the first inductees. The people that they recognized were George Pullman, Sanford Fleming, and Louis Menk, all of whom provided enormous contributions to the success of the railroad industry. Instead of focusing on the founders of the industry, the inductees come from three eras in railroad history: Birth & Development 1800–

1865, Golden Era 1866–1945, and Modern Era 1946–Present. In highlighting all these periods, the Hall of Fame seeks to show the continuing growth of the railroad industry.

Currently, the National Railroad Hall of Fame in Galesburg is simply looking for Congressional recognition. The same thing that they have been doing since 1995, when I first introduced this resolution. It is high time that we recognize this self-funded, self-directed program for the contribution that it is bringing to preserving the history of this mighty industry and therefore this nation.

HONORING HOWARD CASH AND
GENE CODES CORPORATION

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate President Howard Cash and the employees of Gene Codes Corporation on their inexhaustible efforts and immense accomplishments in identifying the remains of those killed at the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001. Over the course of the past few years, Mr. Cash and the Gene Codes employees have proven themselves to be truly amazing under some of the most challenging circumstances imaginable.

On September 26, 2001, Mr. Cash and his employees responded to a call to service when the New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner requested that the Gene Codes Corporation assist in the process of identifying the victims of the World Trade Center terrorist attack. The challenge was to create software capable of matching DNA extracted from thousands of remains at Ground Zero to the list of close to 3000 missing persons. Motivated by the anguish caused by the horrific attacks on our country, the Gene Codes staff unanimously agreed to undertake a complex project that was proving to be impossible using current technology. Moreover, Gene Codes decided to complete the project at cost. As a consequence, the Corporation suffered its first unprofitable quarter in eight-and-a-half years.

As thousands of families anxiously awaited the results, the entire technical staff began working solely on the Trade Center project, thus committing to extremely long hours and a great deal of emotional wear and tear. The employees' inexhaustible labor and long hours epitomize the indomitable spirit and unity of the American people. The precision and effectiveness of their software, Mass Fatality Identification System (M-FISys), embodies the limitless dedication and expertise of the Gene Codes staff.

Howard Cash and his corporation have been at the forefront of commercial bioinformatics developments since 1984. Former Michigan Governor John Engler appointed Howard Cash to the Michigan State Commission on Genetics, Privacy and Progress in 1997. In addition, Gene Codes was named one of the Future 50 of Greater Detroit in 2002. Howard Cash's leadership, patriotism and perseverance earned him the title of Entrepreneur of the Year in 2002 by both the New Enterprise Forum and Ernst &