

Prescription Electronic Reporting System (KASPER) which monitors Schedule II through IV controlled substances to detect and deter abuse. Dr. Manchikanti touted the benefits of KASPER which allows him to receive a report on all of the controlled substances his patients have been prescribed.

The problem that Dr. Manchikanti identified was that while KASPER was effective in Kentucky, there was no mechanism to determine if his patients had been prescribed a controlled substance in another state. In Kentucky, which is bordered by seven states (four in my District alone), it is easy for an individual to engage in the practice of "Dr. Shopping." In an effort to address the problem, Dr. Manchikanti and the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP) proposed legislation creating a national monitoring system based on KASPER whereby physicians in all states would have access to the controlled substance prescription information of their patients, no matter where they filled the prescription. To that end, Dr. Manchikanti and ASIPP submitted draft legislation entitled the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act (NASPER).

After reviewing the language and examining the idea, I decided to introduce NASPER with my colleague FRANK PALLONE during the 107th Congress. After three years of hard work by Dr. Manchikanti, ASIPP, and our supporters in Congress, we passed NASPER in both Houses of Congress and President Bush signed it into law on August 11th. NASPER combats prescription drug abuse through the creation of a grant program housed at the Department of Health and Human Services to help states establish and maintain state-operated prescription drug monitoring programs (PMPs). California established the first PMP in 1940. Nineteen additional states currently operate a PMP and five more are in the process of establishing them.

NASPER addresses one of the main impediments to existing PMPs—that they currently operate only on an intrastate basis while the diversion of drugs is an interstate problem. We help foster interstate communication by establishing some uniform standards on information and privacy protections that will make it easier for states to share information. Columbia University noted in a report released over the summer that between 1992 and 2003 the number of people abusing prescription drugs increased 94 percent—twice the increase in the number of people using marijuana, five times the number of people using cocaine, and 60 times the number of people using heroin. Even more disturbing, the report found a 212 percent increase in the number of children between the ages of 12 and 17 abusing prescription drugs.

NASPER, which is now Public Law 109–60, would not have been possible without the leadership provided by Dr. Manchikanti and ASIPP. I'm confident that the enactment of NASPER will give physicians and law enforcement an additional tool to help reduce the number of Americans abusing prescription drugs.

IN RECOGNITION OF BETTY GORHAM AND FIFTY YEARS AS A CHURCH ORGANIST

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Betty Gorham, who will be celebrating 50 years as a church organist on Sunday, October 2, 2005.

Betty Gorham is now the organist at First Baptist Church of Saks in Anniston, Alabama, and has been since October of 1975.

Betty Gorham began taking organ lessons at age seven in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where her family moved after her father's death in 1943. Her instruction continued until she was 16 years old, at which time she was performing at her home church, Eastdale Baptist Church. Her first full-time job as an organist was at Signal Mountain Baptist in Chattanooga in 1957, and was followed shortly by a move to Birmingham, Alabama, to play at Huffman Baptist Church. In fact, it was while playing the organ for a wedding rehearsal at this church that she met her future husband, Jim Gorham. They were married in 1958, and Betty followed her husband in several moves around the State of Alabama. They went first to Montgomery, where Betty played at Ridgecrest Baptist; then to Mobile in 1960, where she played at Westlawn Baptist; then back to Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963, where she played first at Fairfield Highlands Baptist Church and then at Center Point Baptist. Finally in 1973, the Gorhams moved to Anniston, Alabama, where she played at Parker Memorial and Heflin Baptist Church before beginning her long career at First Baptist Church of Saks.

Betty and Jim Gorham have now been married 47 years and have four grandchildren. In addition to her devotion to her family and her church and church music, Betty has found time to do charitable work in the community.

Let us all congratulate Betty Gorham on her 50 years of service as a church organist and thank her for her 30 years of service at First Baptist Church of Saks in Anniston, Alabama.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the citizens of Taiwan and to recognize their democratically elected President Chen Shui-bian who has made a stopover in the United States en route to Central America. I trust that President Chen has had a good visit in the U.S.

In the last five years, Taiwan has continued to impress the world as a prosperous island nation, free and democratic. Taiwan is truly committed to genuine democratization, as evidenced by the third direct presidential election of 2004.

By working together, Taiwan and China will have the potential to make significant contributions to peace, security and prosperity in the

entire Pacific Rim. I sincerely hope that a framework will soon be established for peaceful interactions between the two sides. It is everyone's dream that rapprochement between Taiwan and China be possible within the shortest period of time and to all parties' satisfaction.

The people of the U.S. appreciate Taiwan's cooperation with the U.S. government in combating global terrorism and Taiwan's monetary contributions to the Twin Towers Fund and the Pentagon Memorial Fund. The relationship between Taiwan and the United States is strong and healthy. Ambassador David Tawei Lee is an effective bridge between the government of Taiwan and the government of the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, we must always remember Taiwan's important role in maintaining peace and stability in the Pacific Rim. To have permanent peace in the region, the U.S. must do its part in urging Taiwan and China to continue peaceful dialogue and exchanges.

COMMEMORATING THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES' 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of the National Endowment for the Humanities—a small, independent Federal agency that each year puts millions of Americans in contact with the ideas, ideals, and institutions of our great Nation.

As co-chairman of the newly established Congressional Humanities Caucus, I would like to congratulate the Endowment's Chairman, Dr. Bruce Cole, and his dedicated staff on the agency's anniversary.

In establishing the NEH through the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965, Congress declared that "encouragement and support of national progress . . . in the humanities . . . , while primarily a matter of private and local initiative, is also an appropriate matter of concern to the Federal Government." Acknowledging the Federal Government's interest in promoting progress and scholarship in the humanities, the 89th Congress expressed this interest in a single, powerful observation: "Democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens."

For 40 years, NEH has promoted "wisdom and vision" by advancing the study and understanding of history, literature, languages, archaeology, and philosophy throughout the United States. With the relatively small amount of funding provided by Congress to the agency each year, the Endowment provides important seed money for projects and programs including scholarly editions of the papers of historical and cultural figures, preservation of historically important books and newspapers, seminars and institutes for K–12 teachers and college and university faculty, major television documentaries, and educational museum exhibitions.

Beginning in 2002, at the direction of President Bush and with the support of Congress, NEH began a historic initiative, We the People. We the People is a multi-faceted, agency-wide program focused on examining significant events and themes in our Nation's history. The initiative is designed to expand