

families allows us to demonstrate our immense gratitude for those who have courageously served our country.

Mr. Speaker, nation's veterans and their service to our appreciation for their service to our country. I ask all my colleagues to join me in voting favorably on S. 2562.

RECOGNIZING FINANCIAL
PLANNING WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 973, "Recognizing Financial Planning Week." I want to thank Mr. HINOJOSA and Mrs. BIGGERT for introducing the resolution. I am cosponsor of this resolution because I believe that we must acknowledge the importance of financial planning for all Americans.

This resolution accepts the goal of financial planning as a tool to enable families and individuals to achieve their financial and life goals. It recognizes the relevance of financial planners, many of whom are essential to American individuals and families planning for their futures.

Sound financial planning must be integrated into any comprehensive life plan. Many of the financial instruments and investments require basic if not advanced financial planning to be used productively. Financial independence is a goal that I strongly advocate. Without financial independence it is impossible to function and to meet future challenges.

The Financial Planning Association has designated the week beginning October 2, 2006 as Financial Planning Week. The House officially recognizes the importance of financial planning and financial planners in the process, and this resolution embraces Financial Planning Week. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

ON THE DEATH OF SECOND
LIEUTENANT EMILY J.T. PEREZ

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the tragic loss of Second Lieutenant Emily J.T. Perez, a young soldier from Prince George's County, MD, who gave the ultimate measure of sacrifice for our Nation in Iraq, saddens all of us.

And today, I want to pay tribute to this outstanding young American, as well as express my deepest condolences to her family, including her parents, Vicki and Daniel, and all of her friends and loved ones.

Second Lieutenant Perez of Fort Washington died on September 12 after a roadside bomb exploded under her Humvee. She is the first female graduate of West Point to die in Iraq.

But she should not be remembered solely for how she passed from this life and into God's hands. She must be remembered for the outstanding and inspiring way in which she lived and those she touched during her 23 years.

Emily Perez was a trailblazer and a star in every sense of the word.

She rose to the top of her class at Oxon Hill High School. She became the first minority female command sergeant in the history of the U.S. Military Academy. And she excelled at everything from track to the gospel choir.

As the Washington Post reported, friends and family members nicknamed her "Kobe," after Los Angeles Lakers basketball player Kobe Bryant, because "everyone knew she could make the shots, in whatever she did."

Second Lieutenant Perez was best known for her tenacious leadership, first as a wing commander of Junior ROTC and then on the campus of West Point. She leaves behind a collection of young cadets inspired by her patriotism, as they prepare for military careers defending our Nation.

While incredibly strong willed, Perez also is remembered for her sensitivity to others, organizing an HIV-AIDS ministry in high school after family members contracted the virus.

Yet it was being a soldier that was Perez's true calling. She was born into a military family in Heidelberg, Germany, and knew from a very young age that she wanted to serve. After graduating from West Point, she was assigned to the Army's 204th Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and deployed to Iraq in December.

One of her mentors, Roger Pollard, told the Post: "I clearly remember thinking that she would definitely be the first female president of this country."

Lost at the age of 23, we will never know what was in store for this extraordinary young woman. But one thing is certain: She heroically served her Nation in defense of our freedom, and we should all be proud of the full life she led in her short time here.

STATEMENT ON IOM REC-
COMMENDATIONS FOR FDA RE-
FORM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring to my colleague's attention a New York Times editorial that comments on the recommendations by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) for reforming the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The editorial contends that IOM has wisely called for a significant increase in financing and personnel to correct the imbalance between the funds and staff devoted to approving new drugs and the smaller resources available for post-market surveillance. The editorial also observes that, even when problems arise, the agency virtually has no authority to regulate drugs on the market unless there is overwhelming evidence that they are unsafe.

The IOM report, *The Future of Drug Safety*, confirms what many of us in Congress have been arguing all along—that FDA authority needs to be strengthened and that the agency relies too heavily on negotiations with industry. The recommendations outlined in the IOM report reflect the initiatives that many of us in Congress already have proposed, including: requiring post-market surveillance of drug products; requiring a moratorium on direct-to-

consumer (DTC) advertising; and eliminating conflict-of-interests involving members of FDA advisory committees.

This report provides independent verification that Congress must act to implement the changes that are needed at the FDA. Congress will have the opportunity next year to make an immediate impact when it considers the reauthorization of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA). Congress should strongly consider IOM's PDUFA recommendation that a portion of the user fees be diverted to specific safety-related performance goals.

I ask that the New York Times editorial be inserted in the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 28, 2006]

PRESCRIPTION FOR A STRONGER F.D.A.

A prestigious advisory group has put its weight behind criticism that the Food and Drug Administration is pitifully weak when it comes to removing dangerous prescription drugs from the market. Last week, a panel appointed by the Institute of Medicine, part of the National Academy of Sciences, issued a slew of recommendations to strengthen the beleaguered F.D.A. as it struggles to regulate a huge array of medications whose ill effects sometimes show up only after years of wide use.

The institute's report, which was requested by the F.D.A., deplores the big imbalance between the money and staff devoted to approving new drugs and the much smaller resources for monitoring drugs after they are on the market. The imbalance results in part from the pharmaceutical industry's providing user fees that pay for expediting the approval process, but not for monitoring the aftereffects. Worse yet, even when it spots a problem, the agency has very little power to regulate drugs on the market unless there is overwhelming evidence that they are unsafe, which is seldom the case.

Although the nation is mired in budget deficits, the institute was wise to call for a large increase in financing and personnel for this crucially important regulator of public health. If Congress is too stingy to ante up more money, it should at least divert some of the drug industry's user fees to surveillance after a drug's approval.

The panel calls for the F.D.A. to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of drugs that are truly new, not just copycats, at least once every five years. It wants the agency to be given explicit power to compel post-marketing studies and to impose fines, injunctions and withdrawals to enforce its decisions. In a departure from conventional wisdom, the panel also urges the F.D.A. to require that a substantial majority of the members of each of its advisory panels be free of significant financial involvement with companies whose interests might be affected. That undercuts the agency's claims that there are not enough experts without ties to the drug industry.

COMMENDING THE BOY SCOUTS OF
AMERICA TROOP ONE OF SAC-
RAMENTO ON ITS 90TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Boy Scouts of America Troop One of Sacramento as they celebrate their 90th anniversary and ask all of my colleagues to join

with me in saluting the Scouts and alumni of Troop One.

Troop One was founded in 1916. It has a storied history and is widely known as the oldest continuously operating troop west of the Mississippi River. In the past 90 years, an estimated 1,500 young men have been members of Troop One, earning over 15,000 merit badges.

Not only is troop 1 one of the oldest troops, it is also one of the most successful troops in the United States. Historically, only five percent of Boy Scouts nationwide achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Troop One, however, far surpassed that mark with an impressive 20 percent, totaling over 300 Eagle Scouts.

Over its 90-year history, Troop One has performed many community improvement projects: they repaired and restored the Old City Cemetery, constructed park benches throughout the city and landscaped numerous elementary, middle and high schools. The troop has a historic commitment to service and received an award for selling war bonds during World War One. These are just a few of Troop One's community service efforts benefiting Sacramento and the Nation.

This troop has also produced more than its fair share of local and national leaders. One of the most prominent alumni is the former Governor of California and Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Earl Warren. Chief Justice Warren's sons were both in Troop One when he was Governor of California and his wife opened the Governor's mansion for the troop's mother's meetings. One of its most active local leaders and troop alumni, George Morrow, has had twelve family members achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, carrying on the troop's strong family tradition.

Mr. Speaker, the Boy Scouts of America, Troop One of Sacramento, clearly has become a family and community tradition. Troop One has helped young boys develop into community leaders. For 90 years, the troop's service projects have helped shape and improve the Sacramento community, and I am confident the troop will continue its work in Sacramento for many years to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Boy Scouts of America, Troop One of Sacramento, a happy 90th anniversary and continued success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANN
SCHREIBER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ann Schreiber for her community leadership and efforts on behalf of the State of Nevada.

Ann is a founder of the Muddy River Regional Environmental Impact Alleviation Committee (MRREIAC). Through Ann, this community based organization has contributed greatly to the Overton and Moapa Valley, Nevada communities by eradicating tamarisk plants, a non-native species to the area. I applaud Ann today for all of her hard work and dedication to removing this Western lands nemesis.

In 1994, MRREIAC was established in order to protect the Muddy River, a spring fed river

that flows from the upper part of Moapa to Lake Mead. During its inception, MRREIAC grappled with ways to remove the tamarisk plants that encased the Muddy River and left this important water source for rural Nevada a dry bank. A single tamarisk plant can consume hundreds of gallons of water daily and their abundance throughout the West is a pervasive problem.

Without being formally educated on the process of how to remove this invasive species, Ann sought the assistance of Clark County, Nevada Power, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and other various volunteer organizations. Through trial and error Ann and MRREIAC were able to successfully remove tamarisk plants which had once before choked out the native plant species. Today, water flows freely down the Muddy River and native species live and thrive.

I applaud Ann and MRREIAC for their initiative and for successfully employing inmates from the Indian Springs Correctional Facility. Not only did these inmates receive vital work skills, but they were able to contribute to the overall success of MRREIAC's initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ann Schreiber for her relentless dedication to her water conservation efforts and to the safety of her community and the State of Nevada. She is an example to all of how one person's dedication to a cause can create lasting change. I wish Ann all the best on her future endeavors.

HONORING SEYMOUR SIMON

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great and respected Chicagoan, Justice Seymour Simon, who recently passed away at the age of 91. Seymour was a dear friend of mine, and a passionate advocate for justice who exemplified all of the finest qualities of true public service.

Seymour was born on the 10th of August, 1915 in Chicago, IL. He attended law school at Northwestern University, graduating first in his class. He served his country in World War II and was honored with the Legion of Merit medal.

After his service in the Pacific, Seymour returned to his hometown to practice law and serve his community in elected office. He served two separate terms as alderman of the 40th Ward, from 1955 to 1961, and then from 1967 until 1974. From 1961 to 1967, Seymour represented all of Cook County on the Cook County Board of Commissioners, rising to board president in 1961. During his career Seymour also served as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division, as president of the Cook County Forest Preserve District and as a member of the Chicago Public Building Commission.

In 1974, he was elected to the Appellate Court, on which he served for 6 years. He was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court in 1980. As a member of the Supreme Court, Justice Simon exhibited a moral drive that led him to dissent from the court's decision in many cases, and earned him the enduring admira-

tion of his colleagues and the people of Illinois.

Justice Simon was an adamant opponent of the death penalty and sided against the court in several decisions which were later reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court. In retirement, he continued to fight against inequities in the prosecution of Illinois death penalty cases. Former Governor George Ryan cited several letters from Justice Simon as a factor in his decision to impose a moratorium on all executions in the State of Illinois.

Seymour's life of public service was honored with numerous awards, among them an honorary doctor of laws degree from John Marshall Law School and the Northwestern University Alumni Association Award of Merit. Seymour passed away in Northwestern Memorial Hospital on September 26th after battling with cancer.

Mr. Speaker, Seymour Simon was an inspiration to all who knew him, and I am honored to have considered him a friend and mentor. I wish to express my deepest condolences to his family, and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in remembering the life and legacy of this great American.

HONORING DEBRA NAUMAN, CHAIR
AND FOUNDER OF GIANT STEPS
OF ILLINOIS

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding woman whose commitment and passion for a great cause led her to accomplish a very good thing for her community and state.

The woman is Debra Nauman. The cause is educating autistic children. And the very good thing accomplished is a place called Giant Steps, Illinois.

When Debra's son Riley entered pre-school, she became concerned about the quality of education he would receive as an autistic child. But instead of becoming disheartened, Debra Nauman became inspired. She was determined to provide her son with an education that would facilitate his mental and physical progression.

Her resolve led her to Giant Steps, a school for children with autism, in Montreal, Canada. Here was a school that featured an environment that nurtured the autistic mind and provided therapeutic services. Here was what she was seeking for Riley. But here—Montreal, Canada—was a very long way away from her home and business in Illinois.

So when Debra sought such a school back home and couldn't find one, she founded her own.

Armed only with her tenacity and infectious enthusiasm, she recruited a board of directors, raised funds, rented space, hired personnel and opened the doors at Giant Steps, Inc. Illinois, an academic and therapeutic day school for children with autism spectrum disorders in Burr Ridge, Illinois.

As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of Giant Steps of Illinois, it is only appropriate that we recognize Debra Nauman. We celebrate her because, despite the challenges she faces as a single mom running her own business, she did not compromise when it came to