salute her not only for this latest honor, but for her long and distinguished record of service to her community.

Peggy was born Pelagia Rosko in Ohio, and entered the convent at age 13 as Sister Maria Consolata. She remained at the convent until, at age 37, she moved to Houston and changed her name to Pearl Rosko. She married James C. Fields and moved with him to Louisiana. During this time, she received her R.N. degree at the Providence Hospital School of Nursing, and her B.S.N. degree and B.A. degree at the Sacred Heart School of Health Administration at Tulane University.

Peggy always loved teaching, and she had the opportunity to educate young people during her 15 years as an elementary school teacher. She also always loved nursing, and she served as a nurse for 20 years in Houston, at Our Lady of Lake Medical Center in Baton Rouge, and at Ascension General Hospital, where she served as director of nurses and as a private nursing consultant.

In the 1970's, Peggy opened and sold the first home health agency in Baton Rouge, which is now known as Capitol Home Health. She also owned several businesses in Ascension Parish, and, in 1989, she opened Ascension College of Gonzales, where she continues to serve as chairman of the board.

In addition to being active in her church (St. John the Evangelist) where she is the organist, Peggy has been active in many organizations in her community. She helped found and lead the Taxpayers for Ascension General; she served as president of her local art guild; and she served as president of her fellowship center.

The recipient of the 1994 National Volunteer Service Citation, Peggy continues to serve on the state board of directors of the Arthritis Foundation. Previously, she received the 1993 Employer of the Year Award from the Baton Rouge Catholic Diocese's senior employment division. She has been named Businesswoman of the Year and, in 1995, was awarded the Research Advocate Award from the National Arthritis Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I may not be totally impartial when it comes to Peggy Fields. But I happen to believe that she represents the kind of volunteerism and private-sector assistance that so many of us believe in. Her tireless efforts over many years in so many different ways to help her neighbors and her community have inspired all who know her, and have given all of us an example of what each of us can do to make our communities better places. I know I speak for the thousands of men, women, and children who have benefited from her work and her compassion when I say, thank you to my aunt, Pearl R. ''Peggy'' Fields.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again, Aunt Peggy.

REGULATION OF TOBACCO BY FDA

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I know you were as relieved as I was, to hear the President reveal that the ''era of big Government is over.'' This likely will be welcome news to the millions of Americans who are fed up with a Federal Government which has spent itself into a $5 trillion debt and which has been injecting itself into nearly every aspect of the lives of working men and women in the process.

Unfortunately, it appears that the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration was not watching the President's address last week because the FDA is still pressing forward with its plans to regulate tobacco.

In the President's new era of smaller Government, the FDA has proposed, in 140 pages in the Federal Register, to wrest from Congress, from the Federal agencies and from the States, the authority to regulate the sale, distribution, advertising, and promotion of tobacco. The FDA has made this proposal despite the fact that Congress has traditionally left to the States most elements of tobacco regulation—including age of purchase.

The President also outlined in his State of the Union Address, a number of challenges he sees facing our Nation—including preventing underage tobacco use. However, I would remind the President that Congress has already risen to this challenge, having enacted in 1992, the ADAMHA Reorganization Act, requiring the States, as a condition for receiving certain Federal grants, to enact and enforce laws preventing the sale or distribution of tobacco products to minors.

Although this legislation became law before Mr. Clinton took office, it was only last week that his Department of Health and Human Services issued its final rule for implementation. Indeed, it took the Department almost 2½ years from the time it issued its proposed rule to the time it promulgated its final rule.

This delay helps underscore the inherent limitations of big Government and serves as proof that Congress had the right idea when it granted to the States, and not to the Federal Government, responsibility for reducing underage tobacco use.

While the Federal Government has a legitimate interest in preventing the purchase of tobacco products by minors, the matter is properly the domain of State governments, not a Federal agency acting without congressional authorization or direction. The individual States are much better equipped to deal with the complex factors involved with underage use, than is the FDA with its ''one size fits all'' approach and its unwieldy bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, since all 50 States already have laws prohibiting the sale or distribution of tobacco products to persons under age 18, I would think that the FDA's time and resources could be better spent on approving new medicines and medical devices and allow the States to combat underage tobacco use.

FOUR LETTERS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow on February 2, my parents, Bern and Kay Smith, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. For our family and friends this will be an historic milestone filled not only with enormous happiness and joy, but gratitude, as well.

My parents' love for each other, and for my two older brothers and me, was always strong, an absolutely sure thing, never in question. They always had our best interest at heart. In raising us, we always knew they were raising their three sons not just for this life on earth, but for eternity with God. The bond of love was strong for their own parents, my dad's brother Gil and his daughter Sue—who was like a daughter to them and a sister to us—and my mother's nine brothers and sisters.

Conceding up front that mere words are inadequate in expressing the depth and breadth of our feelings, mom and dad, here are three letters from your three sons

And mom, a letter from dad.

KATHERINE J. HOLL AND BERNARD H. SMITH

How do we label fifty years of marriage? Is it an event, an achievement, a celebration, a milestone, survival of the fittest, a bit of luck or just plain true love? The answer probably lies somewhere within all of these concepts and more. It is difficult to accurately and to adequately describe my Mom and Dad, Kay and Bern.

My first recollection of them begins at their wedding in February 1946. I insisted that I attended and can prove it by merely viewing pictures and scenes from their 16mm movie films. Of course the ''me'' was my 12 year old uncle, but nonetheless I continue to assert otherwise.

Growing up in the Smith home was never dull. Adventure is a good description for those times. Mom and Dad were intimately involved in our lives. Their love nurtured and encouraged without smothering. Reassurance and challenge were always present. They were always there for us. They gave us room to grow and were ready to support and comfort their boys.

If there is an ideal childhood then certainly we had one. The lessons of life were taught by example through an exquisite balance of firmness, fairness and fun. Opportunities of many varieties were provided, shared and celebrated. Success of one was joy for all. Adversity was met directly and, ultimately, viewed as a learning experience to prepare us for the future.

Mom the Club Scout Den Mother, Dad the little league coach, both the homework ''checkers'' have left their imprint on us. That these acorns did not fall far from the tree is evidenced by the Smith boys' character and individual traits. All different yet each possessing the basic core values Mom and Dad lived. We are the fruit of their love and labor.

Although their lives revolved around us they ensure their love and happiness was rooted in each other. They believed in their families and showed us the treasures in grandparent, uncles, aunts and cousins. We were fortunate to have so many. Kay and Bern's friends over these last fifty years are too numerous to list and there are always more being added to the fold. Wherever they live, travel or 'hang out' some new acquaintances emerge, most become friends. The strength we know was and is felt by many. Their generosity and friendliness is well renowned. They have known tough times in their fifty years and after each have emerged stronger in their love for each other. Kay and Bern live life vigorously, content in their past while expectantly anticipating the future.

To be their son is a supreme gift from God. To live up to and emulate their greatness is a difficult task to achieve yet a goal worthy of the quest. Mom and Dad made it simpler because they gave us the template for success and are always there to pick us up and 'point our heads' in the right direction.

I think the answer to my question on how to describe Kay and Bern's fifty years of