

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## "JUNK JOURNALISM 101"

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring a recent column by Robert J. Samuelson to the attention of my colleagues. The subject is media coverage of the economy.

I am dismayed by the inferior quality of reporting on economic issues presented by the national news media. Whether the topic is the minimum wage, foreign investment, tax policy, or international trade, the American public is fed a steady diet of conjecture and cliché in the guise of hard economic reporting.

What we have is journalism based on emotion and ideology rather than fact or economic principle. We have business page editors more interested in financial scandal than financial growth, and features editors obsessed with fiscal misfortune. Negativism, sensationalism, and economic illiteracy rule the airwaves and the news page.

The complexities of the domestic and global economies are frequently ignored in favor of melodramatic stories and conclusions unsupported by common experience or economic fact. Tax and trade issues are taken out of context or selectively reported in a manner promoting protectionist demagoguery and economic resentments.

Ultimately, culpability for this state of affairs rests with senior editors seemingly unfamiliar with accepted economic theory. Frozen in a Keynesian, New Deal mentality, they seem wedded to redistributionist, big-government solutions to every economic trepidation, real or imagined.

The result of decades of decision-making by liberal-leaning editors is an institutional bias against conservative economic theory and a brand of reporting infused with prejudice against conservative policies. Republican initiatives are panned or ignored, while the studies of every left-wing think tank in Washington, DC are dutifully reported without dissent or criticism.

Again Mr. Speaker, I commend the following column by Robert Samuelson to the attention of all interested parties.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 18, 1996]

## JUNK JOURNALISM 101

(By Robert J. Samuelson)

The Philadelphia Inquirer began a 10-part series last week titled "America: Who Stole the Dream?" that will attract attention. The thesis is simple: Big Government and Big Businesses are relentlessly reducing living standards and job security for most Americans. The series, by Donald Barlett and James Steele, portrays living in America as a constant hell for all but the super-wealthy. This seems overdrawn, because it is. It's junk journalism, and the intriguing question is why a reputable newspaper publishes it.

I call it "junk," because it fails the basic test of journalistic integrity and competence: It does not strive for truthfulness,

however impossible that ideal is to attain. It does not seek a balanced picture of the economy—strengths as well as shortcomings—or an accurate profile of living standards. Instead it offers endless stories of people who have suffered setbacks. Their troubles are supposed to speak for (and to) everyone.

They don't. Statistics implying lower living standards are contradicted by what people buy or own. Home ownership (65 percent of households) is near a record. In 1980, 11 percent of households owned a microwave oven, 37 percent a dishwasher and 56 percent a dryer; by 1993, those figures were 78 percent, 50 percent and 68 percent. People buy more because their incomes are higher. (Statistics understate incomes by overstating inflation's effect on "real" wages and salaries.) As for anxiety, it exists—and always will. But America is not clinically depressed. The Gallup poll reports that 66 percent of Americans expect their financial situation to improve in the next year.

The Inquirer's twisted portrait of the economy is not, unfortunately, unique. Earlier this year, the New York Times ran a distorted series (which I criticized) on corporate "downsizing." A recent "CBS Reports" called "Who's Getting Rich? and Why Aren't You?" is another example. Explanations for this sort of shoddy journalism fall into three classes: (1) sensationalism—it sells; (2) ideology—journalists detest the profit motive; and (3) ignorance—they don't know better. Sensationalism and anti-business bias are old hat, but the larger problem, I think, is ignorance or something akin to it.

Journalism copes awkwardly with the ambiguities of many economic stories. We're most comfortable with scandals, trials, politics, sports and wars. The conflicts are obvious, moral judgments often can be made, and stories have clean endings. The economy defies such simple theater. The process by which wealth is created is unending and complex. Costs and benefits are comingled. What's bad today may be good tomorrow. What hurts some may help many others. Low inflation is good, but ending high inflation may require something bad: a harsh recession.

The capacity of journalist to recognize such distinctions has grown since 1969, when I first began reporting on the economy. Daily economic stories have improved in quality. But there's one glaring exception to the progress: the nation's top editors. Outside the business press (for example, the Wall Street Journal), the people who run newspapers, magazines and TV news divisions don't know much about the economy—and seem unbothered by their ignorance.

The assumption is that most economic stories are done by specialized reports and aimed at specialized audiences. While this assumption holds, editorial ignorance doesn't matter much. Little damage occurs if know-nothing editors don't do much. But on big projects—newspaper series, magazine cover stories, TV documentaries—the assumption collapses. Editorial control shifts upward, and there's a scramble for familiar news formulas. Editors want villains and heroes, victims and predators. Reporters who promise simple morality tales can sell their stories. The frequent result is journalistic trash.

The Inquirer series blames the "global economy" and "free trade" policies for low-

ering wages and destroying jobs. What it doesn't say is that the trade balance and employment are hardly connected. Barlett and Steele deplore the fact that the last U.S. trade surplus was in 1975, but they don't tell readers that the unemployment rate in 1975 was 8.5 percent. They note that other countries run trade surpluses. Between 1980 and 1995, Germany had 16, the Netherlands 14 and Sweden 13. But they don't say that the unemployment rates for their countries are 9 percent for Germany, 6 percent of the Netherlands and 9 percent for Sweden. By contrast, the U.S. rate is 5.1 percent.

Trade doesn't determine unemployment, because trade mainly affects a small part of the job base: manufacturing. In 1995, its share of all U.S. jobs was 16 percent. Trade creates some jobs and destroys others, but total employment depends mainly on the economy's overall vitality. The United States runs regular trade deficits in part because the rest of the world wants dollars to finance global commerce or substitute for weak local currencies. As a result, we don't have to sell as much abroad as we buy; the difference is made up by the dollars other countries keep. All those extra imports raise—not lower—U.S. living standards.

If Barlett and Steele wanted to inform readers, they'd explain all this. But they're mainly interested in condemning. Everything they discuss (trade policies, growing income inequality, executive compensation) is the legitimate stuff of journalism. What's illegitimate is to report matters so selectively—with so little attention to conflicting evidence or any larger context—that ordinary readers are misled. The press can do better. The Los Angeles Times recently ran a good series on the gains that economic change creates as well as trauma it inflicts.

The real fault here lies with the top editors (at the Inquirer, the Times and other media giants) who commission or approve these distortions. There's no excuse for their ineptness. The "economic story" is no longer new. It is central to the American condition and, therefore, a permanent concern of journalism. If editors don't understand the economy, they can't exercise good judgment. The present sanctioned stupidity leads to junk journalism.

## BIRTH OF ALEXANDRA KATHRYN RANDALL

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following to my colleagues:

Whereas Alexandra Kathryn Randall was born on the twelfth day of August, 1996;

Whereas Alexandra's parents, David and Cortney Randall, are proud to welcome their first child into their home; and,

Whereas I am sure that Alexandra Kathryn will bring her parents and family love and joy; Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the parents of Alexandra Kathryn, with a real sense of pleasure and pride, join me in celebrating her birth and the happiness she brings to their family.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

REFORM OF MEDICARE  
INTRADIALYTIC PARENTERAL  
NUTRITION [IDPN] BENEFIT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, when a group pays too much for a product and thereby provides windfall profits for the provider of that product, there is an overwhelming temptation by that provider to oversell and overuse the product.

That's what has happened in Medicare, where we pay grossly too much for a product called intradialytic parenteral nutrition [IDPN]. As a result, kidney dialysis providers are sorely tempted to overprescribe and overuse this product. To stop the questionable use of this product, I am today introducing legislation to reform how Medicare pays for this nutritional treatment needed by a very small number of end stage renal disease patients.

The current Medicare coverage of intradialytic parenteral nutrition [IDPN] has raised concerns involving the efficacy of this procedure as well as the possibility of gross overutilization. IDPN is the provision of parenteral nutrition that is administered during dialysis for end stage renal disease [ESRD] patients. IDPN is used to deliver nutrition, including amino acids, carbohydrates, and at times vitamins, trace elements, and lipids during dialysis. Although IDPN is provided in conjunction with dialysis, the coverage and reimbursement for IDPN are separate from the ESRD benefit. Specifically, coverage of IDPN is included under the prosthetic device benefit and reimbursed under the durable medical equipment benefit.

Parenteral nutrition is covered for those patients who have a functional impairment of the gastrointestinal tract, which prevents sufficient absorption of nutrients to maintain an appropriate level of strength and weight. Enteral feeding, additional nutrition administered orally or through a tube and absorbed through a functioning gastrointestinal tract, must first be proven ineffective before parenteral nutrition will be reimbursed. Parenteral nutrition is prohibited when it merely serves to supplement regular feeding.

There is concern within the medical field that IDPN is being unnecessarily utilized. Admittedly, there exist patients for whom IDPN is appropriate. According to a May 1993 Health and Human Service Office of Inspector General [OIG] report, an average of 2.4 percent of patients in dialysis facilities receive IDPN, in all cases only three times a week through their dialysis shunt. For-profit dialysis facilities had 2.9 percent of their ESRD patients using IDPN whereas only 1.5 percent of not-for-profit ESRD patients were on IDPN. This discrepancy between for- and not-for-profit hospitals should alert us to the possibility of abuse on the part of for-profit dialysis centers.

Current billing practices for IDPN have resulted in enormous overcharging for IDPN supplies. Some claim that Medicare is paying nearly 800 to 1,000 percent more than the provider's acquisition cost for IDPN supplies. Medicare allows \$250 for one combination of total parenteral nutrition solution, but the actual price of these supplies is no more than a couple of dollars. With such inflated prices, it

is no surprise that this specific Medicare part B benefit has been overutilized.

According to the U.S. Renal Data System's 1996 report, Medicare outlays for IDPN use rose from \$51.6 million in 1991, \$68.7 million in 1992, and to \$78.1 million in 1993, but dropped off to \$46.4 million in 1994. This treatment is considered by many in the medical field to be only appropriate for a very limited, constant number of end stage renal disease patients. It is no coincidence that the DMERC's new guidelines requiring more stringent documentation of the need for IDPN occurred just before this most recent decline in Medicare IDPN expenditures.

Since ESRD patients are on a dialysis machine three times each week for a limited time, the total amount of intradialytic nutrition delivered is rather limited. It is estimated that only 10 to 20 percent of the recommended weekly calories for an ESRD patient are supplied using the IDPN delivery method. However, on average it cost \$60,000 per year to administer these few calories. Only 70 percent of the amino acids administered through IDPN are retained within the body. This method of amino acid supplementation provides roughly 108 to 114 grams of protein per week. For comparison, an oral supplement given three times per day would provide 189 grams of protein per week. The cost of such enteral amino acid feeding is roughly \$6.30 a week at the Portland VA Medical Center. With these kinds of gross windfall profits, there will be constant pressure to overutilize and abuse IDPN. It is up to us to legislate reimbursement reform.

If the utilization rate and Medicare outlay increases were for a procedure that enjoyed definitive support from the medical community, I would not only justify but encourage widespread use of such treatment for our seniors and disabled. However, in the opinion of the HHS's own Office of Inspector General, "the benefits of parenteral nutrition for ESRD patients are unproven, its use is associated with a high rate of complication, and the cost of care is disproportionate to the resources expended."

Clinicians disagree as to the efficacy of this treatment method. Some cite increasing nutritional parameters as evidence that IDPN is indeed nourishing the patient, while others feel that the relatively few studies showing a positive correlation between IDPN use and increasing nutritional parameters contains shortcomings in the design of the study leading to unreliable conclusions. Still others claim that these studies simply fail to demonstrate a link between decreasing morbidity and increasing nutritional parameters.

We must address the IDPN pricing issue immediately to prevent the incentives for overutilization and the further plundering of our already endangered Medicare. I propose that we begin by first changing the reimbursement of IDPN from a rate within the durable medical equipment benefit to an incremental add-on payment within the ESRD benefit that would reflect the marginal costs of providing the individual components of an IDPN solution. This new ESRD benefit would cover only the arms length acquisition costs of the IDPN supplies plus an appropriate administrative service fee. The Secretary must conduct a survey of the IDPN market to determine the estimated true acquisition cost. To eliminate the benefit altogether would deny those few patients the right

to a treatment that is indeed warranted. However, by altering the reimbursement of this treatment we will reduce the financial incentive for overutilization. In addition, specific HCPCS codes for IDPN will be created so as to be able to accurately identify the content of the solutions that are being administered.

IDPN coverage has created a complex, confusing system with tremendous opportunity for abuse. I urge my colleagues to support this measure designed to create a simpler, more cost-effective means of covering intradialytic parenteral nutrition in end stage renal disease patients.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. PATRICIA  
DAVIS OF NASHVILLE, TN

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my enthusiastic congratulations to Mrs. Patricia E. Davis for her years of service to the Nashville community. As director of Citizens for Affordable Housing, an agency designed to fulfill the necessary fundamentals of housing and location needs for all families of the Metropolitan Nashville area, she works to enable residents of low-rent housing to become both physically and mentally self-sustaining. In addition to providing refinancing assistance, she also hosts workshops regarding credit, housing, and mortgage issues. This agency serves all perspective homeowners with a financial system which shows these individuals how to live by a budget as well as making them aware of their new responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we could all do well to follow Patricia Davis' example, to pay attention to our communities, and give ourselves to them.

TRIBUTE TO DOMINICK RIVETTI

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my good friend Dominick Rivetti, who has been police chief of the city of San Fernando since May 1986. This year Chief Rivetti is celebrating 25 years as a member of the San Fernando Police Department. I am proud to be among those congratulating him on achieving this milestone.

Before becoming chief, he moved up the ranks, from patrol officer to senior training officer to watch commander to division commander. Chief Rivetti is passionately dedicated to law enforcement and San Fernando: He and I have had many conversations about finding funds to expand the size of the San Fernando Police Department. Indeed, the chief is constantly on the look out for government programs designed to help law enforcement.

The chief is currently vice president of the Los Angeles Police Chiefs' Association, and is affiliated with the International Association of Police Chiefs, the California Police Chiefs Association, the San Fernando Police Advisory

Council, and the California Peace Officers Association. In addition, he teaches at the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department North Academy at College of the Canyons.

But Chief Rivetti's involvement with San Fernando does not end with the workday. He is also a member of the San Fernando Kiwanis Club, the San Fernando Rotary Club, and the Northeast Valley Jeopardy Board of Directors. He is clearly someone who cares deeply for his community.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting San Fernando Police Chief Dominick Rivetti, a compassionate man who is devoted to his family and his work. His selflessness and dedication are an inspiration to us all.

AND A ONE, AND A TWO

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest gifts that has been given to us is music. Music makes us laugh and brings us joy. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to a man who has brought much joy and laughter to all who know him, Mr. Jim Lepeak. On Sunday, October 6, Jim Lepeak will be inducted into the Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame. A banquet and presentation will be held at the Western Fraternal Life Association Hall in Owosso, MI.

Born in 1929, music was in Jim's blood. His first instrument was a cigarbox with rubberbands stretched across it. At 7, he purchased a mail-order guitar that was too big for his fingers. When his father gave him a small accordion out of sympathy for his guitar plight, Jim took to it like a duck to water. He gave his first public performance after only three short lessons and quickly graduated to the 120 bass accordion which, to this day, is his treasured keepsake.

In the early 1940's, Jim joined the Floyd Talaga Polka Band and the Musician's Union. From that moment on, Jim knew that playing polka music was the path for him. Throughout his long career, Jim has been a member of many bands including Floyd Grocholski's Musical All Stars and Gary Taylor and the Happy Knights. During his many public appearances, Jim has played up and down the great State of Michigan entertaining people from Cobo Hall in Detroit to Sault Ste. Marie in the Upper Peninsula. The number of bands Jim has played in is exceeded only by the number of musical instruments he has mastered. Jim excels at playing not only the accordion but the bass guitar, mandola, Mandolin, piano, organ, drums, and violin. He has used his musical proficiency to record several CD's featuring polka music.

His career has had several interesting highlights, especially during his trips behind the Iron Curtain. In the course of one of his tours, his playing led to a snake dance through the Kasprawy Hotel in Zakopane, Poland, that lasted until 4 a.m. He has also entertained on the front deck of a boat on the Danube River in Budapest, Hungary, while the Captain danced the polka in the wheelhouse.

These days Jim calls himself semiretired while playing in a one-man band. He now devotes most of his weekdays playing at hos-

pitals, nursing homes, and senior sites. Jim also spends time with his charming wife, Illamae, and his four children, John, Joseph, Cynthia, and Gregory.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Lepeak has dedicated his life to bringing music and laughter to ours. He is a talented musician and a selfless volunteer. I want you and our colleagues to roll out a barrel of thunderous applause for Jim Lepeak and his induction into the Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
BOB WALKER FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished chairman from Pennsylvania, the Honorable BOB WALKER. For the past 20 years, BOB has been an outstanding representative for the people of Pennsylvania's 16th District.

Since 1978, I've had the pleasure and fun of serving and dealing with BOB. Let me say it here first, there has never been nor will there ever again be a Member quite like BOB.

I've gotten to know BOB pretty well from our work on the Science Committee. BOB has been and continues to be a devoted supporter and ally of science. He has done a marvelous job as chairman of the Science Committee, focusing the limited budget resources on sound science and basic research. I sincerely hope my friend will continue to provide his enthusiasm and counsel in helping develop science policy for many years to come.

BOB's impact has not been limited to science policy. He successfully got his drug-free workplace provision passed in the 100th Congress. In addition, he has had legislative success reforming product liability, antitrust, and intellectual property laws.

BOB has been a master of parliamentary procedure since he entered the House. His mastery forced the Democratic leadership for many years to plug parliamentary loopholes as quickly as BOB could use them. Many battles and victories were won because of BOB's parliamentary skills.

On behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's Ninth District, I thank the Honorable BOB WALKER for his outstanding service to the House of Representatives and the United States.

HONORING THE DEER PARK  
TERRORS SOFTBALL CHAMPS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Deer Park Terrors, a team of very talented young softball players in my district who are the 1996 National Champions of Pony Softball, Pinto Division.

The Terrors finished with an amazing season record of 42 wins and only 4 losses, be-

coming not only the national champs but Texas ASA Pixie State Champions as well. Their division included players aged 7 and 8 during the season in which they played.

I want to congratulate all the team members for the hard work, dedication, and talent that resulted in their success. Team members are: Ashley Bryant, Jessica Barrera, Caitlin Sanders, Brittainy Richardson, Melissa Williams, Heather Barker, Jennifer Turner, Brooke Boudreaux, Shara Hoffman, Madelyne McCollum, Lauren Flynn, and Stephanie Bradley.

I also want to congratulate their manager, David Hoffman; their coaches, Mike Williams, Mark Barker, Orlando Turner, and Scott Bradley; and their team mom, Colleen Sanders. They provided training, encouragement, and support that were essential to the team's success.

To become national champions, the Deer Park Terrors had to win seven consecutive tournaments: Missouri City Shootout, Deer Park, Pasadena Pixie Turn-Up Classic, Texas ASA Pixie State Tournament, La Porte "Storm" Classic, Pony Regionals, and Pony National Pinto Division Championship.

This string of success wouldn't be possible without both tremendous individual talent and an incredible team effort. Congratulations to the Deer Park Terrors and best wishes for the continued success that I have no doubt the future will bring.

DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD  
TO KATHERINE C. ILL, M.D.

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the distinguished career of Dr. Katherine C. Ill, president of The Hospital for Special Care, a rehabilitation and long-term care facility in my hometown of New Britain, CT. Doctor Ill's career has truly been a personification of public service. For over 30 years, she has served The Hospital for Special Care and its community as a strong advocate at both the national and local levels, and has developed programs and policies that benefit persons with physical disabilities. It is because of her tireless dedication and unwavering support for improving the quality of life for these special populations that Doctor Ill is to receive the American Rehabilitation Association's prestigious Milton Cohen Distinguished Career Award this year.

Doctor Ill has been a visionary leader of The Hospital for Special Care since joining the staff in 1964. Her leadership qualities, continuous pursuit of excellence, and unshakable integrity were evident from the start, and she was named medical director of the hospital in 1966, and president and chief executive officer in 1986. She has been the architect for change throughout her career with the hospital and has led its transformation from a long-term chronic disease facility to an innovative, state-of-the-art center for rehabilitation, respiratory, and medically complex pediatric care.

Doctor Ill is well respected by her peers and is deeply appreciated by the men and women who are cared for at The Hospital for Special Care. She is also involved in various community and medical associations, with the same

commitment and dedication to service. In 1990, the Hartford County Medical Association not only celebrated its 200th anniversary, it elected its first female president, Katherine Ill. She was elected president because she embodies the mission of the association: "to promote and represent high quality of care; to endorse and support the highest standards of professional integrity; to work with the community and its representatives for the improvement of health for all people." These are the same qualities for which she has been selected to receive the Milton Cohen Distinguished Service Award, and why I ask my colleagues to recognize this remarkable woman, whom I am proud to call a friend.

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#### SAFE DRINKING WATER

HON. PAT WILLIAMS

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to ensure a safe and reliable water supply system for the residents of the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana.

This legislation would authorize a reservation-wide municipal, rural, and industrial water system for the Fort Peck people living on that Reservation. This bill also provides final quantification of the water rights of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes in northeastern Montana. It also protects the rights of non-Indian water users existing since 1985, establishes a joint tribal State board to resolve disputes and allows for water marketing outside of the reservation to Montana communities.

The future needs of the reservation are expanding. The solution to this is a reservation-wide pipeline that will deliver a safe and reliable water supply system to the residents. A similar system for water distribution is currently in use on a reservation in South Dakota.

Mr. Speaker this legislation is an important step in the tribes' effort to secure and build a water system and realize the benefit of the compact the tribe negotiated in good faith with the State of Montana and the United States.

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#### TRIBUTE TO LUCILLE MATYAS ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime staff member in my district office, Lucille Matyas. Lucille has been an exceptional staff member in my office. She recently retired after 11 years of exceptional service to the residents of the Third District of Illinois.

Family has always been of the utmost importance to Lucille. Lucille is the wife of the late Richard A. Matyas, Sr. Lucille and her husband had three children, George A. Matyas, Richard A. Matyas, and Victoria A. Smith. She has two grandchildren, Richard and Reanna Matyas. While raising her three children, Lucille was involved in local activities and charities. In the past she has devoted her time to such groups as Clear Ridge Baseball,

St. Rene Mother's Club, Girl Scouts, De La Salle High School Parent's Club, and the Maria High School Mother's Club. Lucille's dedication to these and other groups led to her involvement with politics on a local level. Lucille was a member of the 23d Ward Democratic Women's Organization as well as the Chicago Democratic Women's Organization. The VFW Women's Auxiliary and St. Rene's Alter and Rosary Society have also received the benefit of support and volunteer time from Lucille.

Like a true Chicagoan, Lucille enjoys watching all Chicago sports teams and counts herself as one of the biggest Bulls fans in Chicago. Lucille enjoys spending time with her family and friends. In her spare time Lucille plays bingo, is an avid reader of books, collects dolls with her daughter, and devotes quality time with her two grandchildren. Clearly, Lucille lives a life rich in experience and goodwill.

Lucille has a great many plans for after her retirement, these include enjoying life, spending time with her grandchildren and visiting with friends and family. Additionally, Lucille plans on traveling and sightseeing around the United States. Finally Lucille will volunteer her spare time at local charities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Lucille Matyas for her many years of dedicated service to the citizens of the Third District and to her family. With the combination of dedication to her community and family, Lucille is an inspiration and example to all. I will surely miss seeing her in my district office in Illinois. Lucille has truly been a joy to work with and her hard work and positive attitude have served my district well. I wish Lucille good luck in all of life's adventures.

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#### INTERNATIONAL WELSHERS

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit to you an editorial from the New Canaan Advertiser regarding the United States' debt to the United Nations and one Connecticut community's attempt to repay it.

#### INTERNATIONAL WELSHERS

Detractors of the United Nations probably applaud the failure of the United States to get current on its dues for membership in that global association.

But if isolationism and a disdain for foreign influences on our sovereignty are to be perceived as some sort of super-patriotism, then it would seem incumbent on American flag-wavers also to rid us of our unenviable reputation as international welshers.

Like it or not, it is true the United States had agreed to a treaty that stipulated the level of dues we'd have to pay as a member of this "family of nations." Alas, we are more than a billion dollars in arrears and Congress seems loathe to make up the shortfall.

Of course, it is inherently true that despite the delinquency, the United States contributes more to support the UN than any other country in the world. That does not, however, alter the fact that we also owe more in unpaid dues than any other country. Americans, even those who don't subscribe to participation in the UN, ought to be embar-

assed by the "deadbeat" status of their country.

Unlikely as it may seem for a small Connecticut community to assume a role in an international drama, a group in New Canaan has undertaken a unique attempt to ease that national embarrassment. Taking its cue from John Whitehead, a former member of the Reagan cabinet, the citizen initiative here is expressing indignation over the fact that this nation is shirking an obligation that it knowingly incurred by treaty. That, not necessarily the worthiness of the United Nations, is the heart and soul of the symbolic protest here.

Mr. Whitehead had calculated that if each American sent in a check for \$4.40, the United States' debt to the UN would be paid off. So more than 220 people in New Canaan have done that and are urging others to join them.

Of course, it won't really happen. Even in New Canaan, where the issue is viewed so passionately by so many, less than \$1000 has been sent in. That's a far cry from a billion dollars, even if the effort is copied in other communities across the nation, but the message it sends is far more powerful than the cash value.

It says pointedly that we are ashamed that our country has failed to meet responsibilities it agreed to assume. It emphasizes that we want to project a more positive international image and that our status as welshers impairs our standing among nations. It tells Congress that we ought to pay what we owe and then, if it's really all that painful and we don't want to get caught in that kind of bind again, maybe we ought to see about renegotiating that treaty.

Citizens joining the symbolic protest here are sending their "dues money" to Pay Our UN Debt, P.O. Box 1002, New Canaan 86840. Each \$4.40 check turns up the volume on that message. Maybe Congress will finally hear it.

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#### COMMUNITY ON-LINE ACT

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the Community On-Line Act, legislation which would provide schools, libraries, and community centers across the country with the capability to use new technology to its fullest potential.

Today, we have the amazing ability to access vital information and important news stories from the computer. Teachers can show their students maps and information about foreign countries, encyclopedias, biographical information about famous people, and thousands and thousands of other important resources. The opportunities for learning are endless.

However, many schools throughout the country cannot access the Internet, have obsolete computers, lack the necessary funding to install new computers, or don't have the resources to train teachers. This is unacceptable in this day and age. We can build bombs that do back-flips but we can't provide access to the latest technology for most Americans.

It is vital that the Federal Government get involved. Failure to upgrade technology and train educators in our Nation's schools will result in a poorly educated work force because students will not have the skills to become computer literate. A skilled work force is absolutely essential to maintain our country's competitiveness.

A recent Fortune 500 company report found that companies spend half of their technology budget on education and training, while school systems only spend 10 to 15 percent. Clearly, it is important for businesses and local school districts to work together to get our schools, libraries, and community centers on-line.

Today, I am introducing legislation to provide grants to local schools, libraries, and community centers to purchase, install and operate the most up-to-date computer systems, access, the Internet, and train educators to use technology to its fullest potential. The bill requires the eligible entities to form a partnership with local businesses, or State or local governments. The purpose of the bill is to get the community involved and maximize its resources.

Access to the latest technology and appropriate training is essential to enhance the skills of many Americans. We need parents, business leaders, community leaders, and teachers to ban together to give the community access to the latest technology and the capability of using it to its fullest potential.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD  
JANEWAY

HON. W.G. (BILL) HEFNER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize Dr. Richard Janeway and his work in medical education. As of July 1997, Dr. Janeway will relinquish his seat as executive dean of health affairs for Wake Forest's Bowman Gray School of Medicine. As the school merges with its affiliate hospital, North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Dr. Janeway will serve on the steering committee to insure a smooth transition. In addition, he will bring his considerable expertise to the newly endowed position of distinguished professor of health care management at Wake Forest University.

Looking back on Dr. Janeway's career is like looking through a kaleidoscope of academic and civic contributions. Examples of his civic activities include chairman of the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, vice-chairman of the Forsyth County Development Council and member of the board of North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry. Also, Dr. Janeway was integral in the creation of a planned downtown research park, which now houses Bowman Gray's Department of Physiology and Pharmacology as well as facilities for Winston-Salem State University and the Piedmont Triad Engineering Research Center.

An important part of Dr. Janeway's work at Bowman Gray has been to focus research on how nutrition can prevent or manage chronic disease. The mission of the Center for Research on Human Nutrition and Chronic Disease Prevention has been to educate patients about the importance of nutrition and diet and to promote preventive health care. It is in this capacity that I have gotten to know Dr. Janeway and it has been my privilege to work with him and his colleagues in the development of this important nutrition research facility.

Dr. Janeway is credited with ensuring that Bowman Gray keeps pace with the rapid ad-

vances in technology. The recently announced Wake Forest/Bowman Gray nutrition web site is an incredible tool for sharing the information gathered by the center with the public. Users may design and track a personalized guide to good nutrition and exercise.

On behalf of many of my colleagues in the House, I would like to thank Dr. Richard Janeway for his unending quest for excellence in the field of medical education. Wake Forest University's Bowman Gray School of Medicine has benefited enormously from his foresight and dedication to improving our Nation's medical education, and consequently, our Nation's health. He is a great personal friend and I want to wish him well in his latest pursuits on behalf of Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

PETE GAGLIARDI—WORKING FOR  
A SAFER AMERICA

HON. JIM LIGHTFOOT

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize a true public servant, Special Agent Pete Gagliardi of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms [ATF]. For the past 2 years Pete has served in the position of ATF's Director of Legislative Affairs.

Given the laws the ATF is called upon to enforce, the legislative affairs position can be a difficult one in which to serve. It requires a person who can balance the diverse views of Congress with the needs of the Bureau and the Department of the Treasury. Special Agent Gagliardi, an agent of 19 years of service at the Bureau, has met and exceeded the expectations of this difficult position. He has worked tirelessly for the past 2 years providing prompt, straightforward and responsive service to Members of Congress and their staffs. On numerous occasions over the past 2 years, Pete has been able to achieve consensus between the administration and Congress on difficult law enforcement issues.

Because of his outstanding performance, Special Agent Gagliardi will be leaving the Office of Legislative Affairs for a well-deserved promotion to ATF Deputy Associate Director for Law Enforcement Programs. Pete's shoes will be tough to fill at Legislative Affairs but we all wish him the best in his new position.

TRIBUTE TO THE MIDLAND  
JAYCEES' 15TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate the Midland Jaycees on the 15th anniversary of their founding.

The Midland Jaycees were chartered in 1946 with 81 members, including my father, Robert Camp. Through the years, leaders of many organizations and official boards have said "thank you" to the Jaycees. They have more than fulfilled their stated purpose of "civic service through organized efforts \* \* \*

promoting the welfare of the community and its citizens through active, constructive projects."

The Midland Jaycees have been a strong, positive force in their community. By teaching young people leadership skills, they have instilled a sense of community spirit that has led to their involvement in projects like Junior Achievement, the Cancer Service Foundations, The Heart Foundation, Shelter House, and the Salvation Army.

More recently, the Jaycees have been involved in donating playground equipment to the city of Midland, building homes for the homeless with Habitat for Humanity, and gathering volunteers to work at the Voluntary Action Center. One of their main projects, however, is helping disadvantaged children during the holidays. In cooperation with the Michigan Family Independence Agency, the Jaycees purchase presents for the children and take them shopping for gifts to give their families.

It is this spirit of selfless giving and community service that makes the Midland Jaycees a sterling example of dedication, friendship, and community service. Mr. Speaker, I know you will join me in congratulating the Midland Jaycees on their 15th anniversary. May their example of service to their community continue for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PALLADINO

HON. WILLIAM H. ZELIFF, JR.

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. ZELIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a personal friend of mine, John Palladino. John is not only a friend of mine, he has been a real friend of all small business men and women across New Hampshire for the past 30-plus years. He is a small business owner himself. A restaurant owner for more than 30 years, John has experienced the hardships and the dedication it takes to be successful, and he knows what it means to sign the front of a paycheck.

John knows, as all of us who own small businesses know, that signing the front of a paycheck means much more than just a salary. John understands that in New Hampshire, as in most of the country, it is small business that drives the local economies, creates jobs for their citizens, and promotes an atmosphere of community spirit and cooperation. For all his life, John has embodied those ideals.

He is a past president of the Hampton Chamber of Commerce, he was program director of the local DARE chapter, and he was a trustee of the "My Greatest Dream" program, which takes donations for children with terminal illnesses to live out their greatest dream. These are honorable causes that show his dedication to his trade and to his community.

I wanted to take a moment out of the House's busy schedule to salute John Palladino on behalf of this Congress, and to do so in the hope that he serves as a model American for his generation and for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE EDMUND A.  
SARGUS, JR.

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following to my colleagues:

Whereas Judge Edmund A. Sargus, Jr. will be invested as a United States District Judge in the Southern District of Ohio; and

Whereas the Honorable Edmund Sargus has shown exemplary dedication to justice and the practice of law; and

Whereas Judge Sargus has honorably served the City of Bellaire and the State of Ohio as a Law Director, United States Attorney and Special Counsel to the Ohio Attorney General: Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the residents of Belmont County, with a real sense of pleasure and pride, join me in commending The Honorable Edmund A. Sargus, Jr. for his hard work and commitment to justice and to the law.

MEDICARE AND VANCOMYCIN:  
LEGISLATION TO PRESERVE A  
BENEFIT AND PROTECT THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, current Medicare pharmaceutical payment policy is creating distortions in the types of drugs prescribed in our society and contributing to a potential public health problem. This problem is the threat of increased drug resistance among bacteria that cause infections in thousands of people. The policy contributing to this public health threat is the unevenness of Medicare coverage for outpatient medications, and specifically, Medicare's coverage of a single antibacterial drug called vancomycin out of a multitude of possible antibacterials. This coverage provides an unintended incentive for physicians to preferentially choose vancomycin over other antibiotics. Inappropriate use of vancomycin will likely accelerate the emergence and spread of bacteria resistant to this drug, causing a major public health problem resulting in numerous deaths and increased morbidity. The bill I am introducing today counteracts the misdirected incentive for inappropriate use of vancomycin by insisting on certain criteria for the use of the drug in order for it to be reimbursed.

Under current law, Medicare reimburses for outpatient medications in limited circumstances. Highly specific, unrelated categories of drugs are reimbursed. These include drugs administered in a physician's office or hospital, oral anticancer drugs, immunosuppressant drugs for organ transplant patients, a drug to treat anemia in end stage renal disease patients, drugs to treat osteoporosis in certain patients, and drugs that require durable medical equipment [DME] for their administration. Approximately 20 drugs are covered under the DME benefit, of which vancomycin is one. Vancomycin is covered because it is administered intravenously through an apparatus called an infusion pump. Medicare reimburses for the infusion pump

and for the drug for which it is used. Thus, although more than 50 drugs are available to treat bacterial infections, Medicare singles out one drug for reimbursement simply because an infusion pump is used for administration. The DME benefit also includes four drugs used to treat infections caused by viruses or fungi, again because an infusion pump is used for administration, but vancomycin is the only drug used to treat infections caused by bacteria.

Intravenous vancomycin is typically used in home therapy for infections requiring prolonged courses of antibiotics, such as endocarditis, an infection of the heart valves, or osteomyelitis, an infection of bones. Generally patients are hospitalized for an initial period, and once stable, can continue treatment at home. Only a subset of patients are medically appropriate candidates to receive home intravenous therapy. Home therapy is generally cost effective because the alternative is for patients to remain in the hospital or other inpatient facility to receive the therapy.

Medicare's reimbursement system is causing overuse of vancomycin. The Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA] found a 64-percent increase in the home use of vancomycin, as measured by claims submitted for infusion pumps for vancomycin, from the fourth quarter of 1994 through the third quarter of 1995. Anecdotes from some hospitals and home care agencies indicate that vancomycin is preferentially used whenever the bacteria causing the infection are susceptible to it. This information suggests that the current Medicare policy is having the unintended effect of changing physicians prescribing practices.

Overuse of antibiotics is a principal risk factor for the development of drug resistant bacteria. Antibiotics kill or inhibit bacteria that are susceptible to them, but the resistant bacteria survive. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] has documented a major increase in infections among hospitalized patients due to vancomycin resistant bacteria called vancomycin-resistant-enterococci [VRE], from 0.3 percent in 1989 to 7.9 percent in 1993. In addition to this increase, a major concern is the possibility that these bacteria will transfer their vancomycin resistance to other families of bacteria. This transfer has occurred in a laboratory setting but has not yet been documented in humans; when it does occur, a major public health problem will arise since some of the bacteria to which vancomycin resistance may be transferred, such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, are common causes of infection and may already be resistant to many other drugs. In a 1995 report about the impacts of antibiotic resistant bacteria, the Office of Technology Assessment concluded that steps should be taken to preserve the effectiveness of currently available antibiotics. It noted that Medicare's vancomycin policy runs counter to recommendations published by the CDC for judicious use of this drug. It also advised that a change in the Medicare policy may secondarily create positive influences on other insurers to consider whether their policies might also be creating unanticipated effects on antibiotic prescription patterns.

Clearly, some patients need to be treated with vancomycin; it can be a lifesaving treatment in patients with serious infections caused by bacteria resistant to other drugs, or in patients who are allergic to certain other drugs. Unfortunately, HCFA's response to the prob-

lem of vancomycin overuse is to curtail coverage for vancomycin altogether. HCFA has announced that it is planning to curtail coverage of vancomycin under the DME benefit starting September 1, 1996. It has determined that vancomycin does not require an infusion pump for administration and thus will not be reimbursed. Surely, there must be a better way to address this problem than penalizing patients who truly need vancomycin.

Instead of curtailing coverage, my bill addresses the public health threat by insisting that vancomycin use complies with certain criteria. The CDC's published recommendations for preventing the spread of vancomycin resistance include guidelines for prudent vancomycin use. The bill incorporates the two CDC recommendations that seem most applicable in the outpatient setting. Implementation would involve having physicians indicate on the request for vancomycin and DME reimbursement that the treatment meets at least one of the criteria delineated in the bill.

Vancomycin is used to treat bacteria which are characterized as gram-positive; this property means that when the bacteria are applied to a microscope slide and subjected to a technique called the Gram stain, the bacteria pick up the color of the stain, which is a positive result. The ability of these bacteria to pick up the stain is related to their outer structure; the ability of certain antibiotics to harm these bacteria is related to the antibiotic's ability to penetrate or disrupt this structure.

Another large family of antibiotics effective against gram-positive organisms is termed the beta-lactam antibiotics because they have in common a chemical structure called the beta-lactam ring. The prototype and most well-known of the beta-lactam antibiotics is penicillin. Penicillin is the first choice treatment for certain infections. However, penicillin has been widely used since the 1940's and many bacteria currently are resistant to penicillin; in this case, certain other beta-lactam drugs are usually effective. Since the 1980's, however, an increase in infections due to *Staphylococcus aureus* strains which are resistant to the whole family of beta-lactam drugs has been documented in hospitals; in these infections, vancomycin is often effective. Vancomycin is generally the last drug available to effectively treat these infections. Thus, today's bill reserves vancomycin use for when the bacteria are resistant to beta-lactam antibiotics. Although vancomycin could also be used against bacteria that are not resistant to the other drugs, it is more prudent to use the other drugs whenever possible and to save vancomycin as the last resort. Current law does not prevent physicians from prescribing vancomycin for infections that could be effectively treated with a beta-lactam antibiotic. In contrast, my bill provides for reimbursement of vancomycin and the equipment used for its administration if the physician indicates that treatment is for a serious infection caused by beta-lactam-resistant bacteria.

Vancomycin is also used for patients who have serious allergies to penicillin and other beta-lactam antibiotics. Thus, the bill also provides for reimbursement of vancomycin and the equipment used for its administration if the patient has a serious allergy to beta-lactam antibiotics.

The bill I am introducing is one attempt to address the public health threat of drug resistant bacteria while protecting the needs of

beneficiaries. However, it may not be the only way to address the problem. The policy causing this problem is rooted in the haphazard way in which Medicare reimburses for outpatient pharmaceuticals. Perhaps a more sweeping change is needed rather than just an adjustment of the reimbursement for one drug. The Medicare outpatient drug benefit has been adjusted drug by drug over the years. However, this policy is causing distortions in the types of drugs prescribed, as evidenced by the vancomycin problem. I solicit ideas and suggestions from the medical and pharmaceutical community and others to help resolve this public health problem and to make Medicare drug payment policies more rational, cost effective, and less likely to lead to similar problems in the future.

IN HONOR OF RONALD A. DALL ON  
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fine American, Ronald A. Dall. Mr. Dall has recently retired from his position as Assistant to the Director of the Washington Regional Complaint Center of the Internal Revenue Service, ending 34 years of Federal Government service. Upon his retirement, Ron was awarded the Certificate of Merit from the Director of the Treasury Department's Office of Equal Opportunity Program; a Certificate of Appreciation from the Director of the Secret Service; the Albert Gallatin Award from the Secretary of the Treasury, and a congratulatory letter from the President of the United States.

From 1967 to 1970, Ron worked at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as an equal employment officer, where he received a letter of commendation. He then began his employment at the Treasury Department, and from 1972 to 1975 he was Assistant Director for Equal Employment. For his outstanding work in this position, Ron was presented with the Meritorious Service Award. During Ron's tenure, 1975-78, as Director of the Discrimination Complaints Division for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, he was selected to receive the Exceptional Performance Award, the highest honor given to career civil servants.

Ron received his bachelor of arts from Bowling Green State University; his law degree from Oklahoma City University and his masters' degree from Antioch University. Ron and his wife, Barbara, have two daughters, Maureen and Meghan. For several years my family has had the pleasure of living in the same neighborhood as the Dalls.

In my opinion, being someone's neighbor gives you an extremely accurate picture of that person's character. When you live close by a person, you see them interacting with their children, washing their car, mowing their lawn and helping others. It has been my pleasure to know Ron Dall and his family, and it is my honor to join in congratulating him upon his retirement. I wish he and Barbara many happy and healthy years together, and on behalf of the American people, I thank him

for his 34 years of exemplary service to our Government.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA BOJARSKY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Donna Bojarsky, a dear friend who is intimately involved in Democratic Party politics and pro-Israel causes. I place great value in her opinion. Through the years, I have come to appreciate more and more her wise counsel and friendship. This year, she is the deserving recipient of the 1996 Richard S. Volpert Award from the Jewish Community Relations Committee.

Donna's first foray into politics occurred at age of 8, when she distributed Bobby Kennedy buttons in front of a Beverly Hills delicatessen. After graduating from Brandeis University with a degree in political science, Donna began a string of campaign and staff jobs. She worked for Assemblyman Richard Katz and Mayor Tom Bradley, and on the Presidential campaign teams of Gary Hart (1984) and Michael Dukakis (1988). In 1992-93, she was the national entertainment coordinator for the Clinton campaign in Little Rock, AR.

Head of her own firm, DB & Associates, Donna has provided fundraising assistance and political consulting to a range of clients, including Senator DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN and the Charles R. Bronfman Foundation. She also advises the actor Richard Dreyfuss on his political and charitable activities.

Donna has always been a person of boundless energy. In addition to her political activities and professional duties, she is founder and cochair of LA Works, a nonprofit, public action and volunteer center in Los Angeles and serves on the national board of City Cares of America. Donna is also a founder and cochair of the New Leaders Project, a unique civic training program for young Jewish leader, and is a member of the executive committee of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Donna Bojarsky, whose dedication to the causes in which she deeply believes is an inspiration to us all. My wife, Janis, and I are proud to call her our friend.

DUTY SUSPENSION FOR TWO  
CHEMICALS

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, since my arrival in Congress, I have filed duty suspensions for a number of companies in my district and I am pleased to file one today at the request of EMS-American Grilon of Sumter, SC. This bill would grant a 2-year duty suspension for two chemicals, caprolactam blocked methylene, also known as Grilbond IL-6, and beta hydroxyalkylamide, also known as Primid XL-552. Grilbond IL-6 is used in aqueous adhe-

sive systems for pretreatment of reinforcing polyester yarns or fabrics. Primid XL-552 is utilized to cure carboxyl functional polyester and acrylic resins. It has been employed in the architectural, general metal-industrial and automotive market sectors.

EMS-American Grilon imports Grilbond IL-6 and Primid XL-552 from Switzerland and passage of the bill will save the company approximately \$100,000 in annual duties. EMS employs almost 100 workers in my district and passage of this bill will protect those jobs by saving the company a significant cost and thereby ensuring the company's continued success.

EMS-American Grilon believes that neither Grilbond IL-6 nor Primid XL-552 are produced in the United States which means that suspending the duties will not jeopardize any U.S. jobs. The company also believes that the cost of the duty suspensions will be small. While it is too late for Congress to pass the bill this year, I am filing the measure now to initiate a public notice and comment period. Federal agencies and the public will have an opportunity to examine the duty suspensions and submit comments. In addition, the Congressional Budget Office will complete a cost estimate of the legislation. By the time Congress reconvenes next year, we will know the cost and we will know whether there is any American company which could be injured by the bill's enactment. That information will help us decide whether to move forward with the bill. I am pleased to help an important employer in my district and I look forward to the review this bill will initiate.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday September 24, 1996, I was unavoidably absent from the House Chamber during rollcall vote Nos. 425 to 429. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" in all cases.

CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC  
OF CHINA ON THE OCCASION OF  
THEIR 85TH NATIONAL DAY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, October 10 marks the 85th anniversary of the birth of the Republic of China [ROC]. As this historic occasion approaches, I want to take this opportunity to send my personal greetings and congratulations to the people of Taiwan and especially to President Lee Teng Hui.

Mr. Speaker, I have been fortunate enough to visit with President Lee on several occasions in Taiwan, and more recently during his visit to the United States and his alma mater, Cornell University. On every occasion our discussions have been warm and enlightening. The Republic of China has long been a beacon of democracy and economic freedom in this important region of the world. During the

past decades Taiwan has been transformed from an underdeveloped island to an economic powerhouse. The ROC is our sixth largest trading partner and trade between our two countries is growing.

Taiwan has exhibited its leadership and commitment to these principles earlier this year when President Lee became the first popularly elected political leader in Chinese history. This was an important milestone for the people of Taiwan. The ROC achieved this success despite the attempts of its neighbor, the People's Republic of China, to intimidate Taiwan's electorate by conducting war games in the Taiwan Strait shortly before the election.

While the past year has been one of great change in Taiwan, there have also been changes here in Washington. In July, Dr. Jason Hu, formerly head of the Government Information Office, assumed the position of Representative at the Taipei Cultural and Economic Office, the ROC's unofficial embassy in Washington. I look forward to working closely with Ambassador Hu to further strengthen ties between our two countries. At the same time Dr. Fred Chien has left his post as Foreign Minister and has been elected Speaker of the National Assembly. This is a well deserved honor for Dr. Chien, who has worked tirelessly here in Washington and in Taipei to make United States-Republic of China relations the success they are today. John Chang, who had been the Vice Foreign Minister, has become the new Foreign Minister. I am certain he will build on Dr. Chien's achievements at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Finally, I want to note that two very able officials in the Taipei Representative office will be returning to Taiwan at the end of the month. Dr. Lyushen Shen and his associate James Huang, have served their country well during their tenure here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, there are many issues concerning Taiwan and the United States which I hope Congress will address in the next session of Congress. Chief among those are membership in the WTO for Taiwan, and making certain that Taiwan's security needs are met. As important as these issues will be in the future, I hope my colleagues will take a moment to pause and join me now in congratulating the ROC for 85 years of progress and success.

#### DUE PROCESS IN INDIAN TRIBAL COURTS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, recently, I have received complaints from parties who have been involved in proceedings in Indian tribal courts. These complaints suggest that non-Indian civil litigants in these courts may face unfair treatment, but, yet, are unable to seek protection from violations of their Federal rights in any other judicial forum.

For example, earlier this year, a Crow Nation tribal court entered a judgment for \$250 million in compensatory damages against the Burlington Northern Railroad. This case deals with a railroad grade-crossing accident which occurred on the Crow Reservation in Montana in 1993. The accident involved the death of

three members of the Crow Tribe. However, the crossing was well-marked, and no accident had ever occurred there in the entire 50-year history of the crossing. A blood alcohol test revealed that the driver and one of the passengers were intoxicated at the time of the accident.

Burlington Northern alleges that various violations of basic due process occurred during the trial, including, the use of jurors who should have been struck for cause, improper prejudicial comments to the jury venire by a member of the appellate court, use of evidence that was barred by Federal law, and the barring of evidence relating to the proper amount of compensatory questions.

I have not had the opportunity to review the complete record of this case, and I do not know all of the details. Further, I do not seek to affect the outcome of this particular case and I believe it should continue in due course under existing law. However, these allegations do raise serious questions about the overall fairness of the Indian tribal court system, which calls for further review by the Congress.

I understand that there are now more than 200 of these types of courts across the Nation and that they process thousands of cases per year. Many of these cases involve persons who have no particular connection to the tribe other than that they have traveled across Indian country on an interstate highway or railroad. Although the Indian Civil Rights Act, 25 U.S.C. §1302, requires these courts to provide basic constitutional rights, it does not provide any means by which litigants may seek to vindicate these rights in a Federal court. In fact, litigants have no way to vindicate these rights except through the tribal court system.

This situation sharply contrasts with the situation in State courts. State court decisions regarding the protection of Federal rights may be reviewed on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court and by actions under 42 U.S.C. §1983. Current law provides that Federal courts may review the decisions of tribal courts only to determine whether the case was within the jurisdiction of the court, and they may only conduct that review after all avenues of relief have been exhausted in the tribal court system.

I do want to stress that I believe in the Indian tribal court system. It is only right that Indians should be able to have their own courts to judge their own affairs. By the same token, I want to say emphatically that it is only right that those courts should provide all of the constitutional protections required by law, including basic due process. The consistent enforcement of constitutional norms is particularly important if the tribal courts are to have jurisdiction over nonmembers who have only tangential relationships with the tribes.

This is a subject that both the Judiciary Committee and the Resources Committee should review in the next Congress.

#### VALLEJO, CA, ANTIDRUG PROGRAM A SUCCESS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, with all the attention recently about increased drug

abuse, particularly among young people, I am happy to take this opportunity to report on a successful effort being undertaken by the Fighting Back Partnership in Vallejo, CA, which is in my congressional district.

The Fighting Back Partnership grew from the disgust of Vallejo community leaders about the effects of drug and alcohol abuse on their city. Representatives of the police, neighborhood groups, city hall, the school district, and the Greater Vallejo Recreational District joined forces in a multicultural coalition to fight back in a comprehensive communitywide substance abuse reduction strategy. This strategy involves a comprehensive program through public education, prevention, intervention, treatment, and aftercare.

The following article describes the tremendous difference the Fighting Back Partnership has made after 5 years. This community has very much to be proud of, and its efforts should provide a model for other cities hurt by the tragedy of substance abuse.

[From the Vallejo Times Herald, Sept. 15, 1996]

#### MAKING A DIFFERENCE—STATISTICS INDICATE FIGHTING BACK IS WINNING THE WAR ON DRUGS IN VALLEJO

(By David Jackson)

Fighting Back Partnership has produced a report that appears to offer some hard evidence that its five-year, multi-million dollar experiment aimed at reducing substance abuse in Vallejo is working.

Citing student surveys on substance abuse, crime statistics and other data, the report suggests that Vallejo is making modest gains in combating the use of illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

Among the more encouraging findings is a survey suggesting that teen-age marijuana use may not be growing in Vallejo at the rapid pace seen elsewhere.

Between 1991 and 1994, the percentage of Vallejo juniors who said they had used marijuana within the last 12 months rose from 35 to 36. In Solano County as a whole, the percentage rose from 31 to 50.

The same survey also suggests that fewer Vallejo students are using tobacco and alcohol, despite steady or increased usage by students throughout Solano County.

"There appears to be something going on in Vallejo that is not reflected in the trends of the rest of the county," said Jane Callahan, project manager for Fighting Back. "Our kids are reporting less drug, alcohol and tobacco use than their peers in the rest of the county."

The survey information was taken from The American Drug and Alcohol Survey, which is not affiliated with Fighting Back.

Among the survey's other findings:

The percentage of Vallejo seventh-graders who reported smoking cigarettes dropped from 48 percent in 1991 to 28 percent in 1994. Throughout the county, however, the percentage rose from 39 to 41.

During the same period, smoking rose 1 percent among Vallejo ninth-graders and dropped 14 percent among Vallejo 11th-graders.

The percentage of Vallejo students who reported using alcohol within the last 30 days dropped 11 percent among seventh-graders, rose 6 percent among ninth-graders and dropped 5 percent among 11th-graders between 1991 and 1994.

For the county as a whole, the percentages rose for each grade level.

the percentage of 11th-grade students who reported using marijuana in the last 30 days dropped 3 percent in Vallejo between 1991 and 1994, but rose 12 percent across the county.

Essie Henderson, substance abuse administrator for Solano County, agreed with Callahan's assessment that the Fighting Back program is working.

"Early prevention has been the key," Henderson said.

The Fighting Back program includes several programs designed to keep students from trying alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs or to help them stop.

The report also includes crime statistics from the Vallejo Police Department which indicate that Fighting Back's training program for liquor store owners, managers and employees has worked as intended.

Among stores that participated in the training program, incidents reported to the police dropped 6.5 percent between fiscal year 1993-94 and fiscal year 1995-96. Among stores that didn't receive training, the number of incidents rose 27 percent.

The difference in the number of hours police spent responding to problems at the two groups of liquor stores was even more profound; down 20 percent for stores that had the training and up 26 percent for those that didn't.

More than half of the liquor store personnel in the city have participated in Fighting Back's program.

Since the late 1980s, when planning efforts for the Fighting Back program began, it has received wide community support. However, the majority of the funding has come from the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation in the form of a five-year, \$3 million grant.

Cash and in-kind contributions from a variety of other sources, including free office space from the city of Vallejo, have bumped Fighting Back's annual budget up to about \$1 million per year.

The foundation, which is sponsoring 14 Fighting Back programs across the nation, has hired an independent research organization to conduct detailed studies to determine how effective the programs were.

The results of that study won't be fully available until 1999.

Unfortunately, Vallejo's Fighting Back program can't wait that long. Its Robert Woods Johnson grant will expire March 1.

If the organization hopes to continue to exist, it must find some new revenue sources.

#### TRIBUTE TO ZION-GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this coming Sunday, September 29, 1996, the Zion-Grace United Church of Christ, in my home State of Michigan, is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

The present congregation is the product of a 1972 merger of two churches, Zion Church of Fraser and Grace Church of Detroit. Coincidentally, both of the churches trace their foundings to the same year—1896. Zion Evangelical Congregation in Fraser was organized in February 1896, while Grace Church was organized in September 1896 in Hamtramck. From its original location in Hamtramck, Grace Church moved to Detroit in 1918. It remained at that location until the 1970's when declining membership forced it to seek a home elsewhere. A special celebration consecrated the union in 1972 as they became one church family, the Zion-Grace United Church of Christ.

The founders of this united church were committed to seeing the emotional, edu-

cational, and spiritual needs of their community fulfilled. Continuing in that tradition, the Reverend Joseph A. Lachcik, pastor of Zion-Grace UCC and the dedicated members of the congregation reach out to serve in many ways. The Women's Fellowship group, through the Samaritan Workshop is very active in service projects, mission involvement, and hospital donations. Through their ministry to others they have provided a home for the Homestead Adult Day Care, Boy Scouts, and Alcoholics Anonymous as well as participating actively in the support of area health and welfare programs.

The centennial celebration of the church is a proud milestone. As the community prepares to commemorate this event, I applaud the church for its contributions to the rich tapestry that makes up American life in Michigan. I urge my colleagues to join with me in wishing congratulations to all the members of the Zion-Grace United Church of Christ. May the next 100 years be a continued fruitful ministry.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FOREST FOUNDATION CONSERVATION ACT

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. BAKER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I have introduced the Forest Foundation Conservation Act.

The Forest Foundation Conservation Act will amend the National Forest Foundation Act to extend and increase the matching funds authorized for the National Forest Foundation and to permit the National Forest Foundation to license the use of trademarks, tradenames, and other such devices to identify that a person is an official sponsor or supporter of the U.S. Forest Service or the National Forest System.

Our Nation has been blessed with a national treasure—America's national forest lands. A growing population, increasing demands on forests and related resources, and more competition for uses and benefits are placing great stress on our forest lands and the U.S. Forest Service.

Now more than ever, America's forest lands and the individuals who work so diligently to manage these forest lands need support from people who care. The National Forest Foundation, a citizen-directed, non-profit organization, was created to coordinate the needed support. The National Forest Foundation Amendment Act of 1996 will allow the National Forest Foundation to develop innovative public/private partnerships so that America's pristine forest land and its resources will be conserved for future generations.

I believe that it is the responsibility of each citizen to help conserve our Nation's resources and provide organizations like the National Forest Foundation with the resources it needs to help maintain America's forest lands for generations to come. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation which will help us improve the quality and infrastructure of our national forests.

#### CONGRATULATING AMERICAN CREDIT UNIONS FOR SERVING THE UNDERSERVED

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Credit Union Administration, the Credit Union National Association, the CUNA Mutual Group, the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, and the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions for holding their very successful Serving the Underserved conference in Chicago from August 9 through 11, 1996.

Credit unions have throughout their history made great strides in providing financial services to those previously locked-out—to members of low-income communities and communities of color, a reality highlighted by conference speakers including our former colleague and conference keynote speaker, the esteemed NAACP president Kweisi Mfume.

It is with great appreciation for America's credit unions that today I introduce for the RECORD President Bill Clinton's statement of greetings and commendation to the credit union community for their evidenced commitment to serving distressed communities.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, August 6, 1996.

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in Chicago for the "Serving the Underserved" credit union conference.

The continued prosperity of our nation depends on our ability to foster economic opportunity for all of our people. Credit unions have continually distinguished themselves by working tirelessly to provide fair loans, sound fiscal advice, and high-quality consumer service to hardworking individuals and families. Your dedication has helped to make the American Dream more accessible to our people, strengthening the potential for innovation, growth, and prosperity for our entire nation.

I commend you for your ongoing efforts to reach out to traditionally disadvantaged groups in our society. As you gather to explore ways to fill the unmet financial needs of isolated rural and distressed inner-city areas, I am confident that your continued commitment to high-quality service will help to create a brighter future for us all.

Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable conference.

BILL CLINTON.

#### DRUGS AND THE CIA: WE MUST INVESTIGATE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge an immediate and comprehensive congressional investigation of recent allegations of a connection between the Central Intelligence Agency and the introduction of crack cocaine in the United States.

The San Jose Mercury News has published a series of articles providing considerable evidence that crack cocaine was introduced in the United States in order to fund the operations of the Nicaraguan Contras. Because

the Contras were in turn established and supported by the Central Intelligence Agency, there is considerable question as to whether the CIA knew about this trafficking operations, or even supported it.

This is a very troubling allegation. The possibility that our own Government supported, implicitly or explicitly, the sale of crack cocaine in the United States is deeply, deeply disturbing.

I have written to CIA Director John Deutch urging a full investigation of this matter. But Congress, which is responsible for the oversight of our Government, must also investigate this matter independently.

I thank the members of the Select Intelligence Committee, including Chairman LARRY COMBEST and Congressman NORM DICKS, for their attention to this matter and the pursuit of an investigation in a full and expeditious manner.

As long as the questions raised by the Mercury News story remain, we must examine the role of the CIA in drug trafficking in the United States. We cannot rest until this manner is fully and fairly investigated.

NATIONAL DYSTONIA AWARENESS  
WEEK SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 5

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues about National Dystonia Awareness Week, September 28 to October 5, 1996.

I was privileged, Mr. Speaker, to attend a chili supper in June given by a group of residents of the Second District who deal with dystonia everyday. These residents regularly meet and discuss the challenges they meet everyday.

Dystonia is a relatively rare neurological disorder characterized by severe muscle contractions and sustained postures that afflicts an estimated 300,000 people in North America. Dystonia is a complex disorder that consist of three types and is often times misunderstood and misdiagnosed.

The three types of dystonia are primary, focal dystonias, and secondary dystonia.

Primary dystonia or idiopathic torsion dystonia [ITD], causes spasms that affect many different parts of the body and often starts in childhood.

Focal dystonias affects one specific part of the body and is distinguished for five varieties. Blespharospasm causes eyelids to clse tightly for seconds to hours. Cervical dystonia is the contraction on neck muscles turning the head to one side or pulling it forward or backward. Oromandibular dystonia—Meige's Syndrome—is a combination of blepharospasm and oromandibular dystonia in which the muscles of the lower face pull or contract irregularly to cause facial distortions. Spasmodic dysphonia affects the speech muscles of the throat, causing strained, forced, or breathy speech. Writer's cramp is characterized by muscles in the hand and forearm contracting.

The last type of dystonia, secondary dystonia, is caused by an injury or other brain illness.

Unfortunately, there is no known cause or cure for dystonia.

Researchers, however, have made promising advancements in understanding this disorder. In 1989, Drs. Xandra Breakefield and James Gusella made the discovery of a genetic marker that will significantly advance future research. In addition, hundreds of dystonia patients and their families have made the commitment to donate their brains to further dystonia research.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to familiarize my colleagues with dystonia and encourage each of my colleagues to learn more about this neurological disorder.

More information about dystonia can be found on the world wide web. The Dystonia Medical Research Foundation's home page not only offers information about dystonia, but also details meeting places and dates for those who are or have a family member affected by dystonia and can be reached at <http://www.iii.net/biz/dystonia/>. You can also learn more by visiting an internet newsgroup dedicated to dystonia at "alt.support.dystonia."

HONORING THE COMMUNITY OF  
HIGHLANDS, TX

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the community of Highlands, TX, in my district, which on October 4–5 will celebrate the 40th annual Highlands Jamboree.

The Highlands Jamboree began in 1956 to celebrate the grand opening of Highlands State Bank. Because of the success of the initial celebration, the citizens of Highlands decided to have an annual jamboree to display the community's strong unity. As they have in the past, many of Highlands' citizens will participate in this year's event.

The festivities will begin on Friday night with the first ever cookoff. Residents will judge the best tasting fajitas and margaritas. On Saturday, I will have the honor of serving as the grand marshal of the parade. Many of Highlands' citizens, young and old, will march in this parade, which will be followed by an arts and crafts show and a motorcycle and car show.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of the people of Highlands for their constant dedication to improving their community and congratulate them for the effort they have put forth to continue the Highlands Jamboree. This celebration represents the unity of the people of Highlands and their loyalty to and love for their hometown and country.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
BILL CLINGER FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Member of this

body for the past 18 years, the Honorable BILL CLINGER who has represented the people of Pennsylvania's Fifth District with class and dignity.

It has been my honor to serve with BILL since we entered Congress together in 1978. He is a man of integrity and principle.

His legislative accomplishments over his career are impressive, but his accomplishments just in the past 2 years are nothing short of remarkable. As chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, BILL's leadership and determination pushed through bills ending Federal unfunded mandates and enacting the line-item veto. BILL's accomplishments did not stop with these pieces of legislation though. He also successfully passed bills involving paperwork reform and regulatory reform, among others.

For his work, the Almanac of American Politics said, "his legislative production in just his first few months as chairman was as impressive as that of many members over a whole career."

Mr. Speaker, the House is losing a tremendous legislative leader, gentleman, and patriot.

On behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's Ninth District, I thank the Honorable BILL CLINGER for his outstanding service to the House of Representatives and the United States.

THE AMERICA-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP  
LEAGUE, INC.

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I recently attended the annual Partners for Democracy Dinner in my hometown of Tucson, AZ. The dinner was hosted by the Tucson chapter of the America-Israel Friendship League in honor of David L. McPherson.

The America-Israel Friendship League, Inc. [AIFL] is a nonsectarian, nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization committed to maintaining and strengthening the mutually supportive relationship between the people of the United States and Israel. It was founded in 1971 by a group of distinguished Americans with a vision to preserve America's best interests in the Middle East. They saw the need to instill in Americans an appreciation for the fact that Israel is the only democratic nation in the Middle East and America's most reliable ally in that area of the world. They knew that the friendship between these two countries could be deepened through the understanding generated by people-to-people educational and cultural programming.

The AIFL serves as the catalyst to bring people together from diverse backgrounds. The AIFL's activities reach out to Americans of all faiths, ethnic backgrounds, age groups, and political persuasions. Through missions, seminars, lectures, exchanges, and much more, AIFL helps participants explore and discuss the issues and concerns surrounding the relationship between the United States and Israel. Program participants become involved long after their individual program has ended. In essence, they become ambassadors who carry the message of friendship and goodwill from one generation to the next. From their

experiences emerge a belief in the very real possibility of future peace.

While at the dinner, I had the pleasure of listening to a speech by an extremely insightful, young woman, Saleela Salahuddin, on the ways of the Israeli people. Saleela Salahuddin was the 1995 Youth Ambassador to Israel. I was very moved by this speech, and I am honored to share it with you:

Tonight, I bring you greetings from Maya, who was my host sister in Netanya, Israel, and Roy, who was my host brother in Arad, Israel. As Sabras, proud natives of Israel, they are two bright youths of the admirable community of democracy which defines the nation. Thanks to AIFL, I was enriched by their modernism, patriotic idealism, and the optimism for the future.

"Everyone in Israel goes there," said Maya. "It's a life-changing experience." She was talking about the Wailing Wall. Less than two hours later, I was standing in front of it, remembering her words and realizing how true they were.

There was a combined quality of awe and appreciation when visiting the holy site on the holy day of Shabbat. I approached the wall slowly, briefly pausing by a small wicker basket that held many brightly colored scarves. I took one out and covered my hair, following the example of a few women who had gone ahead of me.

When I laid my hand on the Wailing Wall, I felt its coolness as well as its strength. The large stones sit atop one another with the assurance that defines millennia of heritage. I was experiencing one of the most transforming moments of my life. I realize that as an American Muslim, I was undoubtedly the first person in my family of many generations to be at this very sacred place. The universality of it all struck me. To my right, a young woman wearing blue jeans prayed; to my left, an old woman in a long black dress devotedly swayed in rhythm with her reading from the Torah. And there I was, standing in the middle, praying with them and understanding the "change" that Maya had spoken of. The diversity and unity of the situation, young and old, Jewish and Muslim, left a very strong impact on me. I added a prayer that I had written on a tiny piece of paper to the many that were inserted into cracks in the ancient wall. In it, I had written a message hoping for peace and democracy to prosper in our world.

This moment shall always be with me, and my message shall forever remain in the Wailing Wall.

On behalf of myself, Maya, and Roy, I bid you Shalom.

#### AN ACT TO SAVE AMERICA'S FORESTS

HON. JOHN BRYANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for years I have sought to protect native biodiversity in our forests by ending clearcutting and other forms of even-age logging, and allowing only selection management of Federal forest lands where logging is permitted. Since the 101st Congress, I have sponsored forest biodiversity legislation, and over the years, support for my legislation has grown steadily. In the 103d Congress, 107 Representatives co-sponsored my bill, and 142 voted for a version of it as a floor amendment.

Scientists, however, tell us that banning clearcutting alone is not enough to guarantee

the protection of forest biodiversity on our public lands. It is clear that core areas of pristine forests must be left unlogged altogether, and that these wellsprings of nature should be surrounded by areas where only the most environmentally responsible logging is permitted. In order to direct our forest management agencies to follow these scientific recommendations to protect core areas of biodiversity, I am adding a new title to my bill which will prohibit logging in three categories of Federal forest lands: Northwest ancient forests, roadless areas, and designated special areas.

By adding these new provisions, I believe that my legislation now represents the most complete solution to the deforestation crisis facing our public lands. With this in mind, I have retitled this measure the act to save America's forests.

The Forest Service and other Federal agencies are primarily using the logging techniques of clearcutting and other forms of even-age forestry, despite overwhelming evidence that selection management—cutting individual trees, leaving the canopy and undergrowth relatively undisturbed—is more cost-efficient and is more ecologically sound.

Selection logging is more labor intensive, and therefore creates more jobs for timber workers. It also avoids the high up-front costs of site preparation and replanting required by even-age timber management.

The result of selection logging is a permanent, sustainable supply of high quality timber, and the protection of native biodiversity in the forests. This contrasts with clearcutting's indiscriminate destruction of huge stands of trees, leaving only shrubs and bare ground, leading to erosion, the demineralization of the soil, and allowing the creation of artificial tree farms and extinction of the original native forest in its wake. Wherever we allow logging to occur on our Federal forests, only the selection logging technique should be permitted.

If current plans are followed, the remaining native biodiversity in the approximately 60 million acres available for commercial logging on Federal land will be eliminated and each of those acres transformed into monoculture timber plantations within the next 15 to 20 years.

The legacy of the Forest Service and other Federal agencies' unrestrained use of commercial logging based on even-age logging techniques has left our Federal forests devastated, and has brought countless plant and animal species to the brink of extinction.

The new logging prohibitions contained in my bill are a necessary response to the extraordinarily destructive anti-environmental laws passed by this 104th Congress, especially the timber salvage rider to the fiscal year 1995 rescissions legislation. Under this salvage rider, environmental protection has been suspended. Many northwest ancient forests with trees up to 1,000 years old are being logged, and pristine, roadless, and perfectly healthy forests are now fraudulently being logged as salvage. The salvage rider targeted for clearcutting the very forests that scientists tell us are most urgently in need of protection.

As long as northwest ancient forests and roadless areas remain in the timber base of the Forest Service, and other Federal agencies, these irreplaceable areas are perpetually at risk of being logged and destroyed. It is time to make these magnificent remnants of America's original untouched forests perma-

nently off-limits to logging, protecting them forever from the devastation of any future timber salvage rider, or similarly destructive legislation. My new bill would achieve this.

In the development of a plan for the northwest ancient forests, Forest Service experts and other Federal scientists mapped the ancient forests of the region. These scientists determined no logging should be allowed in many of these ancient forest areas in order to give the ancient forests and their dependent species the highest possibility of survival and recovery. My bill prohibits commercial logging in these northwest ancient forests.

The bill also prohibits commercial logging in roadless areas. Federal roadless areas contain many of the largest unfragmented forests in America and are important reservoirs of our Nation's remaining native biodiversity. I have used the Forest Service's definition of roadless areas in my revised legislation.

My bill also identifies certain Federal forests, call special areas, which may not be roadless areas or northwest ancient forests, but are deserving of protection from commercial logging because of important ecological reasons. Many of these areas also have important cultural, scenic, or recreational qualities, which deserve as much protection as trees and wildlife.

Passage of this legislation will usher in a new era of forest management on our Federal lands, with long-term ecological integrity as the guiding principle.

The public supports environmental protection as never before, and opinion polls express the public's demand that Congress prevent the permanent loss of our Nation's native forests.

I invite every Member to join me in seeking this badly needed forest reform.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was absent from the U.S. Congress on Wednesday, September 18, but I was attending a funeral in my home State of Florida.

THE 3.8 MILLION AMERICAN CITIZENS OF PUERTO RICO DESERVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME ECONOMICALLY SOLVENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENT

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my concern for our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico, who have been greatly affected by our recent action to eliminate economic development incentives under section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code without providing them with an alternative program. In dealing with important national issues such as the increase on minimum wage we must not ignore the needs of the people of Puerto Rico, my homeland. The 3.8 million American citizens of

Puerto Rico deserve the opportunity to become economically solvent and self-sufficient. We must work hand in hand with the island to develop a sound economic development program that helps achieve those goals. I believe we must consider improvements and expansion of a wage credit for Puerto Rico under existing legislation. I urge my colleagues to give prompt attention to this issue early next year.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF WICH RADIO

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of WICH Radio 1310 in Norwich, CT. Known as WNOC at its inception, WICH operates out of 91 Main Street, and transmits from its facilities off of Lucas Park Road in the Second Congressional District. Today, WICH is the hub of a four-station radio system.

While, as we might expect, personalities and formats have changes over the years, WICH has throughout its tenure on our airwaves maintained its commitment to community service. The radio station's history is replete with example of having contributed to the public good of eastern Connecticut.

During times of emergencies natural disasters, and the like, WICH has provided special and exemplary service to its listeners and has most appropriately received several awards for its work.

Since its beginning under the guidance of the late Ross Perkins of Essex, CT, through the extraordinary contributions of Dick Reed, WICH has made extraordinary contributions to the radio industry.

Congratulations to WICH of Norwich on its 50 year anniversary and best wishes for another 50 years of future service and great programming.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR BAY  
CITY: CITIZENS, LABOR, AND  
UNITED WAY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, in addition to keeping full-time jobs, volunteers spend long tireless hours helping others while in return they are not paid and receive no financial gain. Volunteers selflessly sacrifice their free time. Organizations would not be nearly as effective without volunteers who are essential to the success of achieving their goals.

Today I would like to congratulate and recognize some dedicated volunteers from my hometown of Bay City, MI, whose efforts earned them the Model City in Community Service Award. One of five model cities nationwide, the citizens of Bay City, the United Way, and the Central Labor Council should be proud of their accomplishments. By working together they improved their community and serve as a model for other communities to follow.

Under the capable leadership of Steve Rajewski, labor liaison for the United Way of Bay County and coordinator for community service programs through the United Way of Bay County, the volunteers have provided many valuable services to the community including: union counseling, blood drives, service for retirees, food drives and many other valuable programs aimed to improve the quality of life for citizens of Bay City.

Established in 1991, the AFL-CIO Model City in Community Service Award recognizes outstanding community service activities and programs provided by the AFL-CIO and developed in cooperation with the United Way. The programs are designed to give union members the opportunity to serve, support, and improve human services in their communities.

The selection is based on a detailed survey and application process that focuses on health and human service programs that work in the local communities. Volunteer activities on the boards and committees of the United Way and its member agencies are an important criterion for model city consideration.

The United Way, the Central Labor Council, and citizens of Bay City deserve recognition for their cooperation which resulted in their being honored with this prestigious award. The loyal volunteers represent the spirit of volunteerism and community service which makes our county one of the greatest national in the world. I am proud to be a son and product of the great city and I ask my colleges to join me in wishing the citizens of Bay City a hearty congratulations for a job well done.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF  
H.R. 2092

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join the gentleman from Georgia in support of the Private Security Officer Quality Assurance Act, a bill which we jointly introduced last year. Mr. BARR deserves enormous credit for his diligence, skill, and hard work in bringing this important measure to the floor.

The public deserves the assurance that the security guard they meet in the mall, the bank, or at school is not a felon or a person who has a history of violent behavior. Recently, USA Today printed a story about the tragedies which can occur when inadequate background checks are made—tragedies that involved security guards who committed murder, rape, and theft.

Mr. Speaker, there are now thousands of security companies employing close to 1.8 million guards. The vast majority of these security guards are professionals, many acting heroically in performing their duties. However, right now, we cannot be sure that the security officers that we meet in virtually every facet of our lives are not armed and dangerous.

H.R. 2092 will provide an expedited procedure for State officials to check the backgrounds of applicants for guard licenses. A similar procedure is in place for the banking and parimutuel industries. Currently, it takes up to 18 months to complete background checks in some States. This bill can reduce

that time to the approximately 3 weeks it takes for banks to get results under their expedited process.

H.R. 2092 contains no mandates of any kind. No State or individual is compelled to use it. Fees will be paid by the applicants or their employers. There is no cost to the FBI.

H.R. 2092 has broad support. Most notably, the National Association of Security and Investigative Regulators has endorsed the bill as well as representatives of the guard, alarm, and armored car industries.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a bipartisan effort which has the support of Members on both sides of the aisle. Security should not be a partisan issue. By establishing an expedited procedure for State regulators of security guards to receive FBI background checks in a timely manner, H.R. 2092 will greatly improve the safety of the public.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this straightforward, modest, and reasonable bill that will improve public safety where ever security guards are present.

HEALING VICTIMS OF TORTURE

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the brutal and violent practice of torture is a critical issue; yet, there is little information on the subject and even less action in the fight against it. For some governments, torture is used as a matter of policy where low-level functionaries carry out high-level orders of state violence. During the mid-1970's, core-Communist countries such as China, Cuba, the Soviet Union and Vietnam relied on torture as a most effective tool against democracy. As recently as 1995, there were 72 governments who systematically implemented the practice of torture.

For victims of torture, however, there is hope. Dr. Inge Genefke is a Danish doctor who has devoted her career to the treatment and rehabilitation of victims of torture. She began her career in this field in 1973 after Amnesty International issued a plea to physicians throughout the world to assist those who had been tortured. As director of both the Rehabilitation and Research Center for Torture Victims and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims in Copenhagen, Dr. Genefke keeps an impressive schedule speaking in countries where victims of torture are receiving medical attention.

Earlier this year, Dr. Genefke testified before the House International Relations subcommittee on international operations and human rights. Her testimony included basic information on the issue and stressed the need for increased American awareness of torture victims and their struggles. Dr. Genefke believes that through greater understanding and awareness, we can make gains in the fight against torture.

I commend to Member's attention the following column on this remarkable woman by the respected Colman McCarthy which appeared in the Washington Post on September 3, 1996.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 3, 1996]

FIGHTING TORTURE WITH MEDICINE

(By Colman McCarthy)

As a young physician earning her medical degree from the University of Copenhagen in

1965, Inge Genefke looked ahead to a conventional practice in her home country, Denmark. She settled on neurology as her specialty at the University Hospital in Copenhagen. Her career path appeared to be set.

In 1973 it veered sharply, in a direction that took Genefke into what was then, and largely remains, one of the least known branches of medicine: the examination and treatment of torture victims.

Earlier this year, Genefke, who is the medical director of both the Rehabilitation and Research Center for Torture Victims and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims in Copenhagen, testified here before the House International Relations subcommittee on international operations and human rights. It was one of many stops this past year, an itinerary that has taken this physician of uncommon conscience to South Africa, Romania, Nepal, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Croatia and other areas of the world where survivors of torture are receiving medical care.

Genefke's work began in 1973 when Amnesty International issued a plea to the world's physicians for help in treating people who were tortured. The first response, and one that has proven to be deep and lasting, came from a group of Danish doctors. They faced an epidemic. Governments—and not only dictatorships—were using torture as a matter of policy. Police forces, armies and death squads were the low-level functionaries of dungeon brutality carrying out high-level orders of state violence.

The mid-1970s were years when China, Cuba, the Soviet Union and Vietnam were the core communist nations relying on torture. These were also years when such U.S.-backed military juntas as Greece, Chile and Argentina were at work.

Among the imprisoned was Maria Piniou-Kalli, a Greek physician who joined Genefke's mission in 1989 by forming the Medical Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims in Athens. She wrote recently of the years following the military coup in 1967: "Though this might appear far in the distant past, I dare say that the aftermaths of such a violent abolition of democracy are still painfully felt even today. Twenty-two methods of torture were employed as a means to repress every opposition. Among them were rape, electric shocks, psychological abuse and phalanga (beating soles of the feet), which can be describe as our national way of torture."

Greeks, along with Chileans, were among the first victims coming to Copenhagen for help. Other nationalities followed, and inpouring so large that Genefke began traveling the world to rally other doctors. She became known as the "Florence Nightingale" of torture treatment. Today her own centers, which have grown to a staff of 80, are linked with 60 similar operations in 45 countries, including one in Minneapolis that has treated more than 800 people since 1988.

When I visited the Minneapolis center four years ago, several staff members repeatedly mentioned Genefke and her singular work. It was not a large leap to place the Danish doctor in the company of other 20th century women—Jane Addams, Maria Montessori, Eleanor Roosevelt, Mother Teresa—who not only had a vision but also the drive to organize it into reality.

At the House hearings, Genefke supplied the basic information about her work in Copenhagen and the affiliated centers around the world. Services range from psychological supportive therapy to medical help to restore injured muscles and limbs.

Of the 72 governments that systematically used torture in 1995, Genefke told Congress: "One of the most horrible things when you hear about torture is . . . to realize that so

many governments use it with the purpose of staying in power. Torture victims always tell us that we, who have not been tortured, can never understand what happened to them. . . . I do not think we should try to understand what happens—but we should know why it happens, the motive behind torture, and then fight against it with all our strength."

Some of that strength is money. Here, too, Denmark leads the way. Its government provides more than \$5 million a year to the Copenhagen centers, about \$1 per Dane. The United States contribution to the U.N. Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture is \$1.5 million, about a half-cent per person a year.

Genefke believes that few Americans are aware of that paltriness, or who is being tortured or where. She plans to return to tell us again. Information is the medicine for indifference.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 1995—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-198)

SPEECH OF

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, opponents of H.R. 1833, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, justified their support of this form of infanticide by stating that the procedure was medically necessary in some cases. In fact, President Clinton, as he vetoed the bill, ensured that his photo-ops included women who had survived this gruesome procedure.

As my distinguished colleague HENRY HYDE mentioned in his closing remarks of the veto override debate, proabortion forces are disturbed by our attempt to outlaw these acts because the legislation shifts the focus from the woman's choice to the brutal and fatal act of the abortion procedure. In their attempt to justify all abortions, abortion advocates have fully exposed their agenda by lobbying to protect this form of baby murder. Apparently, they are ignoring the health risks to women who have been or could be subjected to the medically necessary procedure we seek to outlaw.

In fact, supporters of H.R. 1833 included many trained in the medical profession. Our colleague, Dr. TOM COBURN, a practicing obstetrician, assisted in writing the bill. Other well-trained physicians, true to their Hippocratic oath, lent their support to outlaw partial-birth abortions and exposed the serious health dangers inherent in such a brutal procedure.

Four physicians, all of whom are experts in obstetrics or fetal health, explained their support for H.R. 1833 in the September 19, 1996 Wall Street Journal article entitled, "Partial-Birth Abortion Is Bad Medicine". As our colleagues in the other body this week attempt to override the veto of this most humane legislation, I commend the article to their attention and urge them to follow the lead of the House, override the President's veto and make H.R. 1833 law.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 19, 1996]

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION IS BAD MEDICINE

(By Nancy Romer, Pamela Smith, Curtis R. Cook, and Joseph L. DeCook)

The House of Representatives will vote in the next few days on whether to override

President Clinton's veto of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. The debate on the subject has been noisy and rancorous. You've heard from the activists. You've heard from the politicians. Now may we speak?

We are the physicians who, on a daily basis, treat pregnant women and their babies. And we can no longer remain silent while abortion activists, the media and even the president of the United States continue to repeat false medical claims about partial-birth abortion. The appalling lack of medical credibility on the side of those defending this procedure has forced us—for the first time in our professional careers—to leave the sidelines in order to provide some sorely needed facts in a debate that has been dominated by anecdote, emotion and media stunts.

Since the debate on this issue began, those whose real agenda is to keep all types of abortion legal—at any stage of pregnancy, for any reason—have waged what can only be called an orchestrated misinformation campaign.

First the National Abortion Federation and other pro-abortion groups claimed the procedure didn't exist. When a paper written by the doctor who invented the procedure was produced, abortion proponents changed their story, claiming the procedure was only done when a woman's life was in danger. Then the same doctor, the nation's main practitioner of the technique, was caught—on tape—admitting that 80% of his partial-birth abortions were "purely elective."

Then there was the anesthesia myth. The American public was told that it wasn't the abortion that killed the baby, but the anesthesia administered to the mother before the procedure. This claim was immediately and thoroughly denounced by the American Society of Anesthesiologists, which called the claim "entirely inaccurate." Yet Planned Parenthood and its allies continued to spread the myth, causing needless concern among our pregnant patients who heard the claims and were terrified that epidurals during labor, or anesthesia during needed surgeries, would kill their babies.

The latest baseless statement was made by President Clinton himself when he said that if the mothers who opted for partial-birth abortions had delivered their children naturally, the women's bodies would have been "eviscerated" or "ripped to shreds" and they "could never have another baby."

That claim is totally and completely false. Contrary to what abortion activists would have us believe, partial-birth abortion is never medically indicated to protect a woman's health or her fertility. In fact, the opposite is true: The procedure can pose a significant and immediate threat to both the pregnant woman's health and her fertility. It seems to have escaped anyone's attention that one of the five women who appeared at Mr. Clinton's veto ceremony had five miscarriages after her partial-birth abortion.

Consider the dangers inherent in partial-birth abortion, which usually occurs after the fifth month of pregnancy. A woman's cervix is forcibly dilated over several days, which risks creating an "incompetent cervix," the leading cause of premature deliveries. It is also an invitation to infection, a major cause of infertility. The abortionist then reaches into the womb to pull a child feet first out of the mother (internal podalic version), but leaves the head inside. Under normal circumstances, physicians avoid breech births whenever possible; in this case, the doctor intentionally causes one—and risks tearing the uterus in the process. He then forces scissors through the base of the baby's skull—which remains lodged just within the birth canal. This is a partially "blind" procedure, done by feel, risking direct scissor injury to the uterus and laceration of the cervix or lower uterine segment,

resulting in immediate and massive bleeding and the threat of shock or even death to the mother.

None of this risk is ever necessary for any reason. We and many other doctors across the U.S. regularly treat women whose unborn children suffer the same conditions as those cited by the women who appeared at Mr. Clinton's veto ceremony. Never is the partial-birth procedure necessary. Not for hydrocephaly (excessive cerebrospinal fluid in the head), not for polyhydramnios (an excess of amniotic fluid collecting in the women) and not for trisomy (genetic abnormalities characterized by an extra chromosome). Sometimes, as in the case of hydrocephaly, it is first necessary to drain some of the fluid from the baby's head. And in some cases, when vaginal delivery is not possible, a doctor performs a Caesarean section. But in no case is it necessary to partially deliver an infant through the vagina and then kill the infant.

How telling it is that although Mr. Clinton met with women who claimed to have needed partial-birth abortions on account of these conditions, he has flat-out refused to meet with women who delivered babies with these same conditions, with no damage whatsoever to their health or future fertility.

Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop was recently asked whether he'd ever operated on children who had any of the disabilities described in this debate. Indeed he had. In fact, one of his patients—"with a huge omphalocele [a sac containing the baby's organs] much bigger than her head"—went on to become the head nurse in his intensive care unit many years later.

Mr. Koop's reaction to the president's veto? "I believe that Mr. Clinton was misled by his medical advisers on what is fact and what is fiction" on the matter, he said. Such a procedure, he added, cannot truthfully be called medically necessary for either the mother or—he scarcely need point out—for the baby.

Considering these medical realities, one can only conclude that the women who thought they underwent partial-birth-abortions for "medical" reasons were tragically misled. And those who purport to speak for women don't seem to care.

So whom are you going to believe? The activist-extremists who refuse to allow a little truth to get in the way of their agenda? The politicians who benefit from the activists' political action committees? Or doctors who have the facts?

#### THE COMPUTER SOFTWARE DEPRECIATION CORRECTION

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to change current tax law to allow computer software acquired in the purchase of a business to be subject to the same tax depreciation rules as most other computer software available to the general public. My bill also shortens the depreciable life of computer software to 2 years, to better reflect its true value to a small business or a corporation.

Current law considers software acquired in the purchase of a business to be an "intangible asset," under Internal Revenue Code section 197. As such, it is subject to a punitive 15-year depreciation rule. My bill first places all computer software, regardless of its origin,

composition, or means of acquisition, on equal footing with typical off-the-shelf software technology currently available to most consumers.

My bill then lowers the current 36-month "useful life" standard for computer software deduction down to 2 years. This shorter period is a much more fair concept of "useful life." The 2-year deduction is weighted in the first year to allow a 70-percent deduction, followed by a second-year 30-percent deduction. This also reflects the value of the software to a business in a much more fair way.

Shortening the depreciable life of computer software—and especially subjecting the most technical and sophisticated programs to the same treatment as commercially available software—will have substantial economic impact. It will lower the cost of operation for thousands of small businesses which may currently purchase hundreds of programs a year. It will also restore a measure of equity for small businesses vis-a-vis larger corporations which can afford to write their own software and expense the costs that year as a research and development expenditure.

While on the vanguard of our technology sector, computer software has an increasingly short product life cycle, often about 1 to 2 years, depreciating much more rapidly than most products. My bill will help spur further innovation in this growing sector of our economy. And as many new companies involved in emerging technology markets must acquire new technologies in order to grow, my bill will enhance the competitiveness of U.S. firms with foreign firms that may enjoy much more favorable tax treatment of acquired assets like software.

An in-depth economic analysis will have to be made on my bill's impact, a preliminary examination of the legislation indicates its cost will be minimal, compared to its benefit to the technology sector. I encourage my colleagues to join me in this effort by cosponsoring this important bill.

#### TRIBUTE TO LOUIS TRAVIS AMVETS POST 14 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Louis Travis Amvets Post 14 as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of their post charter on Saturday, October 26, 1996.

After the end of World War II, thousands of veterans throughout our country had the need for an organization which would bring them together under a common bond. In Bay View, a World War II veteran by the name of Edward Cialdini understood this need and sought to find such an organization. Ed came into contact with an organizer for the American Veterans of World War II, also known as AMVETS, and on March 27, 1946 they met with 14 other Bay View veterans to create an AMVET post.

Once the new post was created, the founders decided it should be named in the memory of a local veteran, Louis Travis of Bay View. He was the sixth child of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Travis, born in January 20, 1925. In 1943 Louis joined the Navy and participated in many Pacific campaigns aboard the U.S.S.

Minneapolis and U.S.S. Pensacola where he saw combat in the Iwo Jima operation. During this bombardment, his ship was struck by enemy shells and he was killed on February 17, 1945. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one silver and three bronze stars, and the World War II Victory Medal. The organizers were proud to name their new post after this true American hero.

For several years, the Travis Post held its meetings at the local club where it was formed. However, as the organization grew, so did the need for their own clubhouse. After the war ended, the Travis Post purchased a messhall from the German prisoner-of-war stockade built at Mitchell Field. After many years of hard labor by its members and several local community volunteers, and financial troubles, the post was finally completed and operational by 1952. That building served Bay View area veterans for 43 years. In 1995, the building was sold, and Travis Post meetings are now being held at the same club where it was formed.

Over the past 50 years, the Travis Post has met the needs of all Bay View veterans. The Louis Travis AMVET Post has a history filled with sacrifice, hard labor, and ultimately success. I applaud all of the veterans who helped to organize, build, and sustain the Travis Post over these past 50 years.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, recently the House passed the conference report to accompany H.R. 3816, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1997. This legislation includes a long-sought solution to resolve the issues concerning costs of the Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program. This language directs the Secretary of Interior to collect repayment of the cost of the Kesterson drain as described in the report entitled "Repayment Report, Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program, February 1995".

While all parties involved in the Kesterson cleanup issue are pleased with the solution of the repayment situation, there are several landowners who are involved in a lawsuit—Sumner Peck Ranch—that stems from the closing of the drain. The closing of the drain has led to the degradation of land in the area. In some cases this land has become incapable of being farmed. The basis of the lawsuit is that the landowners believe that the Federal Government should provide them with monetary compensation for the loss of the productive use of their land because the Federal Government is not operating a drain as promised in past contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation.

The case has not been resolved, and mandatory settlement discussions before the Ninth Circuit's chief mediator are ongoing. I want to make clear that the language contained in the fiscal year 1997 energy and water development appropriations bill in no way was intended to affect the outcome of the Sumner

Peck Ranch litigation. The only purpose of the language was to resolve the long-standing dispute regarding the allocation of the repayment responsibilities.

OPPOSITION TO THE FISCAL YEAR  
1997 VA/HUD CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I joined 24 of my colleagues in opposing the fiscal year 1997 VA/HUD conference report. I want to be very clear that I strongly support our veterans. I voted for this legislation when the House passed its version earlier this year. But I could not, in good conscience vote for the conference report.

I voted against this bill for one reason and one reason only—this bill hurt some of the accounts most critical to our Nation's veterans. The House Veterans' Affairs Committee worked long and hard to produce a budget that maintained or increased almost every major VA account. Unfortunately, the final conference product cuts the House request of two of the most critical veterans programs while increasing funds for nonveterans programs.

The VA medical care account was cut by \$55 million over the House-passed version. As the VA struggles to offer consistent quality medical care to veterans, I am angry that these dollars are being spent by Americorps—a paid volunteer program which received \$400 million more than the House originally intended. Our veterans heeded the call of our country and risked their lives and their health in true service to the United States. They should not be asked to take a back seat to a program that has been criticized for mismanagement and waste.

The VA medical research account was cut \$15 million from the House passed legislation. Mr. Speaker, in addition VA's premier research efforts in areas such as spinal cord injury and blind rehabilitation, this cut hurts some of our newest and sickest veterans—those who have returned from Operation Desert Storm with bizarre service-connected illnesses ranging from chronic fatigue syndrome to cancer. On the heels of a long-overdue Pentagon admission that some of our troops were exposed to chemical weapons, we are trimming the very dollars that may have been used to improve treatment methods or quality of life for these soldiers.

I am an original cosponsor of a bill introduced by my colleague, the Honorable GLEN BROWDER creating an independent commission to study the use of chemical weapons in the gulf war. We must take the lessons of our sick veterans to ensure that future generations of soldiers are given the best opportunity to perform in an age of chemical warfare and still come home with their health.

The priorities of this conference report are skewed. While I understand that overall VA funding is increased over fiscal year 1996 dollars, I am disappointed that VA's medical mission has been slighted in the process. The wishes of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee should have been given more, not less, consideration.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
SCHOOL OF NURSING, UNIVER-  
SITY OF MARYLAND AT BALTI-  
MORE, AND DR. BARBARA R.  
HELLER

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the School of Nursing, University of Maryland at Baltimore and Dr. Barbara R. Heller, Dean of the School, as it breaks ground on a new building and marks an important milestone in the history of the institution, nursing education and the nursing profession.

The School of Nursing, ranked in the top 10 nationally and one of the largest institutions of nursing education in the country, is in the forefront of nursing education, research and clinical service. Students are provided with the knowledge and skills they need to practice in a dynamically changing, global health care marketplace.

The school targets critical local, State and national problems through research in such areas as the health of mothers and infants, drug abuse, oncology, geriatrics, school/child health, trauma/critical care, community health and AIDS prevention.

Through growing clinical practice initiatives, the school offers vital primary and preventive services throughout Maryland. While enriching the academic experience for many students, these affordable, accessible nurse-managed, community-based health centers served as models of health care delivery to underserved and uninsured populations.

I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting the efforts of the School of Nursing to refocus, redefine and reengineer nursing education. I also congratulate the faculty, students and staff as they break ground on a new facility, building the future of our Nation's health care delivery system through education.

LEGISLATION TO EXPAND CONDI-  
TIONS FOR VETERANS PRE-  
SUMED TO BE SERVICE CON-  
NECTED DUE TO EXPOSURE TO  
IONIZING RADIATION

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to address an injustice that should be corrected at our earliest possible opportunity—the poor treatment of our Nation's atomic veterans.

There can be no question that atomic veterans were not adequately informed of the dangers of ionizing radiation and were injured as a result. Many of these men and women have paid for their dedication and bravery with their health and some with their lives. We owe it to them to see that they are not forgotten and that they receive the compensation for all of the illnesses that were incurred because of their service to our Nation. My legislation is but another step in ensuring that we fulfill our duty to them.

Recent developments have made a clear case for providing relief to these vets. The final report of the President's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experimentation more or less concluded that our Government has failed these brave men and women. The recommendations of the committee mirrored many of the concerns that the atomic veterans groups have had for years: that the list of presumptive diseases contained in law is inadequate, that the standard of proof to meet administrative claims is often impossible to meet, and that these statutes are limited and inequitable in their coverage.

I believe that Congress must provide the necessary leadership to ensure that these veterans' needs are met. My legislation is based on the precedent set by the Marshall Islands Nuclear Claims Tribunal Act, which provides relief for a number of presumptive diseases. Currently, Marshall Islanders receive compensation if they exhibit one or more of the 27 illnesses presumed radiogenic in nature. My legislation would ensure that all of the radiogenic illnesses that Marshall Islanders are compensated for are also on the presumptive list for our Nation's vets. Specifically, it would add bone cancer, cancer of the colon, nonmalignant thyroid nodular disease, parathyroid cancer, ovarian cancer, brain and central nervous system tumors, unexplained bone marrow failure and meningioma to the presumptive list.

This legislation will ensure that atomic veterans are treated properly, not as second-class citizens. It will also ensure that our Nation's policy on addressing the damage done by our Nation's nuclear weapons program is consistent. The least we can do is to make sure that veterans receive compensation for illnesses already determined by our Government to be linked to exposure to ionizing radiation. I urge my colleagues to sponsor this long-overdue legislation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3666,  
DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS  
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND  
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3666, the conference report on VA-HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations for fiscal year 1997. I support this bill for many reasons but especially because it includes a provision that requires health insurance companies to cover 48 hours of hospital care for a woman after she gives birth.

Mr. Speaker, my constituent, Mrs. Maureen Drumm is a perfect example of why this practice of drive-through deliveries must be stopped.

On August 31, 1992, Maureen gave birth to her first daughter, Bridget Theresa. Bridget's first twenty-four hours of life were that of a normal, beautiful, healthy baby. However, approximately twenty-hours after Bridget was born, Maureen began to experience severe physical distress. Maureen had developed a

uterine infection, her temperature rose quickly to one hundred and four degrees, and she was in danger of lapsing into shock.

Mrs. Drumm's doctors immediately placed her on heavy doses of antibiotics and other intravenously administered medications. But, despite her doctor's best efforts, her fever persisted for 5 days at rates over one hundred degrees.

Although Maureen was quite ill, her greatest pain was not physical. Maureen was suffering mentally for her newborn daughter, Bridget. Approximately 48 hours after Bridget was born, she was moved to the intensive care unit. In a matter of hours, Bridget's bilirubin level—the yellow-brown bile pigment in the blood—had jumped from a normal level of 11 to a dangerous level of 19. Bilirubin levels in the twenties can cause bilirubin encephalopathy—a condition which causes permanent brain and nervous system damage. Bilirubin levels of over twenty-two require transfusions which replace all of the blood in the baby's body. Bridget Theresa was in great danger.

In time, Maureen's fever and Bridget's jaundice subsided because they were given high quality medical treatment and an adequate length of stay in the hospital. However, if they had been forced to leave twenty-four hours after Maureen gave birth—they would not have been so lucky. Mr. Speaker, forcing women and their newborn babies out of the hospital after 24 hours is cruel, barbaric, and extremely dangerous. If this policy of mandating "drive-through deliveries" was in effect in 1992, Bridget Theresa could be mentally retarded and Maureen could have died.

As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, when Maureen became pregnant with her second child, she was quite nervous. Mrs. Drumm had learned that since her first delivery, her insurance company adopted a policy which required mothers and newborns be discharged from the hospital 24 hours after a "normal delivery." Well, Maureen did have a "normal delivery" with her first daughter Bridget Theresa. It was only after the first 24 hours that their conditions became obvious.

On July 26, 1995, Mrs. Drumm testified in front of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Democratic Policy Committee. The next day Maureen received a phone call from Blue Cross/Blue Shield and was informed that because of her testimony, she would be pre-approved for a 48-hour stay in the hospital after giving birth. On August 3, 1995, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Philadelphia changed their policy to "Mother's Option"—which is 24 hours in the hospital and two home health care visits or 48 hours in the hospital.

On August 6, 1995, Maureen gave birth to her second child—a beautiful, healthy baby girl—Maura Elizabeth. Maura also had an elevated bilirubin level on her second day of life and was given immediate treatment. Since Maureen and Maura were able to stay a second day in the hospital, Maureen was well rested and able to care for Maura's jaundice at home over the course of the next few days. Today, both of Maureen's daughters are growing beautifully.

Mr. Speaker, since Maura's birth, Pennsylvania has joined a number of other States in making the option of a 48-hour hospital stay law. Now, we need to make it a Federal law.

Mr. Speaker, Maureen Drumm's efforts in educating us all in this dangerous "drive-

through delivery" practice should be commended. Maureen Drumm not only won a battle for herself, but for millions of women across this country. Although, many people would have been satisfied with being granted an extra day in the hospital for themselves, Maureen didn't stop there. Through many trips to Washington and many meetings with both Representatives and Senators, she has focused national attention on this issue, and has been a true leader in this fight for the rights of newborns and their mothers. Maureen Drumm has proven that one person really can make a difference. I congratulate Maureen Drumm and urge you to do the same by passing this important and vital legislation.

#### HONORING STEPHEN JEROME

#### HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor Stephen Jerome for his 30 years of ongoing commitment and service to the students and residents of the 18th Congressional District of New York, which I am proud to represent.

The name Stephen Jerome is synonymous with both educational leadership and dedication to community. As president of Monroe College, with campuses in both the Bronx and New Rochelle, Stephen Jerome has carried on his family's commitment to educating the young men and women of New York City and Westchester. His aunt, Mildred King, founded the school in 1933, and his father joined her 3 years later. Stephen came aboard as an instructor in 1966, and held various positions over the next 12 years before beginning his tenure as president in 1978.

It is fitting that as we honor Stephen Jerome on his 30th anniversary, Monroe College will honor his aunt by dedicating the recently acquired King Hall, which now houses the office of student services, as well as the learning center, gymnasium, and cafeteria.

Mr. Speaker, Stephen Jerome is not content to help only those students who pass through his institution's doors. He is a former member of the college presidents' council for the Governor's Office on New York State Financial Aid, former president of the Association of Proprietary Colleges in New York State, and a former commissioner of the Accrediting Commission of the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools.

Stephen Jerome's endeavors also extend beyond the educational sphere. He has worked to improve the ties between business and the community by serving as director of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce and then as president of the Fordham Road Area Development Corp. In addition, he routinely organizes neighborhood cleanup and improvement projects, and arranges an annual Christmas party for the children of his students.

Aside from his commitment to Monroe College and to his community, Steven is a dedicated husband and father. His wife, Leslie, is the director of career services at Monroe's New Rochelle campus. One son, Marc, is the director of the New Rochelle branch campus, and his other son, Evan, heads a television production company. Stephen's daughter, Lauren, works in public relations.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the friends, colleagues, and family of Stephen Jerome, I hereby express my heartfelt appreciation for his 30 years of service to Monroe College and the Bronx, and hope that he will continue to serve the institution and his community for many years to come.

#### A TRIBUTE TO PRISCILLA "PRILL" KUHN

#### HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman whose sense of compassion, community dedication, and entrepreneurial skill makes her one of Arizona's most well-respected citizens, Ms. Priscilla "Prill" Kuhn. Ms. Kuhn has dedicated her life to improving the lives of the underprivileged and disadvantaged, and thousands of Arizonans are living happier, healthier lives because of her hard work. Her altruism, quiet brilliance, dauntless energy and many friends have enabled her to fulfill her unique vision of building responsive communities for the members of our society most in need of advocates and protectors: our children, our elderly, and our disabled.

Throughout her career, Prill has continued to develop her communication skills, her understanding of resource development, and her network of friends. Subsequently in 1985, she was able to pursue her dream of establishing her own business, Netwest Development Corp., in Tucson, AZ. As president and chief executive officer of Netwest, Prill incorporated her belief in positive community activism into every aspect of the business.

Although Netwest has become a multi-million dollar organization with 230 employees and provides over 1,000 multifamily, retirement and assisted-living units, Prill's vision of a caring, responsive community pervades.

Prill provides an immeasurable resource to the many boards and committees on which she sits. Her fundraising abilities are legendary. For her work, she has received many awards and recognitions including the Northwood University Distinguished Women's Award, Roots and Wings Human Betterment Award, Amity Foundation President's Award, International Who's Who of Professional & Business Women. The list goes on.

In addition to her career and public service accomplishments, Prill's dedication to her family is also commendable. With her loving husband, Dr. Martin C. Kuhn, Prill raised three wonderful children: Katherine Edith Ruth Kuhn Fletcher Truman Kuhn, and Clifford Seymour Kuhn. She is also the guardian of her two young nieces, Patience Gabrielle Purdy and Josephine Elizabeth Seymour Lane, and she is grandmother to Jamal Truman Salah and Anna Priscilla Salah.

I close this tribute to Priscilla "Prill" Kuhn by thanking her for the difference she has made in the lives of many Arizonans. Prill's entrepreneurial spirit, sense of community responsibility, and love of family make her an outstanding citizen of this country.

ECONOMIC STABILITY FOR  
PUERTO RICO

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Resources Committee I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support for the continued economic progress of Puerto Rico. While I believe that it was necessary to do away with wasteful corporate welfare programs like section 936, it is crucial that we continue the progress toward economic stability on the island. With almost 4 million American citizens living in Puerto Rico, Congress must remain committed to helping Puerto Rico create a sound economic climate in which all citizens can prosper. It is important to remember that unemployment and other economic factors in Puerto Rico still remain far below the national average.

I believe we began building the foundation of an economic incentives program for the island in the new section 30A, which provides a targeted wage credit to companies currently doing business in Puerto Rico. Section 30A is certainly a move in the right direction but there is still a great deal of work that needs to be done in order to ensure the economic solvency of the island in the next century.

In the next Congress I am looking forward to working with Puerto Rican Governor Pedro Rossello, and my colleagues in the House to expand section 30A into a dynamic and effective job creation incentive that promotes new high paying jobs to Puerto Rico.

SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY  
RELIEF ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. EWING. Madam Speaker, today the U.S. House of Representatives acted to protect farmers, farm retailers, many small businesses, and State's rights from potentially onerous regulations currently being proposed by the U.S. Department of Transportation. It is unfortunate that some proponents of "big government" and Washington, DC bureaucracies feel the need to preempt State laws and impose one-size-fits-all regulations on businesses and activities that have operated safely and efficiently for years without Federal regulation. Passage of H.R. 3153 was a victory for the "common sense" 104th Congress.

In its present form, the U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Special Programs Administration's HM-200 rule-making would supersede every State exception granted to the agriculture industry for transfer of agricultural production materials, such as pesticides, fertilizers, and fuel from retail-to-farm and from farm-to-farm. In fact, this issue is so important to agriculture that 49 Members of Congress and 44 farm and agribusiness organizations endorsed corrective legislation that I introduced along with Representatives Buyer, Poshard, and Barcia, H.R. 4102, the Farm Transportation Regulatory Relief Act.

Although the agricultural production materials provisions contained in Section 4 of H.R. 3153 are not as comprehensive as the recommendations contained in H.R. 4102, the bipartisan agreement contained in H.R. 3153 would provide relief for farmers and retailers, and allow States to continue to do exactly what they are doing now, until after Congress has a chance to review DOT's final rule. This section would exempt agricultural production materials from DOT's final intrastate regulations until after Congress passes a reauthorization of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Safety Act, or through the 1998 planting season.

State governments realize that agriculture has unique needs and operates under critical seasonal time pressures. There is no need to impose uniform hazardous materials transportation standards on not-for-hire intrastate transportation of agricultural chemicals and materials. Burdening farmers with costly and unnecessary bureaucratic requirements like having to placard their trucks, carry shipping documents, and provide a 24-hour emergency response phone number will only impede farmers' ability to efficiently plant and care for their crops. It will not improve safety on rural roads!

I would particularly like to thank Mr. BUYER, Mr. POSHARD, Mr. BARCIA, and Majority Whip DELAY for their support and hard work to ensure farmers and retailers are protected from DOT's unnecessary and burdensome regulations. Farmers are primarily small business people, who work extremely hard to make ends meet. They care about their safety, the safety of others, and the environment. I hope DOT will reevaluate its opinion of agriculture, and its unique transportation needs; however, if they do not, I am prepared to continue to work with my colleagues to ensure Congress takes the necessary action to permanently protect production agriculture from these unnecessary and bureaucratic regulations.

## TRIBUTE TO WALT MOSHER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my dear friend Walt Mosher, the recipient of the 1996 Nelle Reagan Award for Distinguished Community Service by the Olive-View UCLA Medical Foundation. Knowing Walt as I do, I cannot think of a more qualified candidate to receive an award predicated on philanthropy and volunteerism. Despite a hectic schedule, Walt always seems to have time for important causes.

The numbers are truly staggering: Walt has donated more than 25,000 hours of personal service and hundreds of thousands of dollars to scores of charities, civic organizations, committees, and task forces in the San Fernando Valley and elsewhere. Those he has helped in one way or another include the San Fernando YMCA Child Care Program, the American Heart Association, the San Fernando Police Advisory Council, the American Cancer Society, and the American Heart Association. Walt has also assumed a leadership role with the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, a key business advocacy organization in the San Fernando Valley.

Somehow Walt manages to stay intimately involved with his community while running a \$28 million a year business that employs several hundred people. In 1956 he cofounded Precision Dynamics Corp., which was established to manufacture and distribute products in the health care field. One year later, he became president, a position he has held ever since.

Walt is also an educated man; he has a Ph.D., in engineering from UCLA. I have enjoyed many stimulating conversations with him over the years about business and political matters.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Walt Mosher, whose selflessness and dedication is a shining example to us all. I am proud to be close friends with him and his wife, Beckaa.

JACK HOAR: AN AMERICAN TEACHER  
IN BOSNIA AND  
HERZEGOVINA HELPS REBUILD  
CIVIL SOCIETY

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. Jack Hoar, who participated in CIVITAS@Bosnia-Herzegovina, an intensive program from July 17–27, 1996, to train local teachers in education for democracy. Jack Hoar was part of a team of 18 American educators and 15 teachers from the Council of Europe who were assigned to key cities throughout the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. For 34 years, Jack was a valued teacher and administrator in the Long Beach Unified School District. He was the history, social science consultant for most of his tenure.

The summer training program was developed by the Center for Civic Education as part of a major civic education initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina supported by the United States Information Agency and the United States Department of Education. The U.S. Information Service in Sarajevo provided valuable assistance to the program. The goals of the program are to help prepare students and their communities for competent and responsible participation in elections and other opportunities to take part in the political life of their communities. Achieving this goal will contribute to the reconstitution of a sense of community, cooperation, tolerance and support for democracy and human rights in this war torn area.

I am also pleased to announce that the curricular materials being used for the program in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been adapted from the We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution, and the Project Citizen programs, and other programs supported by Congress which are used in schools throughout the United States. Initial reports evaluating the summer program indicate the materials and teaching methods were enthusiastically received and can be adapted for use in classrooms throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Jack Hoar resides in Long Beach, CA, and currently serves as the director of international programs for the Center for Civic Education. In

the past year, Mr. Hoar has traveled on 4 different occasions to Bosnia and Herzegovina to promote education for democracy instruction in the schools.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to comment Jack Hoar for his dedication and commitment during the CIVITAS@Bosnia-Herzegovina summer training program. His work is helping to achieve the overall objective of building support for democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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PEOPLE ARE NOT FOR HITTING

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HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, the Menninger Clinic published a book awhile back entitled "People are Not for Hitting".

I have rarely seen a little boy hit another child without mumbling, you are a bad boy. As people grow older, they become more subtle about explaining their violence. But as the parent's creed says, "The child who lives with violence, learns to do violence."

The old saying is, spare the rod, spoil the child. Since there are innumerable ways to discipline and even punish children, the saying should be, spare the discipline, spoil the child. In fact, spoiling is one of the worst things you can do to a child. I call it the gentle brutality.

Here is what George Bernard Shaw said: "If you strike a child, take care that you do so in anger. \* \* \* A blow struck in cold blood neither can nor ever should be forgiven."

The following statement by Meadow D'Arcy was published in Parade on September 15, 1996. It is excellent.

I feel that hitting children is a disgrace—something we will hang our heads in shame about in the future, as we do now with racism and sexism. We will be forced to tell our children how we were ignorant and simply did not know any better.

I know some one who hits her kids, and you can see the hurt and anger in their faces. Their mother believes that her older boy is a just plain bad kid and that hitting him is the only way to get him to stop doing things. He does do bad things. You can tell him something 20 times and he still won't listen. But I believe she created him. I believe that the badness is a result of the whippings, not the other way around.

We tell our children not to hit—by hitting them. But when we strike a child, we create a child full of fear, hatred and anger. Every time a child is hit, she gets a lesson in how to deal with her emotions. When faced with frustrations, she will hit too.

Image if you broke something at work and your boss slapped you. How would you feel? Humiliated, of course. We see our spankings as different. Why? We all agree that it is wrong for a man to hit a woman. But when it comes to children, we just shrug and say that it is part of growing up.

Children are becoming more and more violent with each other and with you and me. We blame this on so many sources but refuse to face the facts.

TRIBUTE TO LACASA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Latin American Community Alliance for Support and Assistance of Northwest Indiana, Inc. [LACASA], its board of directors, and its administrator, Ms. June Long, on LACASA's first annual fundraiser dinner. LACASA, whose office is located in Gary, IN, will hold this monumental event on Saturday, September 28, 1996, at the Patio Restaurant in Merrillville, IN.

The LACASA Board of Directors Officers include: Mrs. Aida Padilla, president and director of the Senior Companion Program; Mrs. Julie Tanis, vice president and public school teacher; Mr. Joaquin Rodriguez, secretary and community advocate; and Mr. Ray Acevedo, treasurer and photographer. Members of the board of directors include: Mrs. Bertha Cardenas, Mrs. Hortencia Hernandez, Mrs. Maria Magana, Mrs. Socorro Roman, Mr. Roeman Whitesell, Ms. Jeannette Hinton Padgett, Ms. Maria Vasquez, Mr. Martin Valtierra, Mr. Ben Luna, Mrs. Maria Lopez, Mrs. Mary Jean Maloney, and Ms. Finis Springer.

LACASA, which was organized in 1994, is dedicated to serving the Hispanic residents of northwest Indiana who experience difficulty in obtaining needed social and educational services. It serves northwest Indiana's Hispanic residents, who comprise 52 percent of the total population in this area, with quality services to meet their special needs.

Special programs that LACASA offers are: adult education, offered at various levels from basic adult education to preparation for the high school equivalency test; Head Start, which provides parenting skills training and an opportunity for parents to become empowered in the education of their children; and Access Assistance, which includes a food pantry, learning job search skills, and youth personal leadership and high school preparation instruction.

While LACASA already provides several beneficial services, it has plans to continue to improve the quality of life for northwest Indiana's Hispanic population. For those in need, LACASA hopes to provide transportation services to its programs, as well as agencies where its clients are referred. It would also like to offer tutoring services for Hispanic youth and establish health stations in an effort to assist Hispanic families in understanding their basic health needs and inform them about how to access the existing health care system. Finally, LACASA hopes to expand its services to the elderly, by familiarizing them with in-home care options to prevent unnecessary institutionalization.

LACASA is funded and receives support from the city of Gary-Community Development Block Grant, Lake Area United Way, Health and Human Services-ACYF, Gary Community School Corp., National Hispanic Institute, U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute, Indiana Literacy Foundation, and Kankakee Workforce Development Services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending LACASA. This fine organization should be congratulated on its continuing efforts to pre-

serve the Hispanic culture, while at the same time improving the quality of life for the Hispanic residents of Indiana's First Congressional District. May their first annual fundraiser be a successful and joyous event.

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MEDICARE AND OUTPATIENT PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS: PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR COST-EFFECTIVE MEDICALLY APPROPRIATE CARE

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HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Medicare's limited outpatient pharmaceutical coverage is inhibiting the implementation of cost-effective outpatient treatments that could benefit patients. Over the past decades, a shift of healthcare from the inpatient to the outpatient setting has occurred. The implementation of Medicare's Prospective Payment System in 1983 provided a strong incentive for hospitals to decrease patients' lengths of stay. Outpatient treatment, when appropriate, is generally much more cost effective than inpatient treatment. Although further shifts in inpatient to outpatient treatment for some conditions may be medically appropriate, the lack of Medicare coverage for the necessary outpatient treatment seems to be inhibitory. Medicare policy needs to facilitate medically appropriate, cost-effective treatments in order to keep pace with the 1990's and set the course for the next century. For this reason, I am introducing a bill which directs a review of Medicare payments in order to identify conditions for which provision of an outpatient pharmaceutical benefit would facilitate outpatient rather than inpatient treatment and be cost effective.

An example of Medicare's limited pharmaceutical coverage having an inhibitory effect on cost-effective care is the lack of general coverage for home intravenous antibiotic therapy. Numerous studies have shown that patients with certain diseases requiring prolonged antibiotic therapy can start their treatment in the hospital and then safely and effectively continue it at home. A hospital in Danbury, CT, recently published a cost-benefit analysis of a home intravenous antibiotic therapy program established for Medicare patients but paid for by the hospital itself; the savings to the hospital was found to be \$6,111 per patient on average. If the hospital had not taken the initiative to start the home therapy program, these patients would have had to remain in the hospital, resulting in substantially increased costs.

Although Medicare generally reimburses hospitals on the basis of fixed diagnosis-related group [DRG] payments, it also reimburses an extra amount for patients who stay in the hospital much longer than average and qualify as outliers. Thus for certain patients, some costs due to prolonged hospitalization are shifted to Medicare. Alternatively, the hospital could cut its costs by transferring the patient to another inpatient facility such as a skilled nursing facility to finish treatment. In this case, Medicare still pays extra because it reimburses both the hospital's DRG payment and the receiving facility's expenses for the patient's post-hospitalization extended care.

Many hospitals need an incentive to take the kind of initiative shown by the Danbury Hospital. The effort and startup costs involved in organizing certain outpatient programs may provide a disincentive. Also, the transfer of patients to extended care facilities may already provide a cost-saving option for the hospital, leaving Medicare to bear the loss. Although not all patients with a particular condition are medically appropriate candidates for outpatient therapy in place of continued inpatient therapy, many patients are probably lingering in inpatient facilities who could more cost-effectively be treated as outpatients. Medicare policy needs to be modified to address this problem by providing incentives for inpatient facilities to initiate cost-effective alternatives.

One such incentive is the coverage of pharmaceuticals that facilitate the treatment of patients in the outpatient rather than inpatient setting. Currently for most home intravenous antibiotic therapy the hospital or beneficiary must shoulder the cost. This policy contains a built-in disincentive because the beneficiary may not have the means to pay for it, and the hospital may find it more cost-saving to use one of the strategies I outlined earlier resulting in a significant loss to Medicare. Adding a pharmaceutical benefit with appropriate payment safeguards could facilitate outpatient treatment and result in a gain to Medicare, the hospital, and the patient.

Are there other diseases besides infections for which an outpatient pharmaceutical benefit would provide an incentive for cost-effective outpatient therapy? I suspect there are. Some strategies may be implementable now; in addition, as new drugs and technologies are developed, more outpatient therapies might be possible in the future. I welcome a thoughtful evaluation of this issue by health experts. We need to develop a policy that is flexible enough to accommodate future cost-saving strategies as they are developed.

The bill I am introducing today provides the groundwork for determining how Medicare policy may be modified to facilitate shifts in health care from the inpatient to the outpatient setting, when medically appropriate. Inherent in the bill is a strategy to ensure that Medicare, not just the hospital, captures the savings. The bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to review and report to Congress within 6 months, all disease categories for which inpatient payments might be able to be reduced if an outpatient pharmaceutical benefit is provided. Coverage for pharmaceuticals will include appropriate payment safeguards. The bill acknowledges that reimbursement not only for the drug, but also for supplies, appliances, equipment, laboratory tests, and professional services needed for appropriate outpatient treatment will need to be factored into the cost-effectiveness analysis.

Specifically, the bill directs the Secretary to report which DRG payments can be reduced by refining the DRG or adjusting the DRG weighting factor, if an outpatient pharmaceutical benefit is provided. Implementation of this strategy could take a variety of forms. For example, reductions in DRG payments could be accomplished by using a formula to discount the payment for an individual patient, and providing only the individual patient with the outpatient benefit. In this strategy, the hospital could request a discounted DRG payment for a particular patient via a billing code. Potentially, the hospital could also specify the

number of days of outpatient treatment it wishes to substitute for inpatient treatment. This substitution would ensure that Medicare's costs in providing the outpatient benefit do not exceed its savings in reducing the DRG payment. A financial incentive for the hospital can be built into the formula used for discounting the DRG payment.

Another strategy is to split certain DRG categories into one payment for patients who continue treatment in the hospital and a reduced payment for patients who continue treatment as an outpatient.

Alternatively, the DRG payments for all patients in a specific disease category could be reduced, even though some patients will remain hospitalized throughout their treatment while others will have a shortened hospital stay and continue treatment as outpatients.

Post-hospitalization outpatient therapies and home services are sometimes provided by the hospitals themselves, but may also be provided by independent agencies. When the inpatient and outpatient providers are the same, it will be easy to ensure that Medicare payments are contained. Outpatient reimbursement could be conditional on inpatient payment reductions, and a financial incentive for hospitals to choose the more cost-effective treatment could be built into the reimbursement. However, when the inpatient and outpatient providers are unrelated, it will be more difficult to ensure that Medicare payments will be less than they would have been if the patient had remained in the hospital. This is not, however, an insurmountable problem. One possible strategy that has been suggested is the use of lump sum payments per patient for the outpatient treatment of certain conditions. Certain DRG payments could be split into an inpatient component and a lump sum outpatient component; as long as the sum is less than the original inpatient payments, Medicare saves money. Medicare's inpatient payments for a disease category include the DRG payment, and any applicable outlier or extended care facility payments. Decisions about the percentage that should go to each provider, and incentives that lead to cost-effective care are difficult but potentially resolvable.

The bill also directs the Secretary to determine which outlier payments can be reduced in number, and the disease categories for which these outlier payments are made, if an outpatient pharmaceutical benefit is provided. Similarly, the Secretary is directed to determine whether patient transfers to post-hospitalization extended care facilities can be avoided, thereby reducing payments, if an outpatient pharmaceutical benefit is provided. Strategies similar to the ones I described for reducing DRG payments could potentially be applied to these payment areas.

By reviewing these types of payments, disease categories which have potential for Medicare cost-savings will be identified. As I described previously when I introduced a bill addressing outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy, certain infections are likely candidates. However, there may be a number of other areas of medicine, where cost-saving outpatient treatment could appropriately be substituted for inpatient treatment, now or in the future.

The bill directs the Secretary to determine the savings that can be obtained by reducing inpatient payments while providing coverage for beneficiaries' outpatient drugs and serv-

ices. In addition to potential savings from reduced DRG, outlier, or extended care payments, savings may accrue from the decreased risk of hospital-acquired infections. This is because the longer patients remain in an inpatient setting, the more at risk they are for a nosocomial infection which generally lengthen hospital stay, increase costs, and result in increased morbidity and mortality. Modernizing Medicare to provide incentives for cost-effective medically appropriate care holds promise for benefiting patients, providers, and Medicare.

## TAIWAN'S 85TH NATIONAL DAY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, this coming October 10, Taiwan, the Republic of China, will commemorate its 85th National Day.

Eighty-five years ago, the Chinese people under the leadership of Dr. Sun Yat-sen successfully expelled centuries-old tyrannical rule. Dr. Sun's adoption of a political system dedicated to the ideals of democracy and based on the consent of the governed was a great victory for democracy in the continent of Asia which, until then, was widely known for tyranny and despotism. The Chinese people's efforts, under Dr. Sun's leadership has come to symbolize a people's aspiration, desire and capacity to stand their ground, take control, and choose their own destiny. This nation's rejection of tyranny and oppression announced to the rest of the world that the desire for freedom is not a concept unique to Western peoples. The people of Asia, as elsewhere, desire and deserve dignity and freedom.

Although Dr. Sun did not live to see the full fruition of his labors, capable leaders like Generalissimo Chang Kai-shek built upon his legacy and provided the essential leadership and guidance which enabled the newly created democracy to survive its toughest tests.

Taiwan has since become one of the wealthiest nations in the world. The last few years has seen the republic's economy grow at a spectacular rate. In addition to being one of our closest associates in Asia, Taiwan has steadily matured as an economic stronghold. Taiwan is currently the sixth largest trading partner to the United States.

As the delegate from Guam, I recognize the fact that the island and people that I represent share deep cultural and historical ties with Taiwan. As a matter of fact, my constituency includes Taiwanese immigrants. As in numerous other locales, these immigrants have integrated themselves with our island community over the years and have emerged as a vital force in the development and growth of Guam. In addition, Taiwanese tourists contribute to the island's economy. Made possible by the visa-waiver program recently implemented for Taiwanese citizens Guam has greatly benefited from the business these people bring.

On behalf of the people of Guam I would like to congratulate President Lee Teng-hui, Foreign Minister John H. Chang, Representative Jason Hu, Director-General Clark Chen and the Taiwanese all over the world in the commemoration of Taiwan's 85th National

Day. I join them in their celebrations and wish them continued prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO GREG RICE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following to my colleagues:

Whereas Greg Rice has won the International Auctioneers Championship;

Whereas Greg Rice has brought the international title to Ohio for the first time in history;

Whereas Greg Rice has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to auctioneering; and

Whereas Greg Rice should be recognized for his outstanding victory and persistence; Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the residents of Coshocton, with a real sense of pleasure and pride, join me in commending Greg Rice for his hard work and dedication to his occupation.

IN HONOR OF MEdIGUARD PROGRAM TENNESSEANS FOR TENNESSEE

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the fine men and women who participate in Mediguard/Guardcare, a unique health care delivery program provided by the Tennessee National Guard to provide critically needed health care to underserved populations in 39 counties across the State of Tennessee.

The idea for Tennessee's Mediguard Program began when former Tennessee Governor Ned McWherter saw the efficient system for health care delivery administered by National Guard troops in South America. Along with Representative JOHN TANNER, former Representative and now-Governor Don Sundquist and many State legislators and other members of the Tennessee National Guard, I was pleased to help develop the framework for a program called Mediguard, later named Guardcare. Approximately 3 years ago, a pilot program was established under the auspices of the NGB in 10 States with the objectives of relieving overburdened State public health facilities and boosting low physician-to-patient ratios in 39 Tennessee counties seriously deficient in receiving basic health care services. Many factors were used to identify the target counties, and the study was recently repeated to assure that current needs are still being appropriately addressed.

Supplies for Guardcare exercises are allocated from Guard pilot funds and equipment needs have been met through loans from Guard units and leasing. As of last year, the program operates on Federal funding—so we tell our communities they can see their tax dollars at work right at home. The best part of the program, in my opinion, is that we are able to provide these much-needed health care services to people who are desperately in need of them at absolutely no cost to the par-

ticipating individual. The TN Guardcare Program is administered as a component of a special projects unit aligned under the State Adjutant General Command. The functions and purposes of Guardcare in Tennessee are carried out through two teams: the Guardcare administrative team and a mobile health team. The mobile health teams used in Guardcare exercises changes from exercise to exercise. These teams are comprised of Army-Air physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, dentists, lab specialists, and medical support personnel on split drill from their base units. Mobile health teams have been augmented by a wealth of local community health care personnel and other community volunteers. Without these volunteers from the host communities, Guardcare's success would have been seriously jeopardized.

Prior to the start of each program year, a training calendar is planned which focuses on 7 to 8 target communities from the 39 medically underserved communities. Counties must request Guardcare, and there is currently a 2-year waiting list.

It is my pleasure to salute the Tennessee Guardcare Program and the men and women who have made it an outstanding success over the past 3 years. Through their efforts, and through the support of many communities across the State, Guardcare has been able to demonstrate volunteerism at its finest; truly, Tennesseans for Tennessee.

PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, I commend to your attention a patient education conference that was held earlier this year in the 11th Congressional District—Prostate Cancer: Today and Tomorrow. Cohosted by the American Foundation for Urologic Disease, Morristown Memorial Hospital and the Prostate Cancer Support Group of Morristown Memorial Hospital, it was an effective grassroots effort to warn and educate local residents on the importance of early detection of and continued research into prostate cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, prostate cancer is the greatest cancer risk for American men, and over 317,000 males will be diagnosed with this type of cancer in 1996. It is vital that prostate cancer be recognized as a serious threat to American men and their families.

Increased awareness of health issues, improved detection and testing techniques, and national awareness programs for this disease have all played significant roles in increasing public knowledge of prostate cancer.

There are a number of individuals and organizations I want to recognize for holding such an important conference:

First, Honorable Dean A. Gallo, the former Congressman of New Jersey's 11th Congressional District, died of prostate cancer on November 6, 1994. His widow, Mrs. Betty Gallo, is now a trustee of the Dean Gallo Foundation and she instituted the Dean Gallo Prostate Cancer Research Scholarship Fund. This

scholarship fund will help fund career investigators who are committed to prostate cancer research in the State of New Jersey.

Second, I commend the American Foundation for Urologic Disease, a charitable organization, whose mission is to prevent and find a cure for urologic diseases through the expansion of research, education and public awareness. For over 20 years, the Research Scholar Program of the AFUD has funded over 300 urologic researchers as they established their scientific careers. Over 98% of the investigators have continued in these career paths.

Third, Morristown Memorial Hospital, a not-for-profit hospital serving northern New Jersey, for its leadership in the field. Founded in 1892, it has expanded in size and services to become a 599-bed medical center and the third largest in the state. It is a major teaching hospital, affiliated with Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. Its regional Cancer Center is affiliated with the Cancer Institute of New Jersey in New Brunswick and offers expertise in surgical, urologic, medical, radiation and gynecologic oncology specialties. Center highlights include clinical trials, cytogenetics and patient support programs.

Fourth, the Morristown Memorial Prostate Cancer Support Group which is chaired by Mr. Peter Doherty, a prostate cancer survivor. Over seventy-five persons, including physicians and medical professionals, prostate cancer survivors, their partners and families and friends gather to exchange information and provide support, encouragement and hope.

Finally, I would also like to commend the participants of Prostate Cancer: Today and Tomorrow, outstanding physicians and an organization whose research is making significant inroads in the field of prostate cancer. They include:

E. David Crawford, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Division of Urology of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, CO. He is also chairman of the Prostate Cancer Education Council [PCEC], national sponsor of Prostate Cancer Awareness Week.

Charles Myers, M.D., was chief of the Clinical Pharmacology Branch of the National Cancer Institute, where he directed clinical trials of drugs used in the treatment of advanced prostate cancer.

William H. Hait, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

Arthur Israel, M.D., is Chief Section of Urology, Morristown Memorial Hospital. Dr. Israel is a member of the American Foundation for Urologic Disease and the American Urological Association. He is currently president of the New Jersey Urological Society.

Schering Oncology Biotech, a corporation headquartered in Kenilworth, New Jersey and TAP Pharmaceutical, Inc. of Deerfield, Illinois for providing educational grants for prostate cancer research.

All those who participated in Prostate Cancer: Today and Tomorrow made a powerful impact on patients, physicians, medical institutions, research and educational foundations, and industry to collaborate and provide accurate medical information to prostate cancer victims, survivors and their families, I salute their work.

## MICHIGAN STUDENT'S PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HON. DICK CHRYSLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, Anya Bonine is a young woman from Dexter, MI. The following statement was printed in the Ann Arbor News on April 4, 1995. The values and American beliefs described in the article should stand as a lesson for us all. The American flag and the Pledge of Allegiance should be at the heart of our patriotism, loyalty, and pride.

[From the Ann Arbor News, Apr. 4, 1995]

SAYING PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE IS AN IMPORTANT SIGN OF RESPECT

(By Anya Bonine)

"Good morning students," a teacher smiles and says. As they take attendance and hand in book order money, everything seems normal. Right? Wrong. They are missing one small, yet big thing. The Pledge of Allegiance. What has become of it? Yes, of course, there is a flag in most rooms, but where does the pledge come in?

"I pledge allegiance, to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the republic, for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

These words seem familiar enough to us, but to our children to come, the words will probably seem foreign.

Have you ever thought about what the pledge really means? Sure, the flag is merely a piece of material, but the true importance of the flag lies in its symbolism, not the design. Our flag expresses protection, victory, challenge, submission, pride, honor, threat, loyalty and, most of all, hope. It was adopted on June 14, 1777. By saying it, you are expressing your oath to our country. It shows loyalty to the United States and is much like a promise.

In an easier-to-understand version it means: "I pledge my loyalty to the United States of America, because it is one bonded nation, under God's law, with freedom and rights for all mankind."

We should be proud to live in a free country where you are not watched day and night and where you can have your own religion. A country where something like this could be written.

After you let this sink in for a minute, you suddenly ask yourself, "Why don't we say the pledge anymore?"

Well, after observing, I've come to a conclusion. Nobody cares. The students don't. The teachers don't. The school boards don't. If the pledge is not said, no one cares. I have been in school for about three quarters of the year now, and the pledge has not been said once. Has it been forgotten? And aren't schools supposed to teach values? The pledge teaches values. Are teachers afraid of teaching values? It also talks about God. There is nothing wrong with God, so what is all the opposition about?

In our society, a lot of things have been taken for granted. We need to take the pledge off that list. What about all the men and women who have given their lives for our country, in wars through the years? The men and women who gave their lives for us to become a free country. By not saying the pledge, they have all been forgotten.

Please, if this essay hasn't made a dent in your life, throw it away. If it has touched you at all, give a little respect by saying the pledge. Give respect to your country, its ancestors, God, and yourself.

## TRIBUTE TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH ASSOCIATION

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize the Neighborhood Youth Association [NYA] on the occasion of the organization's 90 years of service to the Los Angeles community. On Friday, October 25, 1996, NYA will celebrate its 90th anniversary at a gala dinner at the Skirball Cultural Center. I am therefore pleased to have this opportunity to salute NYA this afternoon.

Founded in 1906 by the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, NYA has established a rich legacy of providing essential services to underprivileged youth and their families. Included among the many services offered are individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, educational and employment services, child and family therapy, and after-school care for over 3,000 high-risk youth and families. The association has sponsored many award winning projects, including a mural painting project designated Barrios Unidos, which culminated in an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Other awards received by the Neighborhood Youth Association include the Agency of the Year Award, presented by the California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers; a \$1,000 grant bestowed by the California Banker's Association; and a commendation from United Way, which cited the group for its creativity in reaching out to ". . . meet the needs of minority youth in low income families living in barrios and ghettos. . ."

NYA's current project, Personal Best, allows association members and volunteers to work with each participating child from early childhood through high school. Components of the Personal Best program include counseling and tutorial services. The purpose is to help participating children identify and establish the goals and motivation necessary to help them achieve and succeed, both academically and socially.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when society must do more to help the less fortunate members of our society, organizations such as NYA stand as a shining example of what the secular and religious community can accomplish when they join forces to help humankind. For 90 years, NYA has been providing exemplary service to the Los Angeles community. I ask that you join me in congratulating NYA on its anniversary celebration, and in extending to them our best wishes for many more years of service to the community.

## PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 1995—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-198)

SPEECH OF

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 1996*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to the veto override of H.R. 1833.

I am opposed to late-term abortions except in instances where they are necessary to save the life of the mother or for serious, very limited health reasons. Unfortunately, this well-intentioned legislation fails to make these exceptions. Tragedies involving severely deformed or dying fetuses sometimes occur in the late stages of pregnancy. In these crisis situations, women should have access to the safest medical procedure available, and in some occasions the safest such procedure is the intact dilation and evacuation procedure.

If we ban this procedure, Mr. Speaker, as this legislation seeks to do, doctors will resort to other procedures, such as a caesarean section or a dismemberment dilation and evacuation, which can and often do pose greater health risks to women, such as severe hemorrhaging, lacerations of the uterus, or other complications that can threaten a woman's life or her ability to have children again in the future.

Mr. Speaker, passage of H.R. 1833 will not end late-term abortions; the bill only bans one such procedure that, in the judgment of the doctor, might offer the surest way of protecting the mother. The New York chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists opposes H.R. 1833, expressing concern that " \* \* \* Congress would take any action that would supersede the medical judgment of trained physicians and would criminalize medical procedures that may be necessary to save the life of a woman \* \* \*".

If H.R. 1833 were amended to include exceptions for situations where a woman's life or health is threatened, ensuring that decisions regarding the well-being of the mother are made by doctors, not politicians, I would gladly support the bill. Without this protection, however, I cannot in good conscience support this legislation today.

Good people will always disagree over the abortion issue, and I respect the passion and depth of feeling that so many of my constituents on both sides of this issue have expressed to me. Maintaining policies which promote healthy mothers and healthy babies should remain above the political fray, and it is for this reason that I oppose the veto override today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

## SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY RELIEF ACT OF 1996

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. BARCIA. Madam Speaker, last week, Congressmen EWING, BUYER, POSHARD, and I introduced H.R. 4102, the Farm Transportation Regulatory Relief Act. That bill would allow States to provide protection for farmers and farm-related service industries from a potentially expensive and unnecessary regulation that would bring them under the same regulation as the hazardous materials transportation industry. To do this, would be a mistake.

Today, we extend our warmest thanks to Congressman JIM OBERSTAR, ranking democratic member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Committee Chairman BUD SHUSTER for recognizing this effort and accepting our amendment to H.R. 3153. This change in the Small Business Regulatory

Relief Act will extend States' authority to continue such exceptions until Congress can act to responsibly address this issue.

Madam Speaker, the purpose of the Department of Transportation rulemaking is to protect the public from harmful materials on our Nation's highways. Farmers, who are merely transporting substances from their supplier to the farm are not the ones who are involved in the type of accidents which have led the Department of Transportation to act. Agricultural transportation of chemical fertilizers, fuels and pesticides occurs during specific times of the year, on a much smaller basis, on rural roadways and in carriers which are easily identifiable to emergency response personnel. We need not complicate the lives of our family farmer by linking them with high-volume transporters of industrial chemicals.

This compromise, Madam Speaker, is responsible government in action. The amendment which we have accepted today allows Congress a period encompassing two planting seasons to carefully weigh the potential danger to the public against the burden to our farmers which could result from too broad a rulemaking. In order to force the most timely action on this matter, my colleagues and I will reintroduce H.R. 4102 on the first day of the next session. We will work with other members, the farm industry, public safety officials and the Department of Transportation to assure that the most necessary requirements for public safety will be implemented. We owe this to our citizens who rely upon us to protect them and to protect their livelihood.

#### THE DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS AND THRIFT CHARTER CONVERSION ACT

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Depository Institution Affiliation and Thrift Charter Conversion Act, legislation that represents the first step toward crafting meaningful financial reform legislation that will take us into the 21st century and put us on sound footing to compete in the global market place.

The issues surrounding financial modernization have been long standing issues that the Banking Committee has been grappling with over time. As chairwoman of the Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee, I have been more than a little bit preoccupied with this subject during the 104th Congress. Unfortunately, efforts to pass meaningful reform this Congress have been unsuccessful. With the introduction of this legislation today, I believe we are laying the groundwork to begin discussions before the start of the 105th Congress. This legislation is a comprehensive approach that addresses affiliation issues, Glass-Steagall reform, functional regulation, insurance issues and thrift charter conversion by melding together key elements of the major reform bills introduced previously in Congress.

As many of you are aware, I have been a strong supporter of resolving the BIF/SAIF issue including addressing the larger question of charter merger. That is why my Subcommittee on Financial Institutions in 1995 dealt with

not only SAIF/BIF funding, but with restructuring issues as well. My subcommittee considered and reported out H.R. 2363, the Thrift Charter Conversion Act, and it was subsequently included in the House-passed reconciliation bill. Even though I strongly supported a more comprehensive approach to resolving the BIF/SAIF problem, time constraints and political realities made passage of a comprehensive charter merger bill impossible this year. The legislation that we are introducing here today deals with many of the same issues addressed in my legislation, H.R. 2363—like eliminating the thrift charter. Thrifts would be required to convert to banks by January 1, 1998, with a 3-year transition provision to allow institutions adequate time to comply with existing national bank laws. Unitary thrift holding companies would be required to convert to either a bank holding company or a financial services company. The other charter conversion provisions included in this bill are the same as those included in my thrift charter conversion bill (H.R. 2363) which was subsequently included as part of the House-passed budget reconciliation bill.

In addition to the thrift charter provisions, the other key elements of the bill include:

Creation of a new, optional structure allowing financial companies to affiliate with banks similar to the D'Amato-Baker approach but modified to restrict ownership of insured banks by commercial firms. This particular provision of the bill is one that is open to further analysis. Consequently, it is one area that I will pay particular attention to with the express purpose of making sure that the safety and soundness of our financial institutions are adequately preserved, and that regulatory authority is adequate.

The regulation and oversight of holding companies would be based on current requirements similar to the structure currently applied to unitary thrift holding companies. As we consider provisions that address the regulation of various institutions, I will be taking special care to assure that all institutions are regulated in such a way as to preserve the safety and soundness and the integrity of the insurance funds.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION

The Draft Bill is an effort to break the current logjam that is blocking financial services reform legislation. It is a comprehensive approach that addresses affiliation issues, Glass-Steagall reform, functional regulation, insurance issues, and thrift charter conversion. It does this by melding together key elements of the major reform bills that are currently pending in Congress. The purposes of this approach are to (1) build on the constructive efforts of Chairmen D'Amato and Leach and Representatives McCollum, Baker, and Roukema, among others, during the past two years; (2) provide a comprehensive framework for addressing the major concerns of the broadest possible range of industry participants; and (3) address legitimate concerns of the regulators that were reflected in both legislative and regulatory proposals that emerged during the last several years.

#### 1. FINANCIAL SERVICES HOLDING COMPANIES

Using modified language from the D'Amato-Baker bills, the draft bill creates a new and entirely optional structure for financial companies to affiliate with banks. A company would choose to own a bank through a new "financial services holding company" that would not be subject to the

Bank Holding Company Act. Instead, the financial services holding company would be subject to a new regulatory structure established by a newly-created section of financial services law called the "Financial Services Company Act." Any company that owns a bank but chooses not to form a financial services holding company would remain subject to the Bank Holding Company Act to the same extent and in the same manner as it is under existing law. However, an affiliate of a bank that is not part of a financial services holding company generally could not engage in securities activities to a greater extent than has been permitted under existing law.

Permissible Affiliations. A financial services holding company could own or affiliate with companies engaged in a much broader range of activities than is permitted for bank holding companies under current law (with contrary state law preempted). The bill would not, however, eliminate all current restrictions on affiliations between banks and commercial firms. A financial services holding company would have to maintain at least 75 percent of its business in financial activities or financial services institutions, which would include such institutions as banks, insurance companies, securities broker dealers, and wholesale financial institutions. In addition, a bank holding company that became a financial services holding company could not enter the insurance agency business through a new affiliate unless it bought an insurance agency that had been in business for at least two years. Finally, foreign banks could also choose to become financial services holding companies.

The bill includes lists of activities that are deemed to be "financial" and entities that are deemed to be "financial services institutions." A new National Financial Services Committee, which would be chaired by the Treasury Department and include the bank regulators and the SEC, would (1) determine whether additional activities should be deemed to be "financial" or additional types of companies should be deemed to be "financial services institutions"; and (2) issue regulations describing the methods for calculating compliance with the 75 percent test. Other than these limited circumstances, a financial services holding company would not be subject to the cumbersome application and prior approval process that currently applies to bank holding companies.

Holding Company Oversight. Because it would own a bank, a financial services holding company would be subject to examination and reporting requirements, but only to the extent necessary to protect the safety and soundness of the bank. These examination and reporting requirements are modeled on those currently in place for unitary thrift holding companies. To the extent that certain elements of the so-called "Fed Lite" provisions of H.R. 2520, the most recently introduced version of the Leach bill, are consistent with the unitary thrift holding company model, they, too, have been included. While the National Financial Services Committee would establish uniform standards for these requirements, the appropriate Federal banking agency that regulates the lead depository institution of the financial services holding company would implement and enforce them.

Apart from these general requirements, financial services holding companies would not be subject to the bank-like regulation that currently applies to the capital and activities of bank holding companies. However, as in the D'Amato-Baker bills, financial services holding companies would be subject to the following additional safety and soundness requirements:

Affiliate transaction restrictions, including but not limited to the requirements of

Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act.

Prohibition on credit extensions to non-financial affiliates.

Change in Control Act restrictions.

Insider lending restrictions.

A "well-capitalized" requirement for subsidiary banks.

Civil money penalties, cease-and-desist authority, and similar banking law enforcement provisions applicable to violations of the new statute.

New criminal law penalty provisions for knowing violations of the new statute.

Divestiture requirement applicable to banks within any financial services holding company that fails to satisfy certain safety and soundness standards.

Anti-Tying and Cross-Marketing Provisions. As with the D'Amato-Baker bills, (1) anti-tying restrictions would apply to a financial services holding company as if it were a bank holding company, but (2) the bill would preempt cross-marketing restrictions imposed on financial services holding companies by state law or any other federal law.

Securities Activities. The draft bill includes principal elements of the most recently introduced version of the Leach bill, H.R. 2520, as it relates to Glass-Steagall issues. These include statutory firewall, "push-out," and "functional regulation" provisions, with some modifications. These new restrictions would apply only to financial services holding companies; they would not apply to the securities or investment company activities of banks that remained part of bank holding companies.

Wholesale Financial Institutions. Financial services holding companies (but not bank holding companies) could also form un-insured bank subsidiaries called wholesale financial institutions or "WFIs." Unlike the Leach bill, such WFIs could be either state or nationally chartered, and there would be no restrictions on the ability of a WFI to affiliate with an insured bank. A WFI would not be subject to the statutory securities firewalls applicable to insured banks and their securities affiliates, but the WFI could not be used to evade such statutory firewalls.

#### 2. ELIMINATION OF THRIFT CHARTER

With the new financial services holding company structure in place, the thrift charter would be eliminated; thrifts would generally be required to convert to banks, with grandfathering/transition provisions; and unitary thrift holding companies would be required to convert to either bank holding companies or financial services holding companies, also with grandfathering/transition provisions. The statutory language for the charter conversion is the same as the language included in the last version of the Roukema bill, which is the one that was used in the House's offer in the Budget Reconciliation conference in late 1995.

#### 3. NATIONAL MARKET FUNDED LENDING INSTITUTIONS

Unlike the D'Amato-Baker bills, the draft bill generally precludes a commercial firm from owning an insured depository institution. However, the bill recognizes the important role that nonfinancial companies play in other aspects of the financial services industry by allowing such companies to own "national market funded lending institutions." This new kind of OCC-regulated institution would have national bank lending powers, but would have no access to the federal safety net: it could not take deposits or receive federal deposit insurance, and it would have no bank-like access to the payments system or the Federal Reserve's discount window. In addition, the institution could not use the term "bank" in its name.

By owning a national market funded lending institution, a nonfinancial company could provide all types of credit throughout the country using uniform lending rates and terms.

#### 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

The bill's provisions would generally become effective on January 1, 1997.

#### STRUCTURE OF DRAFT BILL

Title I. This title creates a new freestanding banking law called the "Financial Services Holding Company Act."

Subtitle A is the modified D'Amato/Baker bill (H.R. 814), which provides companies the option of becoming "financial services holding companies." Only "predominantly financial companies" may be financial services holding companies. The holding company oversight provisions reflect the unitary thrift holding company model and consistent aspects of "Fed lite" from H.R. 2520, the most recent Glass Steagall bill introduced by Chairman Leach. Companies that choose not to become financial services holding companies remain subject to existing law, subject to Title II's limits on affiliations between banks and securities companies.

Subtitle B includes H.R. 2520's statutory firewall and banking law "push-out" provisions, with some modifications. These apply to companies that choose to become financial services holding companies.

Subtitle C includes H.R. 814's requirement that any company that enters the insurance agency business must do so by acquiring an existing insurance agency that has been in business for at least two years.

Title II. This title includes conforming amendments to other laws for financial services holding companies (taken from H.R. 814 and H.R. 2520). It also includes a modified version of H.R. 2520's FDI Act provision limiting affiliations between banks and securities companies.

Title III. This title includes H.R. 2520's "functional regulation/push-out" amendments to the securities laws, with some modifications. It applies only to financial services holding companies.

Title IV. This title includes H.R. 2520's "wholesale financial institution" provisions for state member banks. It adds a parallel provision for national banks. Only financial services holding companies may own WFIs. Unlike H.R. 2520, WFIs may affiliate with insured banks. The principal benefit of the WFI is that it is not subject to statutory securities firewalls.

Title V. This title is the most recent version of Rep. Roukema's Thrift Charter Conversion Act (taken from the House offer in the 1995 reconciliation conference).

Title VI. This title authorizes formation of "national market funded lending institutions." These OCC-regulated institutions may not call themselves "banks." take deposits, or receive federal deposit insurance. They also may not have access to the discount window or the payments system. They do have national bank lending powers, which allows them to lend at uniform rates throughout the country. Because they have no access to the federal safety net, any commercial firm may own a national market funded lending institution without being treated as a bank holding company or the new financial services holding company.

Title VII. The bill's general effective date is January 1, 1997.

MEDICARE AND OUTPATIENT INFECTIOUS DISEASES THERAPY: LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A COST-SAVING BENEFIT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Medicare could save money and benefit patients by facilitating certain cost-effective outpatient treatments in place of inpatient treatment. As the body of medical knowledge grows about what diseases can be safely and effectively treated at home, Medicare's policies need to be updated to capture the cost savings. A crucial area where Medicare policy lags relates to infections and treatment. After years of study by health experts, it is well-established that outpatient intravenous antibiotic therapy for certain infectious can be a cost-effective alternative to prolonged hospitalization. Although only a subset of patients are medically appropriate candidates for outpatient therapy, significant cost savings may accrue. The bill I am introducing today provides a benefit for outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy while ensuring that Medicare capture the savings from use of this outpatient rather than inpatient rather than inpatient treatment.

Certain infections require prolonged antimicrobial therapy. These include endocarditis, an infection of the heart valves, osteomyelitis, an infection of bones, infections involving certain prosthetic devices such as prosthetic joints, and certain abscesses such as those of liver, lung, or brain. Patients with these diseases often require intravenous antibiotic therapy for 4 to 6 weeks and sometimes longer. Intravenous therapy can produce much higher and more constant blood levels of an antibiotic than oral therapy and is used for serious infections. Certain viral and fungal infections also require prolonged antimicrobial therapy.

After initial hospitalization and stabilization of their condition, many patients would be well enough to be discharged from the hospital except for the need for continued intravenous therapy. For these patients, outpatient antibiotic therapy would be beneficial and cost-effective. Unfortunately, many patients must currently remain in the hospital because Medicare does not cover the outpatient treatment. Medicare loses because it may have to pay the hospital an outlier payment in addition to the usual diagnosis-related group [DRG] payment; the outlier payment is an extra amount to help cover the patient's longer than average stay. Alternatively, the hospital may try to save costs by transferring the patient to an extended care facility to complete treatment. Again Medicare loses, because it pays for the treatment at the receiving facility in addition to the DRG payment it makes to the hospital. If Medicare covered the outpatient treatment, it could avoid these extra inpatient payments. In addition, Medicare's DRG payments for these diseases could potentially be reduced as the average inpatient cost for the conditions decreases.

Not all patients are medically appropriate candidates for outpatient antimicrobial therapy. However, for those that are, outpatient therapy avoids the restrictive environment of a hospital and decreases the patient's risk for hospital-

acquired infections. Studies have documented that the longer a patient remains in the hospital the greater the chance of developing a new infection due to an organism acquired in the hospital; this results in increased morbidity and mortality, longer hospital stays, and additional costs. Another benefit of outpatient therapy is that patients who are ambulatory and active can often resume work or other regular activities during the period of their treatment.

Several models are used for the administration of outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy. These include, first, the therapy can be administered in a physician's office or hospital treatment room to a patient who commutes to the site daily. This type of outpatient treatment is already covered by Medicare because the drugs are administered incident to a physician's services. Second, the therapy can be administered in a patient's home by a health professional who visits daily. Third, the therapy can be self-administered by the patient after appropriate training and with appropriate backup and support services. Fourth, the therapy can be administered via a programmable infusion pump in a patient's home or other location since some pumps are small and portable. Pumps can be set up to run for a few days by a health professional and require little manipulation by patients. They can be used with a variety of antimicrobials, including ones with frequent dosing schedules which otherwise could not be feasibly administered in the outpatient setting.

Some infectious disease specialists treat a variety of infections with outpatient intravenous antimicrobial therapy in addition to the ones I mentioned earlier. These include certain skin and soft tissue infections, kidney infections, and pneumonia. I invite medical experts to help us define the optimal list of diseases for which outpatient parenteral therapy is a safe, effective, and cost-effective alternative to inpatient treatment. Because Medicare savings may be more readily identified with some disease categories than others, I encourage development of a list for which the savings are clear.

The bill I am introducing today establishes a benefit for outpatient parenteral antimicrobial drugs, when the outpatient treatment is used in place of continued inpatient treatment. Reimbursement for drugs will be on the basis of actual costs plus an appropriate administration fee. The bill recognizes that certain supplies, equipment, and professional services are a necessary part of appropriate outpatient treatment. It directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to determine the savings that can be obtained by providing this outpatient benefit which facilitates reduced inpatient payments. The diseases for which inpatient payments can be reduced if outpatient benefits are provided will be determined by reviewing all infectious disease DRG's.

The bill also calls for repeal of coverage for antimicrobial drugs under the durable medical equipment [DME] clause, and provision of the coverage under the new outpatient parenteral therapy benefit. The DME benefit currently covers three antiviral drugs, one antifungal drug, and one anti-bacterial drug called vancomycin. As I have described previously in introducing another bill addressing vancomycin policy, Medicare's coverage of this single antibacterial drug among more than 50 available antibacterials is causing inappropriate overuse of this drug. This is contributing to a public

health problem of vancomycin resistant bacteria. Incorporating these five antimicrobials into the new outpatient parenteral therapy benefit will provide a more rational policy that can avoid the pitfalls of the current system. Coverage for infusion pumps used to administer these and other antimicrobials covered by the outpatient parenteral therapy benefit will be provided under the DME benefit.

This bill focuses on disease categories rather than specific antimicrobials. As evident from the vancomycin issue, the naming of specific antimicrobials can cause changes in physicians' prescribing practices resulting in overuse of the named drugs. The naming of antimicrobials poses a different risk than for other classes of drugs and should be avoided; if we guess wrong about which antimicrobials should be named in a law, the result is not merely lack of coverage for the unnamed drugs, but also a potential public health problem of increased drug resistance. The legislative process cannot respond fast enough to change the list of drugs each time a problem occurs. Focusing on disease categories, rather than naming specific drugs, avoids this special risk. Also, this strategy helps to ensure Medicare savings by clearly identifying the DRG's, outliers, and extended care categories for which reduced inpatient payments may be feasible. This bill provides the mechanism to update Medicare's policies and capture cost-savings as healthcare shifts from the inpatient to the outpatient arena.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3666,  
DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS  
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND  
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPRO-  
PRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL ORTON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. ORTON. Mr. Speaker, with the passage of the VA/HUD appropriations bill in the House and Senate and expected approval by the President, I am very pleased to note the enactment into law of important FHA reforms, which will improve and enhance the program.

The first reform is the elimination of the current prohibition against parental loans in conjunction with FHA mortgages. In spite of the fact that parental financial assistance plays an important role in meeting down payment requirements and promoting homeownership, current FHA rules do not permit parents to lend money to their children for this purpose. This prohibition is antihomeownership and antifamily. I am pleased to see Congress adopt my proposal and allow parental loans, on either a secured or unsecured basis, for this purpose.

The second reform would allow direct endorsement lenders to issue their own mortgage certificates. This will lower costs for lenders and for FHA which can be passed along to borrowers in the form of lower premiums and lower loan costs. Since direct endorsement lenders are already given underwriting authority, this change will not negatively affect the quality of loans approved. This proposal was adopted 2 years ago in the House, and

was included in my FHA reform bill introduced at the beginning of this Congress.

The third reform is the establishment of an FHA down payment simplification proposal on a demonstration basis in Alaska and Hawaii. This proposal is based on my down payment proposal which was adopted in the Banking Committee in 1994. Virtually everyone who uses FHA acknowledges that the current down payment calculation is unnecessarily complex. This proposal would greatly simplify the process for borrowers, lenders, and realtors.

I am disappointed that the Senate prevailed over the House on this issue, scaling back nationwide application to a demonstration project. However, I am pleased that Congress has finally acknowledged that we ought to take action on this issue. My hope is that next year, we can expand this demonstration status to the entire Nation and make it permanent.

And, I would like to acknowledge the efforts and leadership of Representative WELLER's amendment to codify the lowering of the FHA premium from 2.25 percent to 2 percent for first-time home buyers who receive homeownership counseling. This continues a trend over the last 4 years of lowering FHA premiums, as a result of lowered FHA loss rates and reductions in administrative costs.

These legislative changes represent a great achievement, in light of the fact that it now appears that no comprehensive housing legislation will be enacted this Congress.

The passage of these provisions is especially noteworthy, in light of the great number of House Members who are opposed to FHA. Early last year, legislation was introduced which would have effectively eliminated FHA. This legislation was supported by 60 House Members including many in leadership positions, such as Majority Leader DICK ARMEY and Majority Whip TOM DELAY. A companion bill was introduced in the Senate.

Not only were FHA proponents able to repel this effort to destroy FHA, but we were able to improve the program through much-needed reforms. These reforms are critically important in my home State of Utah and throughout the country. A recent Fannie Mae study cited the required downpayment as the No. 1 impediment to home ownership in this country. FHA, with its low downpayment provisions, is the most effective and widely available mortgage tool used to help young families and individuals overcome that downpayment hurdle. And, it does so at no cost to the taxpayer.

In fact, a recent GAO study showed that 77 percent of first-time home buyers who used FHA loans in 1995 would not have qualified for a loan without FHA. In my home State of Utah, 68 percent of first-time home buyers use FHA. Thus, in Utah, over half of first-time home buyers would not be able to enter the housing market without FHA.

These statistics clearly show the folly of proposals to end or privatize FHA. They also show how critical it is to continue to improve and modernize the program.

Therefore, it is my hope that next year, we can finish the job we started back in the 103d Congress. Specifically, we should extend the demonstration downpayment simplification proposal to nationwide status, raise the national FHA loan floor to 50 percent of the Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac limit, allow the use of two-step mortgages, and eliminate the outdated 90 percent loan-to-value limitation on new construction.

In closing, I would like to thank House and Senate conferees for preserving these important FHA reforms in the final conference report, and look forward to their implementation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD ON THE SUCCESSFUL CROSS-DECKING OF THE CUTTER "DECISIVE" AND THE CUTTER "RESOLUTE"

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, my good friend Maj. F. Andy Messing of the National Defense Council Foundation has asked me to submit these speeches for the RECORD.

Congressman DAN BURTON congratulates the U.S. Coast Guard on the successful cross-decking of the cutter *Decisive* and the cutter *Resolute*. The two speeches herein show the dedicated service to our country. Particularly, they illustrate the antidrug missions, the life-saving actions and environmental deeds done for America.

SPEECH OF CDR. AL J. BERNARD—COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE USCGC "RESOLUTE"

Admiral Barrett, Captain Hested, Capt Hail, Chaplain Michener, other distinguished guests, former *Decisive* Co's and sailors, Team Coast Guard, friends and family of the Coast Guard, Good Morning:

Thank you all for coming today to share in this very special ceremony. For many of us, work is a routine of shuffling paper, long hours in front of a computer screen or toiling through highway congested traffic from home to work and back. It's a far cry from the dreams we had as kids. We day dreamed of being astronauts, explorers, major league baseball players, or even running off to sea. For the men and women you see before you the childhood notion of going to sea is a reality and remains intact. They sail the briny for love of country and for the ideals it represents.

Therefore, a ship carries a very special meaning to a sailor. The ships you see behind me represent work, home, school, family, and church for this crew. It is life personified on a floating hull of steel. It takes on the character of its crew and becomes a sacred and noble entity because these ships are their blood, sweat and tears—the very attributes which bring a ship to life. Today, you have witnessed a transfusion of life from *Decisive* to *Resolute*. *Decisive* will always be a part of us. But now we are *resolute*; and what a desirable trait of human character to be—one especially suited for this crew and her mission. Implied by the word "resolute" are steadfastness, courage, and tenacity of purpose. To be *resolute* is to continue one's task in the face of great obstacles. It is one of the foundations of character. Without this quality, neither man nor nation can survive.

But that's only half of the story. These ships of steel and their crews must endure the hardship and punishment that the sea offers without regard. Since the beginning of time, sailors have relied on the sailmaker, carpenter, ship fitter, and dock yard; these craftsmen ensured that the vessels they built or repaired were reliable and intact. The dock yards kept the mighty triremes, galleons, barks and cutters fit for service so that the crews could serve. They provided the sailor with piece of mind when he set for sea.

Today, you see yet another example of that relationship between sailor and ship

yard. The Coast Guard Yard has delivered another ship of the line in tip top condition from stem to stern, top to bottom, and ready for action. Captain Hested, please accept my sincere thanks from the crew of *Decisive*, and now *Resolute*, for a job well done. Your team has done it again.

Thirty years ago, *Resolute* was launched from this very yard contributing to the Coast Guard's unbroken line of development extending over two centuries. As you look at *Resolute* down the pier, you'll see her clean, sweeping lines, a new look if you will, and a metaphor for the renewed vitality which is surging in our service. This "new cutter" incorporates all the latest advances in naval engineering and demonstrates our commitment to the growing needs of our times. For while I stand here and talk of time honored tradition and service, the Coast Guard recognizes that change is inevitable, if we are to keep up with the demands of progress.

Let me end here by telling you that the crew is ready to begin a new chapter in the rich history of cutter *Resolute*. The American novelist, Arthur Somers Roche, captures the very essence of why these men and women do what they do, and do it so well:

But the men who sail the ocean  
In wormy, rotten craft,  
With a hell-blown gale baft;  
When the mainmast cracks and topples,  
And she's lurching in the trough,  
Them's the guys that greets the cutter  
With smiles that won't come off.

Thank you so much for coming.

SPEECH OF REAR ADM. ED BARNETT, U.S.  
COAST GUARD

Captain Hested, Captain Hail, Commander Bernard, men and women of *Decisive*, men and women of the yard, family and friends. A special welcome to two former *Decisive* CO's, Capt. Mark Fisher and Capt. Rich Hartman—good morning. It is a pleasure to be here today representing the Commandant as we mark a key transition point for the cutters *Decisive* and *Resolute* and for the one crew which soon will have sailed both of these vessels.

Appropriately, this ceremony is held in Curtis Bay, a city rich in maritime history, and specifically at the Coast Guard yard, a facility which has contributed much to the birth and lifeline of so many Coast Guard vessels.

As you know, there are many significant events in the life of a cutter . . . christening, commissioning, changes of command and finally decommissioning. The Coast Guard cutter *Decisive* was christened here at the CG yard in January 1968, and later commissioned in August 1968 in her first homeport, New Castle, New Hampshire.

Since that time, during the past 28 years, *Decisive* has carved a proud niche in Coast Guard history.

Her missions have been wide ranging. In the forefront are search and rescue and law enforcement operations in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. In carrying out these missions, as well as her other duties, *Decisive* has excelled.

I would like to recap a few of these missions which occurred over the past couple of years.

1. Aug 94 First CTU 44.7.9 for the Florida Straits Cuban Sealift; rescued approximately 500 Cubans from unseaworthy craft; overall in 1994 *Decisive* rescued 1,400 Cuban and Haitian migrants.

2. Nov 95 Sank M/V Juneau Express during t/s Gordon near Florida Keys live coral reef. Fired approx 600 rounds hit 25mm between midnight and 0300 to sink abandoned 200' freighter in high winds/seas and prevent damage to a fragile eco system.

3. Mar-May 95 Coordinated Maritime element for exercise tradewinds 95, a USACOM

sponsored annual nation building effort. Trained police and Coast Guard forces from 13 Caribbean Nations.

4. Nov 95 Interdicted 75' Haitian coastal freighter with 516 Haitian migrants in windward pass. Assisted CGC northland w/safe offload in the vicinity of Cay Sal Bank, w/o injury or loss of life.

*Decisive's* effort in law enforcement are matched by few Coast Guard cutters . . . she has logged thousands of helicopter landings, seized dozens of vessels, and as evident by the marijuana symbols on the stack. She has seized over 500,000 lbs of marijuana.

To the crew of *Decisive* . . . I'm sure you are or will be experiencing a wide range of feelings as you depart *Decisive* which has been your home, and from which you performed your duties with the highest degree of professionalism.

For CDR Bernard, it may occur as you order the OOD to haul down the commissioning pennant.

For the engineers, it may have occurred as you secured the main diesels.

For others, it may be as you finish emptying your lockers and cross the brow for this final mooring.

A lot of memories will surface . . . good times in Caribbean liberty ports, search and rescue cases in rough seas, climbing over the gunwales during fisheries boardings, the thrill of a drug seizure, the watches you've stood . . . and always, the memories of sailors with which you've served.

Don't be surprised if you also have a feeling of emptiness . . . because a part of each of you will remain with *Decisive*. It has been your knowledge, dedication, hard work, and perseverance that have allowed *Decisive* to continue to operate effectively . . . long after she should have entered a major maintenance availability. As a team, you have given *Decisive* your best, and in return she has served you and the Coast Guard well.

Now, on the other hand, you will be surprised at how quickly you will build a similar bond with your new ship . . . *Resolute*. The craftsmen of the Coast Guard yard have once again done a masterful job . . . the 210' MMA program has turned out to be a real success story for the CG . . . with the employees of the yard providing quality products, ahead of schedule and >\$50M under cost. An excellent example of "better Government at less cost." You will acquire from the yard much more than a refurbished ship . . . you will have a new Coast Guard cutter with many modifications designed to both improve operational capability and decrease M/H required for maintenance. The deck department will undoubtedly miss the pleasurable chore of scrubbing *Decisive's* stern. . .

The caretaking of *Resolute's* heritage will soon be passed to you . . . her new crew. You are inheriting a ship that has an equally rich history. As with *Decisive*, *Resolute* was built by the Coast Guard yard. *Resolute's* history began in 1966 in San Francisco, CA, under the command of a young commander named Paul A. Yost, whom would later become our commandant.

*Resolute's* law enforcement accomplishments are also impressive. She too has seized dozens of ships—but on the "other" coast. And, while not as glamorous as drug seizures, she has admirably performed thousands of fisheries boardings, which have protected our ocean's dwindling fish stocks from exploitation and has provided fishermen with the latest information on F/V safety requirements.

She has served our country with distinction.

And so, through you, *Resolute's* history begins again. In June, you successfully completed her builder's trials. The stage is set. *Resolute* will require your skill and hard

work to complete the on-load and ready for sea processes. Learn your new ship well . . . trace every piping run, exercise every new piece of equipment, note every detail of each new space. Soon you will again feel the salt spray, the excitement of the hunt, and the thrill of the rescue. That close bond between ship and sailor will serve you well as CGC Resolute assumes her position in the forefront of Coast Guard operations.

Capt. Hested, on behalf of the Commandant, I accept Resolute back into the fleet. At the same time I present Decisive—"the queen of the fleet" for her major maintenance availability.

I pass operational control of Resolute to Commander Atlantic Area and administrative control to Commander Maintenance and Logistics Command, Atlantic.

CDR Bernard, I charge you and your crew to be "Semper Paratus" in carrying out your missions. Do this in the same manner in which you, your crew, and Decisive's crews have done in the past. In closing, to the Decisive I say "good job, we'll see you soon plying the Atlantic waters." To the Resolute, welcome back, welcome to the LANT area.

And we wish you the very best in your endeavors.

CDR Bernard, execute your orders.

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### ENGLISH AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an article by John Gurda, an excellent author and historian in Milwaukee. The article appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel earlier this year. This article takes an intriguing look at the issue of English as the official language of the United States. It reminds us that most of us have ancestry which stems from outside the United States. It is with this in mind that I provide the following article.

[From the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Apr. 1, 1996]

#### HOW SOON THE "ENGLISH FIRST" CROWD FORGETS

(By John Gurda)

Their names are Seratti, Skindrud, Zukowski, Ziegelbauer, Gunderson, Goetsch, Buettner, Huebsch and Drzewiecki. They represent some of Wisconsin's leading ethnic groups—German, Norwegian, Polish and Italian—and it is a safe bet that none of their ancestors spoke a word of English when they arrived.

The irony is that the names belong to state legislators who are sponsoring the "English First" bill. Their measure would establish English as the "official language of Wisconsin" and would, with a few carefully worded exceptions, prohibit the use of other languages in "all written expression" by any unit of state or local government.

It seems puzzling, at first, that the bill would get a serious hearing in a state as ethnic as Wisconsin. It seems even stranger that elected officials would deny some current residents a privilege that their own ancestors enjoyed: the right to be addressed in their native tongues.

Linguistic diversity, officially endorsed, is older than the state. When Solomon Juneau became Milwaukee's first mayor in 1846, 1,000 copies of his inaugural address were printed—500 in English and 500 in German. The

same policy was observed when Wisconsin adopted a constitution two years later. In the 1850s and '60s, the state published guidebooks in German, Norwegian, French, Dutch and Swedish, as well as in English, hoping to attract newcomers from Europe.

Immigrants responded by the thousands, making Wisconsin one of the most "foreign" states in the union and dotting the countryside with such settlements as New Glarus, New Holstein, Denmark, Belgium, Poland and Scandinavia. Ethnicity is still one of our hallmarks—a focus of festivals, an anchor of identity and, not least of all, a draw for tourists.

But diversity has always had a dark side as well. Wisconsin has suffered periodic outbreaks of nativism throughout its history; like some modern suburbanites, established residents of every period have tried to pull up the gangplank as soon as they were safely on the boat.

In the 1840s, for instance, when Irish and German immigrants demanded an equal voice in deliberations over statehood, the Milwaukee Sentinel was horrified: "This is going too far. . . . One half of our population consists of foreigners and if this continues they will gain the upper hand and destroy our freedom. This thing is going too far."

Wisconsin's immigrants returned the fire when their rights were threatened. In 1890, a Republican Legislature passed the Bennett Law, making instruction in English compulsory. Supporters of parochial schools were incensed. German, Scandinavian, Irish and Polish voters joined forces at the polls, making George Peck governor; he was the only Democrat to hold the pot between 1876 and 1932.

Intolerance reached a peak of sorts during and just after World War I. Germans were, to put it bluntly, persecuted. Bach, Brahms, and Beethoven were banned from the concert stage. Sauerkraut was rechristened "liberty cabbage." In 1919, the Milwaukee Journal won a Pulitzer Prize for its efforts to root out local Germans who sided with Kaiser Wilhelm.

Soon after the war, nativists broadened their fire to include Poles, Italians, Greeks, Serbs and other "new" immigrants, a group that one bigot dismissed as "historically downtrodden, atavistic and stagnant." Most politicians agreed. In the 1920s, Congress virtually halted the flow of immigration from southern and eastern Europe. The "golden door" lighted by the Statue of Liberty was slammed shut.

Seventy years later, immigrants are once again suspect. The English First campaign of 1996 is only the latest in a long series of attempts to legislate conformity, attempts to legislate conformity, attempts that seem to crest during times of uncertainty. Patriots of every generation have tried, in historian Gerd Korman's choice phrase, "to replace the melting pot with a pressure cooker."

The campaign has been blasted as small-minded, shortsighted and racist by Hispanics, Asians and other language minorities. The English First movement may be all of those things, but it is most of all unnecessary. Anyone who has spent time in the newer ethnic communities will tell you that the pressures to conform are enormous. Through the media, through the schools, through their own children, immigrant families soon learn what America expects of them. If they want a place at the table, if they want even a taste of the American dream, English is mandatory.

Why, then, the current outbreak of nativism? When you cut through all the rhetoric about "uniting" our society, what you sense is fear—fear that America is coming apart at the seams. The country seems to be filling in

with strangers who show no eagerness to join the mainstream. That perception gives rise to a great unspoken question: Why can't they be like us?

It is one of the oldest questions in America. Yankees asked it of the Germans and the Irish, the Germans and Irish asked it of the Poles and Italians, and everyone asks it of Hispanics and Asians. The fact that so many groups once considered "they" have joined the ranks of "us" is, I would suggest, an obvious sign of America's power to absorb differences. But there are always newcomers to question.

And what should they answer? They should, in my opinion, respond that they are challenging the rest of us to live up to an ideal as old as the Republic: a belief that the many can become one without rejecting their ancestors, that unity and diversity can coexist in a creative and energizing tension.

There is only one noun in this country, and that is American. But there are dozens of adjectives: African, Belgian, Croatian, Danish, English, Filipino, German and on down the alphabet. It is our differences, mediated by our essential unity, that give this country its human appeal and its human power.

Those who would stifle diversity are denying themselves an important gift. Those who would insist on "English First" are betraying their own ignorance and their own pettiness, but they display something even more disturbing: a lack of faith in America.

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### RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF OUR NATION'S ANIMAL SHELTERS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's animal shelters and the tens of thousands of dedicated individuals who are employed by or volunteer in these facilities certainly deserve recognition for the work they have done in assisting animals. This Member is pleased that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), which has provided training and support to local animal shelters and humane organizations for over 40 years, has declared November 3–9, 1996, as National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week.

The idea for a national day of recognition and appreciation for animal shelters actually started with a humane society in this Member's district, the Capital Humane Society in Lincoln, NE. Bob Downey, the executive director of the Capital Humane Society, contacted the HSUS and suggested that they work together to establish a week intended to recognize the positive roles that animal shelters play in their communities; to recognize the staff and volunteers of shelters; and to educate the general public about animal shelters and the work they do.

The services offered by animal shelters are as varied as the communities they serve. Some handle animal control issues, such as controlling dogs running at large or sheltering unwanted or abandoned animals. Some conduct rescue operations by responding to calls regarding injured animals or animals that have fallen through the ice of a frozen lake or pond. Still others assist families who are considering adding a new four-legged member to the family by providing adoption services.

There are many ways that individuals can help our local animal shelters and humane societies. Many shelters, just like the Capital Humane Society, both need and welcome volunteers who perform a variety of tasks such as walking dogs, grooming animals, cleaning cages or assisting with adoptions. Shelters can also use donations of supplies such as blankets and towels to provide bedding, food or cages, or just cash donations to help pay for the costs of daily operations. National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week is an appropriate time for people to visit shelters, thank the people who work there, and volunteer their time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARVIN BROWN OF SAVANNAH, GA ON RECEIVING THE GRAND DECORATION OF HONOUR OF THE STATE OF SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Marvin Brown, a resident of Savannah, GA and the First Congressional District of Georgia, joined the ranks of Dwight D. Eisenhower and Winston Churchill when he was recently awarded one of Austria's highest commendations. Mr. Brown's achievements were highlighted in the August 23, 1996 edition of the Georgia Guardian:

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

[From the Georgia Guardian, August 23-29, 1996]

MARVIN BROWN AWARDED AUSTRIAN COMMENDATION

(By Thom Nezbeda)

To read of Marvin Brown's accomplishments with the Georgia Salzburger Society is to be impressed. He may have joined the organization "late in life," as he put it, but what he's lost in time has certainly been more than made up for in performance.

He first joined the Georgia Salzburger Society, the national organization devoted to preserving Salzburger history and heritage, in 1979. "I had been hearing that I was a Salzburger," Brown said. "Jackie [his wife] and I went to a meeting out of curiosity, and that got us involved." He held the position of president for the society from 1990 to 1992. His first trip to "the Old Country" came in 1981, and he's led several tours of the state of Salzburg and other areas of Austria for fellow society members since then.

"We got started [traveling to Austria] back in 1981," said Brown, "just 'babes in the woods'. We were just tourists then."

Subsequent trips as tour guides and opportunities to meet Austrian officials visiting the United States for society activities have raised them above tourist status. "It all fell in place," Brown said in a tone that seems to suggest he and his wife are taking it all in stride. "This is how we became guests of the Austrian government on one occasion; guests of the Roman Catholic archbishop on another occasion. We've really had some wonderful things happen."

Brown's accomplishments don't stop there. Besides being a guest on Austrian television talk shows, and presenting keys to the City of Savannah to two Salzburg governors, Brown and his wife were appointed area coordinators for the Austrian Olympic Sailing Team. As such, they helped coordinate a

wreath-laying ceremony at the Salzburger Monument on Bay Street. Members of the Georgia Salzburger Society, Mayor Floyd Adams Jr., and a delegation of Austrian government and industry leaders took part in the ceremony. After the ceremony, the group retired to a downtown restaurant for a late lunch.

That's when Brown, to his total surprise, received what is probably the largest feather in his cap to date: he was awarded the Grand Decoration of Honour of the State of Salzburg, in appreciation of his efforts to promote good will between Salzburger descendants and the country from which they came.

The honor, one of Austria's highest commendations, was given by Engelbert Wenckheim, the vice president of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber.

"I really was definitely shocked; there's no other word for it," Brown said.

According to Ulf Pacher of the Austrian Embassy in Washington, D.C., the commendation is the highest decoration awarded by the province of Salzburg. "The medal is pretty exclusive," he said. "It's not given out that often—it's rarely awarded."

By receiving the award, Brown becomes part of an exclusive group of individuals including Winston Churchill and Dwight D. Eisenhower, among others.

IN ORDER TO SAVE THE COUNTRYSIDE, WE MUST STRENGTHEN OUR CITIES

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as recently as the 1960's, Charles Adams wrote in "The City is the Frontier": "In our own era, the world's cities are witnessing their greatest surge in man's history \* \* \* From 1800 to 1950, the proportion of people living in cities with more than 20,000 people leaped from 2.4 to 21 percent. Our civilization is becoming urban, and the advance into the cities is one of the most spectacular social phenomena of our time. The city has become the frontier."

Today, the promise of the urban frontier seems to be little more than reminder of opportunity lost. In the latter half of this century, the Nation's landscape has been transformed by sprawling development and urban decay. The movement of families and businesses from our Nation's cities has reshaped the cities themselves, the suburbs, and the countryside. Much of this change has been positive, as families have built homes and communities, fulfilling the American dream; but a great deal has been lost as well.

It is tragic that so many cities are dying at a time when the countryside is disappearing. The American Farmland Trust estimates that the United States converts to other uses 2 million acres of farmland annually, much of it on the edge of urban America. The USDA natural resources inventory found that developed land increased by 14 million acres between 1982 and 1992.

As the cities are losing their manufacturing industries, 95 percent of the growth in office jobs occurs in low density suburbs. These office jobs accounted for 15 million of the 18 million new jobs in the 1980's.

There are many factors that have contributed to the mass migration away from the

cities: a desire for greater personal safety, better schools, less congestion, and a way of life. The development of the Interstate Highway System, relatively inexpensive community expenses, and tax incentives for homeownership have made it easier for many people to move to the suburbs.

Offsetting some of the costs associated with this trend—urban decay and the loss of open space—will require both private sector and public sector initiative. No single public policy proposal will address all of the problems. Today, I am introducing two bills addressing two of the many factors that contribute to sprawling development.

The first is related to the costs of cleaning up contaminated land and buildings in urban areas so that they can be put to productive use. The rules surrounding the tax treatment of environmental remediation expenses are so convoluted and confusing it is no wonder that a number of businesses decide to sidestep them altogether and invest in previously undeveloped land and newer buildings outside of environmentally distressed urban areas.

Repairs to business property can be deducted currently as a business expense, but capital expenditures that add to the value of property have to be capitalized. This means that some environmental remediation costs are treated as a business expense, but others are treated as capital expenditures, depending on the facts and circumstances of each case.

The administration in its brownfields initiative has proposed to allow an immediate deduction for cleaning up certain hazardous substances in high-poverty areas, existing EPA brownfields pilot areas, and Federal empowerment zones and enterprise communities. This is commendable, as far as it goes, but there is a disturbing trend in urban policy to pick and choose among cities. If expensing environmental remediation costs is good tax policy and good urban policy, and I believe that it is, then it should apply in all communities. The bill I am introducing today would apply this policy to all property wherever located, and would expand the list of hazardous substances to include potentially hazardous materials such as asbestos, lead paint, petroleum products, and radon. This bill would remove the disincentive in current law to reinvestment in our cities and buildings.

My second bill addresses a provision in current tax law that limits the deduction for a gift of appreciated property to 30 percent of adjusted gross income. Under current law, the limit for gifts of cash is 50 percent of adjusted gross income. My bill would raise the cap for qualified gifts of conservation land and easements from 30 percent to 50 percent. Under the bill, any amount that cannot be deducted in the year in which the gift is made can be carried over to subsequent tax years until the deduction has been exhausted. Current law gives the donor 5 years in which to use up the deduction.

Conservation easements are a partial interest in property transferred to an appropriate nonprofit or governmental entity. These easements restrict the development, management, or use of the land in order to keep the land in a natural state or to protect historic or scenic values. Easements are widely used by land trusts, conservation groups, and developers to protect valuable land.

The 30-percent limit in current law actually works to the disadvantage of taxpayers who may be land rich but cash poor.

Several of my colleagues have introduced important bills to encourage greater use of conservation easements. My bill addresses the disadvantage the 30-percent limit imposes on lower income taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, Gifford Pinchot, the founder of the U.S. Forest Service, once wrote that a nation "deprived of its liberty may win it, a nation divided may unite, but a nation whose natural resources are destroyed must inevitably pay the penalty of poverty, degradation and decay."

In order to save the countryside, we must strengthen our cities. Thanks to the leadership of Chairman BILL ARCHER, fundamental tax reform will be near the top of the agenda of the next Congress. We need to take a look at the impact of tax policy on land use decisions in this country. The bills I am introducing today would go a long way toward correcting two serious problems in existing law.

IN HONOR OF LILLIAN CARINE: AN  
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY AC-  
TIVIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BA-  
YONNE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lillian Carine, a dedicated community activist who has made a significant difference in the lives of my constituents in Bayonne. Mrs. Carine will be honored at the seventh annual Italian American Heritage Award dinner dance on September 28, 1996, at the F.A. Mackenzie Post in Bayonne.

Family has played a major role in our esteemed honoree's life. Mrs. Carine was born to Sicilian immigrants, Josephine and Nicola Alessi, on July 21, 1911, in Bayonne where she still lives. Alessi married Nicholas Carine on April 11, 1932. Their joyful union, which lasted 57 years until Nicholas' passing in 1989, produced two children, Frank and Rosalie, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Competence and compassion are invaluable words to one who seeks to describe Mrs. Carine. This selfless individual's tradition of community involvement began under the influence of her mother who put her on a "trolley track" of service to others from which Mrs. Carine has yet to disembark. Along the way, there have been a number of stations which Mrs. Carine's trolley has passed through, including the Bayonne Board of Education to which she was elected twice, the Hudson County Juvenile Conference Committee and the Bayonne Child Abuse Prevention Council.

Additionally, Mrs. Carine is a founding member of the Sons of Italy, Father Del Monte Lodge 2560, a member of the selection panel of the Holocaust Memorial Committee of Bayonne, and a member of the Bayonne Visiting Nurse Association board of directors.

Senior citizens and their concerns have interested Mrs. Carine for a long time. She is the producer and host of a local cable television show called "Sixty Plus" geared toward senior citizens, relating information useful to seniors in their everyday lives. The Vial of Life program was an especially gratifying milestone

in Mrs. Carine's chosen vocation. It provides seniors with information important to meet their health care needs.

It is an honor to have such an empathetic individual residing in my district. Mrs. Carine's performance of her civic duties is an example for everyone to emulate. I am certain that my colleagues will rise with me to honor this exceptional woman.

TRIBUTE TO THE 90TH ANNIVER-  
SARY CELEBRATION OF NATIV-  
ITY OF THE BVM

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join all my friends and colleagues in celebrating the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary's 90th anniversary. This wonderful church has been serving Ozone Park, Queens faithfully for the past 90 years, and is well-deserving of recognition and praise.

I am pleased to congratulate the members of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary for making this area a source of community pride. As a result of the tireless work and vigilant dedication of the church, Ozone Park has maintained its reputation as a safe and quiet community distinct from the city's frenetic atmosphere.

I am certain that the strength of this community would not be what it is today without the commitment of its church. Such countless contributions have ensured the neighborhood's continued growth and stability which are fully appreciated by all.

For years, families have known Ozone Park as a solid community, making it a good place to live. I am honored to celebrate 90 years of civic leadership in Ozone Park—the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary's members have done much to improve the quality of life for all area residents.

CONGRATULATIONS TO POSTAL  
WORKER WHO SAVED CHOKING 4  
YEAR OLD

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I would take a moment today to publicly thank Joanne Johnson, a postal worker from my district, who recently saved the life of a 4-year-old boy who had swallowed a quarter and was choking.

On a recent dreary Monday morning, Joanne was delivering mail on a rural route in her hometown of Hopwood, PA, when she heard the screams of Rosemary Bradshaw who was standing on her front porch.

Not really knowing what was wrong, Joanne jumped out of her mail truck and ran to the woman's aid. Mrs. Bradshaw's son, John Kenneth Thorpe, Jr. stood nearby in obvious distress, unable to breathe. Luckily, Joanne had built up a relationship with John since she began delivering the route in early spring. Daily the boy would raise the flag on his mailbox, even if there was nothing to pick up, just

so he could chat and laugh with her. While Joanne had no formal training in CPR or the Heimlich maneuver, she coaxed him to come to her. She quickly flipped him around and squeezed him tightly. Fortunately the quarter popped out and John began to breathe again.

Local postal officials intend to recognize Joanne for her heroism. As they correctly state, daily Postal Service workers across the country, like Joanne, help citizens in distress, but rarely are these events ever reported on the evening news.

Joanne, naturally, does not see herself as a hero. She says she was just at the right place at the right time and would not hesitate to help again, if she could.

But I know that is not the case. Joanne is a very special person and her family and neighbors and coworkers should be very proud of her. More importantly, each and everyone of us should try and emulate her efforts to reach out to others in need.

Not surprisingly, little John knows a friend when he sees one. Lately, he has been leaving cards and presents for Joanne in the mailbox. She has been leaving him candy.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3666,  
DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS  
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND  
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the conference report on H.R. 3666, the VA, HUD and independent agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997.

As chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am deeply dissatisfied with the way the conference report treats the veterans' portion of the bill.

The conference report switches priorities approved by the House.

The result, veterans lose out to nonveteran programs.

I strongly object to the conference report boosting programs for EPA, NASA, and Americorps at the expense of veterans.

The conference report drops VA medical care \$55 million below the House, inadequately funds VA medical research \$15 million below the House, and skims \$13 million off the House on resources necessary for timely processing of veterans service connected benefit claims.

The conference report bumps up EPA by \$140 million above the House, NASA \$100 million above the House, FEMA \$197 million above the House, and gives \$400 million to "paid volunteers" and bureaucrats at Americorps, which the House had zero funded.

Mr. Chairman, the overall story is unfortunately a weakening of the House-passed priorities for veterans' programs.

Additionally, it is inappropriate for legislative amendments to find their way into appropriations measures.

While I would not necessarily disagree with all the attached legislative amendments had

they been properly before the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I strongly object to their presence in the appropriations bill conference report.

The conference report creates an unprecedented benefits entitlement for children with spina bifida, on the basis of what can at best only be called questionable scientific foundation.

Worse than that is the way it has been paid for.

The appropriations bill reverses the Supreme Court's Gardner decision.

This is not simply an offset.

It is legislative savings that should be controlled by the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and it is more than what is needed to pay for the new entitlement.

Thus the VA Committee loses control over \$500 million.

That's the difference between the costs of this brand-new entitlement and savings from repeal of Gardner.

It's the price for rushing these provisions through the appropriations process instead of the committee of jurisdiction.

The appropriations bill strips the House Veterans' Affairs Committee of our plan to achieve significant savings without hurting higher priority veterans' programs, and denies veterans the potential of using that \$500 million for other benefits improvements for service-connected veterans.

Frankly, we should be able to do better for these men and women who served us in uniform.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 24, 1996 I was unavoidably detained and missed several votes. Had I been present, I would have recorded my vote as follows:

Rollcall vote number 426 on agreeing to the VA/HUD conference report—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote number 427 on agreeing to H.R. 3452, the Presidential and Executive Office Accountability Act—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote number 425 on agreeing to House Resolution 525 providing expedited procedures for the remainder of the second session of the 104th Congress—I would have voted "aye."

#### AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY: THE END OF DEPENDENCY ACT

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues Congressman JIM McDERMOTT and Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL in introducing legislation that will fundamentally shift how the United States approaches our relations with the 48 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. For

many years, the United States has supported a variety of foreign assistance programs that have sought to aid the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Unfortunately, traditional foreign aid has not led to the level of economic development that we would all like to see on the African continent. In the long run, private sector investment and development must serve as the catalyst for the countries of sub-Saharan Africa to compete in the global marketplace and to improve the standard of living for their people. Unfortunately, the region's immediate potential does not seem to be reflected either in the investment decisions of individual businesses or in the U.S. Government's export development priorities, including high-profile trade missions.

In this context, I believe that it is time for us to reexamine the nature of our relationship with sub-Saharan Africa and to focus our attention on ways to facilitate private sector trade and investment in the region. In 1994, Congress took an initial step in this direction by asking the President to develop "a comprehensive trade and development policy for the countries of sub-Saharan Africa" as part of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act. The first of the five annual reports required under this provision was submitted by President Clinton earlier this year. The President's report, in turn, has generated a broader discussion among many of my colleagues, the business community, and the public on the future direction of U.S. economic relations with sub-Saharan Africa.

Throughout this year, I have been pleased to work with Congressman JIM McDERMOTT and Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL toward developing a bipartisan proposal to facilitate the economic development of sub-Saharan Africa by expanding our trade relations with the region. On August 1, 1996, the Subcommittee on Trade of the Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on this issue to look more closely at how we might elevate the priorities of business and government toward sub-Saharan Africa and pursue mutually beneficial trade expansion efforts. The legislation that we are introducing today is the culmination of our work on this issue in the 104th Congress and will serve as the basis for further action on this issue by the Ways and Means Committee next year.

Among other things, the "African Growth and Opportunity: The End of Dependency Act" calls for the negotiation of a free-trade agreement with the countries of sub-Saharan Africa that take appropriate steps to reform their economies. Moreover, to put momentum behind these negotiations and to focus greater attention on the region in the private sector, the bill calls for the creation of a United States-sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum. This forum will provide regular opportunities for policy leader and heads of state to meet to discuss issues of mutual interest and to keep the trade negotiations on track. Finally, our proposal will create privately managed equity and infrastructure funds to encourage private institutional investors in developed countries to pool their resources to make investments in established businesses and infrastructure projects in sub-Saharan Africa.

With a combined population of nearly 600 million people, sub-Saharan Africa can and should become a major export market for United States goods and services. In my view, the

active participation of the global marketplace is essential to creating the economic and investment opportunities that will stimulate the conditions for developing countries to emerge as business partners, rather than aid recipients. By giving sub-Saharan African countries a trade and investment alternative to foreign aid, this important legislation will encourage the type of economic and political reforms in the region that will ultimately make traditional assistance unnecessary.

#### THE NEED FOR CONSUMER GRIEVANCE RIGHTS IN MANAGED CARE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a comprehensive bill to improve consumer and provider rights in managed care plans. I introduced the bill late in this Congress so that everyone has the opportunity to review the bill over the autumn and suggest changes and improvements, prior to its reintroduction in the 105th.

One major section of the bill requires the timely consideration by managed care plans of patient appeals. The Medicare agency is very concerned about this area of consumer rights and is proposing a rule to better protect patients. Depending on the strength of the HCFA rule, the need for the appeals and grievance section of my legislation may be fully or partially addressed.

The following news articles from the Bureau of National Affairs of September 18 and 19 describe why this is such an important issue. As Bruce Fried, head of the Office of Managed Care states so well: The appeal and grievance process is "fundamentally the most important protection our beneficiaries have."

#### VLADECK URGES MANAGED CARE GROUPS TO IMPROVE APPEALS PROCESS

Increasing numbers of health care consumers are feeling powerless in the face of decisions made by their managed care organizations, Health Care Financing Administration Administrator Bruce C. Vladeck said Sept. 17 in urging such groups to improve their beneficiary grievance and appeals process.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the American Association of Health Plans, the nation's largest managed care group, Vladeck said Medicare managed care organizations should ensure Medicare enrollees are aware of their health care coverage appeals rights; should establish systems that do not deter, and even solicit coverage questions; and should employ staff that are well-versed in Medicare regulations.

As managed care has grown, "there is an increasing perception among consumers that they are voiceless and powerless in the system," even though they had little or no appeal rights in the fee-for-service system, Vladeck told conference attendees.

He urged AAHP members to voluntarily upgrade their appeals and grievance process to parallel HCFA's on-going review of what is required managed care groups to provide enrollees in this area.

"If it doesn't happen spontaneously, we will make it happen," he warned.

#### HCFA OFFICIALS WARN HMOS TO PROVIDE GOOD GRIEVANCE PLANS; RULE IN DEVELOPMENT

Health maintenance organizations that do not provide adequate grievance and appeals

procedures to Medicare beneficiaries are violating beneficiaries' constitutional rights and will be closely scrutinized by the program, a Health Care Financing Administration official said Sept. 18.

HCFA Office of Managed Care Director Bruce M. Fried told managed care representatives that failure to provide an adequate grievance and appeals process to Medicare beneficiaries violates their 14th Amendment rights to due process and equal protection under the law. It also violates Medicare statutes, Fried said.

HCFA has made this issue one of its top priorities and the appeals processes in place at HMOs will come under "enormous scrutiny" in the coming months, Fried said at a conference on managed care sponsored by HCFA, in conjunction with meetings on Medicare and Medicaid being held this week by the American Association of Health Plans.

Some HMOs are failing to improve their grievance and appeals process—in which beneficiaries can contest a decision by an HMO to deny or alter health care coverage—to remain competitive in a rapidly growing industry, Fried said.

"Human nature being what it is, this simply leads some folks to cut corners," Fried said. "We will be very attentive to that."

As of July 1, HCFA had Medicare contracts with 313 HMOs enrolling nearly 4.4 million beneficiaries, according to documents provided by HCFA at the meeting. HMOs are now required to have appeals and grievance processes for Medicare patients, but the quality is mixed and appeals are slow.

In a speech to the AAHP conference Sept. 16, HCFA Administrator Bruce C. Vladeck also warned HMOs to improve their grievance and appeals process, saying the agency would force them to do so if they do not voluntarily comply.

Fried called the appeals and grievance process "fundamentally the most important protection our beneficiaries have," adding that it was "critical" that HMOs take steps to improve the process.

"I don't want to threaten the industry with steps that I am willing to take" if HMOs do not act, Fried warned.

#### HCFA RULE EXPECTED BY END OF YEAR

HCFA is "very far down the road" in developing a proposed rule that for the first time specifically will define the grievance and appeal process requirements for HMOs, Fried said. Among other items, it will include a requirement that grievances be acted upon "in a matter of days," rather than the maximum 60 days required under current law, he added.

The current grievance and appeals process gives plans 60 days to act on a beneficiary appeal and another 60 days for HCFA's contractor to review appeal denials.

The proposed rule, part of HCFA's Medicare Appeals and Grievance Initiative, is expected to be issued by the end of the year, Maureen Miller, senior policy analyst with the Office of Managed Care's program policy and improvement team, told conference participants.

HCFA in the rule also will clarify what services beneficiaries are able to appeal, Miller said. The rule will state that in addition to pre-service denials, reduction in care decisions and service terminations also can be appealed, as well as services provided under optional supplemental coverage, she added.

The rule also will establish new reporting requirements for plans for grievance and ap-

peals procedures and improve the way plans report such information to HCFA, Miller said.

Miller told plans, however, not to "sit and wait" until the rule is published to improve their grievance and appeals process. Plans on their own can shorten the time needed to decide an appeal, which already has been done by many commercial plans, Miller told those attending the conference.

Plans also can improve their internal information systems so they have more knowledge of who is filing grievances and why and launch an education effort to ensure beneficiaries in skilled nursing facilities and home health care know their appeal rights, Miller said.

They also can review their marketing materials to ensure they present information on appeals in a clear, understandable way, she added.

Plans also can better train their staff charged with handling grievances, Miller said. HCFA has learned of staff at some HMOs in these departments who are giving out incorrect information because they are working without relevant HCFA regulations at their disposal, she added.

#### A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE PATCHOGUE, NY, SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE IN RECOGNITION OF 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LONG ISLAND COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the Social Security Office in Patchogue, NY, for 50 years of dedicated service to the Long Island community. It is with great sincerity that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Patchogue Social Security Office on this historical occasion.

In 1946, the Social Security Administration [SSA] opened its first Long Island office at 75 Oak Street, Patchogue, Long Island, NY. Prior to this, Suffolk County residents had to visit the Queens, NY, office, located in Jamaica, to receive Social Security services. During the last 50 years, the Patchogue office has served hundreds of thousands of Social Security beneficiaries.

Originally, Social Security was formulated as an entitlement program for retired workers and their surviving dependents. In the 1950's, the disability provisions were implemented. The 1960's saw the beginning of Medicare health insurance for the elderly, and in the 1970's, Medicare coverage was extended to the disabled. These changes also included implementation of the Supplemental Security Income [SSI] Program in 1974. This program was established by Congress to federalize assistance to financially needy, elderly, blind, and disabled individuals and children.

The Patchogue Social Security office has performed an exceptional duty in administering its programs to Suffolk County residents. Today, the office administers Social Security

payments to 113,894 Suffolk residents each month for a total of \$79,381,000. SSI payments are paid to 12,817 individuals each month for a total of \$4,739,000.

Stuart Blau, the District Manager, has served the people in his Patchogue District for 20 years, the last 10 as Manager. His 35 years with the Social Security Administration have encompassed the introduction of disability benefits, Medicare, and the Supplemental Security Income Program.

He heads one of the largest field offices in the New York region and the Nation, servicing almost 1 million residents of Suffolk County. Along with a dedicated staff of Federal employees, he continues the tradition and dedication to public service begun in July 1946 when Patchogue was added to the growing roster of Social Security field offices across the country.

The staff in the Patchogue office looks forward to continuing their tradition of dedication and service to Suffolk County residents for many years to come. I wish them all the best for another 50 years in service to the Long Island community.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJ. RICHARD M. "SLUG" MCGIVERN

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maj. Richard M. "Slug" McGivern for his distinguished and exemplary service to the U.S. Air Force and the 104th Congress through his work in the Air Force House Liaison Office from May 2, 1995, to October 14, 1996. In this capacity, Rick has excelled in providing the House of Representatives with outstanding service and unselfish commitment above and beyond the call of duty. During his short stay in this office, he quickly established a solid reputation with both Members and staff, displaying his extensive knowledge of Air Force programs and issues, as well as national defense strategy. His strong operational fighter background gave him the credibility to provide guidance and advice on a wide array of aerospace and other national security issues. Slug's sound judgment and keen sense of priority are trusted attributes that have greatly benefited Congress and the U.S. Air Force. In the challenging arena of international travel, he was brilliant in planning, organizing, and executing congressional delegation trips to locations all over the world. It has been my extreme pleasure to have worked and traveled with Rick McGivern. He has served with great distinction and has earned our respect and gratitude for his many contributions to our Nation's defense. As he moves to the Pentagon to work on the Quadrennial Defense Review Board, we will continue to see Slug on the Hill. On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to bid Maj. Rick "Slug" McGivern and his wife Susan continued success in their new assignment.