

serious damage to the national security of the United States or would compromise the safety and security of intelligence sources inside or outside the United States. If the division of the court determines that the case may be heard, the division may prescribe steps that the court in which the case is to be heard shall take to protect the national security of the United States and intelligence sources and methods, which may include holding the proceedings in camera.

(d) REFERRAL OF CASES.—In any case in which an action described in subsection (a) is brought and otherwise complies with applicable procedural and statutory requirements, the court shall forthwith refer the case to the division of the court.

(e) EFFECT OF DIVISION'S DETERMINATION.—If the division of the court determines under this section that an action should be tried by the court, that court shall proceed with the trial of the action, notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(f) OTHER JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS NOT BARRED.—Assignment of a justice or judge to the division of the court under subsection (a) shall not be a bar to other judicial assignments during the 2-year term of such justice or judge.

(g) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the division of the court shall be filled only for the remainder of the 2-year period within which such vacancy occurs and in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(h) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Clerk of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit shall serve as the clerk of the division of the court and shall provide such services as are needed by the division of the court.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) the term "secret Government contract" means a contract, whether express or implied, that is entered into with a member of the intelligence community, to perform activities subject to the reporting requirements of title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 413 and following); and

(2) the term "member of the intelligence community" means any entity in the intelligence community as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. App. 401a(4)).

SEC. 2. APPLICABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 applies to claims arising on or after December 1, 1976.

(b) WAIVER OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—With respect to any claim arising before the enactment of this Act with would be barred because of the requirements of section 2401 or 2501 of title 28, United States Code, those sections shall not apply to an action brought on such claim within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TRIBUTE TO ERNEST NIEMEYER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to commend an outstanding citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District, Mr. Ernest Niemeyer. On Friday, January 24, 1997, a testimonial dinner at the Radisson Star Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana, was held to honor Ernie for his 28 years of dedicated public service.

Ernie has devoted most of his life to improving and maintaining an outstanding environment for Indiana's First Congressional District. Over his distinguished career, Ernie served as

a Lake County councilman for 4 years, Indiana State senator for 12 years, and Lake County commissioner for 12 years.

Ernie's public service began in 1962, when he was elected as a Lake County councilman. In 1968, Ernie was appointed to the Lake County Parks Board. Ernie was immediately elected president. Under his stewardship, the park board obtained the first two county parks: Lemon Lake and Stoney Run. In 1970, Ernie successfully ran for sixth district State senator. Ernie served his constituency as the chairman for the agricultural subcommittee. In this capacity, he introduced and was successful in passing legislation for funding projects, including the Williams Levee in the Kankakee River. Ernie was then promoted to senate majority whip. In 1984, Ernie was elected as third district Lake County commissioner, where he proudly served as a senior member. During this tenure, he served twice as commissioner board president.

Over the years, Ernie has also devoted time to numerous committees and boards. He has served as chairman of the Lake County Drainage Board and the Kankakee River Basin Commission. He also was an active member of the County Planning Commission, the Lake County Solid Waste District, and the Indiana State Association of County Commissioners.

Ernie's unselfish dedication to his civic duty must also be commended. Ernie was a member of the Lowell VFW, and Post 101 American Legion. He is a past president of the Indiana Auctioneers Association and past director of the National Auctioneers Association. Ernie was also a president of the Indiana Livestock Auction Markets Association, and he still retains membership in the Lowell Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, Ernie answered his country's call and joined the U.S. Army during World War II. He served 2 years in the South Pacific Theatre as a combat infantryman with the 158th Regimental Combat Team. This regiment was engaged in battles in the jungles of New Guinea leading to the liberation of the Philippines from the Japanese imperial forces. During those campaign battles in the Philippines, Ernie earned and was awarded the prestigious Combat Infantryman's Badge, three battle stars, and individual campaign ribbons. For bravery and dedication beyond the normal call of duty to his comrades in battle, he was honored with the Bronze Battle Star Special Award.

After returning home, Ernie took steps to begin his professional career as an auctioneer. In 1951, he graduated from auctioneers school and established one of the most successful auctioning businesses in northern Indiana. Ernie shares this business with his son, Rick.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ernie for his tireless efforts to improve the quality of life for Indiana's First Congressional District. Ernie, his wife, Norma, and their children, Doyle, Rick, and Pam, can be proud of his record of unselfish dedication to the public. His service will forever remain a part of north-west Indiana's great history.

PRIMARY CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

MS. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the opportunity today to introduce the Primary Care Promotion Act of 1997. This thoughtful, constructive legislation would refocus and target the current Federal Government effort to reduce the number of medical specialists graduating from U.S. teaching hospitals.

There is little debate today that our Nation is experiencing a shortage of primary care physicians and an oversupply of specialists. In 1995, there were almost 650,000 active physicians in the United States. Of those, about 384,000 were specialists, while only 241,000 were primary care providers—a ratio of 1.6 specialists for every general practitioner.

As a result of this situation, some government agencies are working to change policies that appear to encourage students or medical schools toward training specialists rather than family practitioners. Last year, the Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA] issued a regulation reducing graduate medical education [GME] reimbursement for combined residencies. The apparent purpose of this action was to reduce a perceived incentive for students to enter combined residencies, which usually train doctors for a medical specialty like child psychiatry. There are, however, a small number of combined residency programs that produce primary care physicians. My legislation would restore full GME reimbursement for residents enrolled in a combined residency program where both programs are for training in primary care, like internal medicine and pediatrics.

This legislation has been carefully crafted to preserve HCFA's intent to reduce the number of specialists trained while increasing the ranks of family practitioners. The Primary Care Promotion Act has already been endorsed by: American Academy of Pediatrics, American Osteopathic Association, American College of Physicians, National Association of Children's Hospitals, Association of Professors of Medicine, American Society of Internal Medicine, Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine, Medicine-Pediatrics Program Directors Association, American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians, Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators, Federated Council for Internal Medicine, which includes: American Board of Internal Medicine, American College of Physicians, American Society of Internal Medicine, Association of Professors of Medicine, Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine, Association of Subspecialty Professors, and Society of General Internal Medicine.

I am pleased that Representatives RANGEL, McDERMOTT, McNULTY, and KENNEDY of Rhode Island have already joined me as original cosponsors of this legislation. I look forward to working with them and the rest of my colleagues to pass this constructive, bipartisan initiative.