

receiving an award for the second straight year.

Scott Graham will receive the Keeping Christ in Christmas Award.

Mr. and Mrs. Nick DiGiacomo will receive the Most Festive in Contemporary Style Award for their Christmas light display.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Magliocco will receive the Most Festive in Traditional Style Award for their Christmas decorations. This will be their second award in as many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Meyers will receive the Award for Most Original Use of Colors. This year, the Meyers' house and yard were decorated with miniature pastel lights.

The entire Weimerskirch family has been selected to receive the Most Creative Use of Christmas Colors Award. Their house and yard were decorated exclusively with red and green light bulbs this year.

And finally, Nancy Hilliard Goldberg will receive the Most Extensive Property Decoration Award for decorating every inch of her block-long property in memory of her late husband, Sam Goldberg.

The individuals receiving this year's Bloomfield Citizens Council awards have all made significant contributions to the quality of life in Bloomfield. They deserve recognition for their efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 1997

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, on two recent occasions, I was unavoidably detained on official business in my congressional district while the House was in session. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 72 and 73 and "no" on rollcall vote 85. I ask that this statement appear at the appropriate place in the permanent RECORD.

SALUTING THE ORGANIZERS OF THE THYAGARAJA FESTIVAL

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize an extraordinary group of citizens in my congressional district. Recently, the music department at Cleveland State University hosted the 1997 Thyagaraja Festival. This 2-week celebration marked the 20th anniversary of the Thyagaraja Festival. This festival enables international musicians from the country of India and other parts of the globe to come and perform in the city of Cleveland. In addition, this event offers those in attendance an opportunity to witness an array of cultural performances. Visitors travel from a majority of the United States from Arizona to California and Connecticut to Alaska. Others came from Hong Kong and India to be a part of these phenomenal activities.

This year, the festival's total attendance was estimated at 12,000; the event included the children's music competition, the Aradhana and luncheon, the ballet, Lakshmi Probhavam,

and 18 full-length concerts. The total number of participants is indicative of the tireless effort and dedication put forth by the Cleveland State University Music Department and other volunteers to organize such a spectacular event.

Mr. Speaker, while some countries within our international community are stricken with obstacles such as war and poverty, the Thyagaraja Festival stands as an illustration of our city and Nation's commitment to international unity and appreciation for cultural diversity. Again, I salute the organizers of the 1997 Thyagaraja Festival for creating an opportunity for the city of Cleveland and our great Nation to partake in an attempt to increase multicultural awareness and secure global peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 1997

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 90, I was detained by important events in my State. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 1997

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. STARK, the Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly [PACE] Act of 1997. Our bill would provide coverage of PACE under the Medicare Program and establish PACE as a Medicaid State option.

As many know, PACE is a quality, cost-effective long-term care program that was pioneered by On Lok Senior Health Services in San Francisco, CA. The PACE program is a fully-capitated acute and long-term health care program in which all covered services are provided through a single organization or a single provider of care, including not only the long-term care services and inpatient hospitalization, but physician services, nurses, physical, occupational and recreational therapists, social workers, dietitians, home health aides and medical equipment suppliers. PACE programs receive capitation payments from Medicare and Medicaid, and in the case of individuals who are not eligible for Medicaid, private individuals. These payments provide payers savings relative to their expenditures in the traditional Medicare, Medicaid, and private payer systems. Finally, PACE programs are unique in that they assume total financial risk and responsibility for all acute and long-term care without limitation.

PACE evolved in response to problems which exist in the current long-term care system, a system that is biased toward institutional care, leads to discontinuity and duplication in the provisions of services, and affords little control over utilization of services and costs. These problems can lead to fragmented care, repeated and lengthy hospital stays,

family stress, premature nursing home placement, and impoverishment.

By expanding the availability of community-based long-term care services, tightly integrating all aspects of their enrollee's care, and emphasizing preventive and supportive services, PACE programs have substantially lowered the utilization of high-cost, inpatient services. In turn, dollars that would have been spent on hospital and nursing home care services are used to expand the availability of community-based care which, again reduces the need for higher-cost institutional care. As a result, PACE enrollees are able to remain at home and enjoy a better quality of life.

The PACE Coverage Act of 1997 offers an alternative to traditional long-term care which has been proven effective—both in terms of quality and cost. While we recognize that PACE is not the only solution to problems facing frail, older Americans, it is one solution that has withstood the test of time and the scrutiny which comes with being visible. On Lok, the first of the PACE programs, has been in existence since 1972 and began offering the full spectrum of PACE services in 1983. In 1986, Congress authorized demonstration waivers for up to 10, later 15, organizations seeking to replicate the achievements of On Lok in San Francisco. These programs have accumulated more than six decades of experience. Based on the success of these pioneers, it is time to make PACE programs available to eligible Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries on a broader scale.

The purpose of our bill is to make this important alternative available across the Nation. It is also urgently needed. As mentioned, 15 demonstration sites were authorized. Far more than that number are now waiting in the wings to serve our frail elderly citizens. By establishing qualified programs as providers, we also will facilitate the ability of the private sector to insure these services and to contract with PACE programs on behalf of individuals who would benefit from this type of care. Again, this, of course, would be voluntary. What we are doing here is providing another significant resource.

As we examine the needs of the elderly, we need to look for ways to move beyond existing programs to make coordinated care networks a permanent competitive options for all beneficiaries, and the PACE model provides a strong foundation for us on which to build.

RECOGNITION OF HAMILTON ELEMENTARY AS ONE OF THE TOP TITLE I SCHOOLS IN THE NATION

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 1997

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise Hamilton Elementary School in Memphis, TN. On May 6, the U.S. Department of Education will recognize Hamilton Elementary as one of the top title I schools in the Nation. This is a prestigious award, based on rigorous and competitive process. Schools must compete with tens of thousands of elementary schools from around the United States for this award. The award recognizes a school's ability to help children meet high academic standards