

country for showing exceptional dedication to providing a top notch education to its students and preparing them for the next century. Linda Vista was the only school in the 41st District to receive this highly sought-after award. Blue Ribbon schools must show strong leadership, a clear vision, and sense of mission that is shared by all connected with the school, high quality teaching, a challenging up-to-date curriculum, policies, and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning, a solid commitment to parental involvement and evidence that the school helps all students achieve high standards.

Linda Vista School was selected through a highly competitive process in which state education departments, the Department of Defense dependent schools, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Council for American Private Education nominate schools which best meet the superior standards of the award. The selected schools are then visited and reviewed by a panel of 100 outstanding members of the education community. This panel then makes final recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Education.

Linda Vista will be honored next fall at a national ceremony in Washington DC where the school will be given a plaque and a special flag to fly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Linda Vista School for its dedication to preparing its students for the challenges they will face growing up in and around Orange County. Behind this Blue Ribbon school is a dedicated group of faculty, students, and staff whose commitment to education is an example for schools around the country to follow.

#### TAIWAN'S PRESIDENT LEE DESERVES PRAISE FOR SUCCESS DURING HIS FIRST YEAR

##### HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 1997*

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that Monday, May 20, 1997, marked the first anniversary of the administration of President Lee Teng-hui and Vice President Lien Chen of Taiwan.

A few weeks ago, several Members of Congress and I stopped briefly, too briefly, in Taipei on our return to the United States from a congressional trade development trip to Asia and the Pacific rim.

During our stopover, we had the opportunity to visit with President Lee and Vice President Lien. President Lee impressed me, and I believe other members of the delegation, with his commitment to instituting full democracy in Taiwan. I was equally impressed by President Lee's commitment to provide a higher standard of living in Taiwan and to improve relations with both the United States and China.

The first-year record of President Lee and Vice President Chen offers promise for future progress. Taiwan has maintained a steady economic growth with a per capita income of \$13,000—U.S.—that is equivalent of many Western European countries. Taiwan has expanded relations with several countries and has sought a continuing dialog with the People's Republic of China about eventual unifica-

tion with a more democratic and open government in China.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, President Lee deserves congratulations on the many accomplishments during his first year in office and best wishes for continued success and progress. I hope that I will be able to visit Taiwan again and to stay longer than just a few hours.

#### ARTHRITIS AWARENESS MONTH

##### HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 1997*

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I come before this body today in honor of Arthritis Awareness Month. This month is set aside to increase the public's knowledge about arthritis, and the many related diseases which affect the joints, bones, muscles, skin, and other connective tissues.

Arthritis and its related diseases are among the most common causes of chronic pain, disability, and disfigurement in Americans today. These diseases occur at all ages, impair the quality of life, and many require medical care and attention over long periods of time.

Health experts estimate that by the year 2020, when the Baby Boom generation approaches the prime years for the onset of chronic illnesses, 60 million Americans will have arthritis, a 50 percent increase over today's estimate.

Currently, the combined cost to society of medical care and lost wages for arthritis and related diseases is estimated to be at least \$143 billion a year.

Arthritis is the No. 1 cause of disability in America. It can limit everyday activities, such as dressing, climbing stairs, and getting in and out of bed, for approximately 7 million Americans. This figure is expected to increase to 12 million by the year 2020.

Though these figures are astounding, they do not truly make an impact until arthritis touches your family. That is what has happened to me. In early 1990, my wife of 31 years, Joe Anne, was experiencing pain in her hands.

After repeated visits to our family doctor, we discovered she has arthritis in her hands. My wife is a very active, determined, and energetic woman. For example, when she was pregnant with our daughter Ashley, Joe Anne delivered calves on her father's farm. For years she was a high school teacher in our hometown. Now she devotes her time and energy to the horses she has bred and trained for years.

Though she has not allowed her arthritis to stop her activities, she is in constant pain and has difficulty doing some things that many of us take for granted.

Joe Anne and I are fortunate enough to reside in the great State of North Carolina. Our State's many opportunities have attracted some of the best and brightest minds in the medical field. In fact, there is a research center in my home State that is one of the leaders in the fight against arthritis.

The Thurston Arthritis Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has joined the National Institute of Arthritis, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Ar-

thritis Foundation to bring together a superior medical research team. They have dedicated their facilities to achieve their mission: to eradicate arthritis and ease the suffering of arthritis victims.

The work these facilities have already done speaks to their skill and determination. Their recent breakthroughs are bringing us closer to preventing—and curing—some of the most crippling and costly diseases that affect our Nation.

For example, researchers believe that treatments involving adequate calcium and nutrients, coupled with an exercise program, may provide the most practical approach to the prevention of osteoporosis.

There is also an exciting new avenue of research which indicates that lupus may involve abnormalities in the body's ability to eliminate unnecessary, damaged, or potentially harmful cells. This process is known as programmed cell death. A better understanding of programmed cell death may lead to new treatments for arthritis.

In addition, the studies currently being conducted which examine the causes of cartilage breakdown, and ways to stimulate growth of cartilage, will lead to new treatments in osteoarthritis.

I support the ongoing search for a cure to arthritis. As we work on the fiscal year 1998 budget, I urge my colleagues in the House to consider the thousands of people, present and future, who suffer from arthritis and related disorders.

The Thurston Arthritis Research Center and organizations like it are very close to a breakthrough in their research. Please join me in lending these researchers all the support you can. Your health, or the health of someone you love, could depend on it.

#### TRIBUTE TO BRUCE A. SEYMORE

##### HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 1997*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate Mr. Bruce Seymore as he retires after thirty-one years of service with the city of Port Huron as the director of finance. His colleagues will be honoring him with a dinner on June 27, 1997.

Mr. Seymore began his career with the city of Port Huron in 1966 as director of finance. Under his leadership and guidance, for twenty-one years, the department received the Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The department has received this distinction longer than any other unit of government in Michigan.

Along side his success with the city of Port Huron, Mr. Seymore has been an incredible asset to his community. Throughout the years, Mr. Seymore has served on the Michigan Waterways Council of Girl Scouts Board and as president of Goodwill Industries. His compassion and devotion to those in need prompted the board of directors at Goodwill to give Mr. Seymore the Scotty Hanton Award in 1979. The Scotty Hanton Award is granted yearly to a person who personifies the essence of Goodwill. The nominees are picked based on their time of service, time investment, personal contributions, and spirit.