

Currently, Aaron is a member of the Order of Arrow in the rank of Brotherhood. He is also an adult Assistant Scout Leader. He will be a senior at Central Dauphin East High School in the Fall of 1997 and plans to attend college and major in environmental science. He is also a member of the Central Dauphin East High School wrestling team, an avid canoeist, and an accomplished guitarist.

This multitalented young man received the Eagle Scout Award on February 4, 1997. His Eagle Project consisted of painting the concession building, bleachers, and a general cleanup of Crest Baseball Field, Swatara Township, Dauphin County, PA.

Please join me in congratulating Aaron Myers. He should be commended for this fine effort and encouraged to work with other youth to take such an active interest in the community in the future.

BETTER PHARMACEUTICALS FOR CHILDREN ACT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, JIM GREENWOOD, in sponsoring H.R. 1727, the Better Pharmaceuticals for Children Act. I support this bill because it focuses on a serious but little known problem in our children's health care, and can provide some additional tools to address it.

While dramatic progress has been made in the treatment and cure of diseases and chronic illnesses, it cannot be said today that our children have fully benefited from this innovation. As increasingly sophisticated medicines are developed, the knowledge needed to optimally treat children with these medicines has not kept pace. In crucial ways, our understanding of how to use these drugs for children is simply inadequate.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] only a minority of prescription drugs in the United States with potential pediatric uses are actually labeled for use by children. Since 1962, 80 percent of all drugs have been approved for adult use with an explicit disclaimer that they are not approved for use by children. This is because the research necessary to prove the safety and efficacy of these pediatric uses is not being done, either before or after the drugs are marketed. Despite widespread recognition in Government, industry, and academia of this problem, little progress has been made to correct it.

I firmly believe that the FDA has been remiss in not taking action to conclusively remedy this situation. The agency has statutory authority to encourage and require the performance of pediatric clinical studies. It should exercise that authority and take every possible step to ensure that new drugs with potential pediatric uses are approved on the basis of data demonstrating safety and efficacy in both adults and children. The Government's failure to act in this manner is unacceptable and we pay for such a failure in our children's health.

It is also imperative to recognize that prescription drug manufacturers already have significant incentives to pursue research, development, and regulatory approval in the form of

patent protection and other forms of market exclusivity. Much of the responsibility for the absence of adequate pediatric drug information today can be laid at their feet.

However, I recognize that limited additional incentives may be appropriate in some instances to promote pediatric drug research, such as for some drugs which are currently marketed. It is my hope, however, that such incentives are only necessary in supplementing the FDA's use of existing statutory authority to ensure that adequate information is available about pediatric drug uses.

H.R. 1727 would help improve and increase the information available about pediatric drug uses by providing additional market exclusivity as an incentive to prescription drug manufacturers in limited situations. Under the bill, the Secretary of Health and Human Services would determine whether a new drug might provide health benefits for pediatric populations, and have the authority to request that pediatric studies be conducted by the manufacturer to establish these benefits. Upon completion of these studies and their acceptance by the Secretary, the manufacturer would be granted an additional 6 months of market exclusivity.

I am sure that many parents would be disturbed to learn that, when their infants and children receive a prescription medicine, there may not be clinical studies establishing the safety and efficacy of that treatment in children. In conjunction with independent and decisive steps by the Food and Drug Administration [FDA], I believe the Congress can change this situation for the better. H.R. 1727 can help do that, and that is why I am cosponsoring it today.

ARIZONA SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, this week Arizona celebrates Small Business Week and honors one of its outstanding performers in the small business area. On June 6, Rhonda McKenzie, president and CEO of McKenzie Telecommunications Group, Inc. [MTG] will be honored as the SBA 1997 Arizona Small Business Person of the Year at the Small Business Week Awards Luncheon at La Posada Resort in Scottsdale.

Rhonda used her 20 years of technical, managerial, and sales experience in the telecommunications industry to build a company which generated over \$8.3 million in revenues last year. Founded in 1993 with McKenzie as the sole employee, MTG, Inc., provides total turnkey site development services to telecommunications companies throughout the Nation. Today, MTG has 125 employees in five States—California, Florida, Colorado, Nevada, and two locations in Arizona.

The primary services MTG provides include identification of suitable real estate for the construction of client systems; representing clients at zoning hearings and community meetings; coordination of all geotechnical and environmental studies; development of construction feasibility studies; and construction and management services.

MTG is recognized as fourth in the Nation among site development companies. Its clients are among the industry giants: AT&T Wireless, Sprint Spectrum, PCS PrimeCo, Pacific Bell Mobile Services, and Nextel.

Small Business Week is celebrated annually throughout the Nation by Presidential proclamation. Each year, SBA names one outstanding entrepreneur in each State and territory: from this group the national Small Business Person of the Year is chosen.

Selection criteria for Small Business Persons of the Year are: First, staying power—a substantial history as an established business; second, growth in number of employees—a benchmark to judge the impact of the business on the job market; third, increase in sales and/or unit volume—an indication of continued growth; fourth, current and past financial reports substantiating the improved financial position of the business; fifth, innovativeness of product or service offered; sixth, response to adversity; and seventh, evidence of contributions by the nominee to aid community-oriented projects through the use of personal time and resources.

Small business is the backbone of the American economy. In Arizona, 99.5 percent of our over 407,000 businesses have fewer than 100 employees. These are the companies that provide the growth in jobs and the vitality for our State. It is in these places of work where American dreams are made. I congratulate Rhonda McKenzie for making her American dream come true and for her well-deserved accomplishment in achieving Arizona's Small Business Person of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW A. HERNANDEZ, THE 1997 NATIONAL VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, each year for the past 34 years, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation call for the celebration of Small Business Week. I believe this celebration of Small Business Week, which is held from June 1–7 this year, recognizes its crucial impact on our economy and society. As we pay tribute to our Nation's entrepreneurs, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an exceptional veteran businessman from my district, Mr. Andrew A. Hernandez, who has been named the 1997 National Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year. We must never forget that small business is the engine that drives our economy and its people such as Mr. Hernandez that will continue to make America No. 1. He is an inspiration to small business persons not only in my congressional district, but also across the country.

Mr. Andrew Hernandez, president of Arid Construction Technologies, Inc., in San Bernardino, and a resident of San Bernardino, has been named the 1997 National Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. He was nominated for the award for his work in assisting veterans. Mr. Hernandez is a founding member and the current president of the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises