

Association. On April 23, the American Lung Association of Michigan, Genesee Valley Region, will hold their 15th Annual Health Advocate Awards Dinner, where they will honor State Representative Bob Emerson as their Individual Health Advocate and Hurley Medical Center as Corporate Health Advocate for the year 1997.

The Association's criteria for Individual Health Advocate includes a minimum of 5 years on a health association board or participation in a health related activity, and outstanding contributions to health education and promotion of research. State Representative Bob Emerson of Flint serves as a shining example of this commitment to health issues.

Bob Emerson was first elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1980, and has been reelected to six subsequent terms. He currently serves on the House Appropriations Committee, Chairing the School Aid and Department of Education Committee and is Vice Chair of the Community Health Subcommittee. As past Chair of the Public Health Subcommittee, Bob was instrumental in making many strides in the areas of state public health, including the designation of prenatal care as a basic health care service and the funding of vital local health services. Outside of the state capitol, Bob has been involved in such groups as the Greater Flint Health Coalition, and was a co-founder of the Crim Road Race, Inc., a non-profit organization that has raised more than one million dollars for the Michigan Special Olympics.

For the honor of Corporate Health Advocate of the Year, The American Lung Association has listed as requirements a definitive plan to promote lung health in the workplace, demonstration of commitment to social responsibility on the part of its employees, a positive display of financial support, and a dedication to improving the quality of life for the citizens of the region. Hurley Medical Center has consistently proven itself worthy of this distinction.

One of the largest hospitals in the state of Michigan, Hurley Medical Center employs approximately 2,500 employees and 475 attending physicians who serve more than 20,000 patients annually. In addition, the Center also operates as a teaching hospital of Michigan's State University's College of Human Medicine, thereby helping cultivate the next generation of medical professionals.

Mr. Speaker, since 1904, the American Lung Association has provided an invaluable resource to the country for information and research of lung disease and health. I commend the Association for recognizing and honoring Representative Bob Emerson and Hurley Medical Center as their Health Advocates of the Year. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Representative Emerson and Hurley Medical Center.

CHICAGO ORGANIZATION STRIVES
TO HELP HOSPITALS CUT
HEALTH CARE COSTS

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, all of us in this body are rightfully concerned about the rising cost and quality of health care for our

constituents. I rise today to share with my colleagues an effort undertaken by a group in my Congressional District in Chicago that I believe is an important step forward in our nation's goal of providing all of our citizens with quality health care at affordable prices.

As you know, technological advances in medical care are occurring virtually every day as scientists, physicians, health care manufacturers and institutions combine their vast talents and energies to find cures for all that ails humanity. As a result, the quality of health care available in our hospitals is at an all time high; a level that would have been the stuff of fiction only a few years ago. Advances in organ transplants, laser surgery, drug therapy, physical rehabilitation and scores of other areas have led to longer and more enjoyable lives for millions of our citizens. But the miracles of medicine often come at a daunting price tag for families and working Americans. This rising cost is a challenge that faces us in this body every day.

None of us wants to return to the less effective medical treatment procedures of the past. We want to take full advantage of the better treatment plans that are available. We must be concerned that all efforts are made to ensure that our health care delivery systems are operating at peak efficiency. Our hospitals and other health care facilities must rise to the challenge of advancing the frontiers of medical treatment while not pricing the average Americans out of that quality care.

A vital step in this process is to enhance the management skills of those who hold supervisory positions in health care. To this end, a new book has just been published by the International Association of Health Care Central Service Material Management, in my Congressional District, entitled: *Supervision Principles: Leadership Strategies for Health Care Facilities*, Second Edition. This book offers health care managers a guide to assist them in personal situations from selecting the best applicants to resolving conflicts to building a cohesive team that will strive to answer all patients' needs in a professional, efficient and cost effective manner. It emphasizes modern management techniques as Total Quality Management and provides real world answers to combat waste and inefficiency, with the net result that hospitals are in a better position to check the rising cost of health care without sacrificing quality of care that all of our constituents rely upon.

Progress in health care is something we all want to see continue. By having better prepared health care managers who can rise above the daily chores they now face to address the larger issues of bringing the advancement of medicine to every American, we will reap the benefits of a healthier, happier nation. I applaud the International Association of Hospital Central Service Material Management for putting forth this constructive work and for helping in our job of working toward a more responsive health care system for all Americans.

CHARLES WILLIAMS—1997 RONALD
PEARCE BLIND EMPLOYEE OF
THE YEAR

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent, Mr. Charles Williams of Dallas, TX, the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind's 1997 Ronald Pearce Blind Employee of the Year Award.

It is always a pleasure to stand before my colleagues and commend constituents on their achievements. The achievements of Mr. Williams and his award are very inspiring and can serve to motivate individuals who believe that their disabilities prevent them from being productive.

Mr. Speaker, the Ronald Pearce Blind Employee of the Year award recognizes vision-impaired employees who, during the past year, have demonstrated outstanding job performance and work practices. Mr. Williams has shown exemplary skills and work habits as the materials handler in the writing instruments department at the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, where he supplies the marker, and highlighter machine operators. He also packages the marker boxes and labels the packages for shipping.

Mr. Speaker, Charles Williams is good at his job because he works hard. As his supervisor comments, he "has a thorough knowledge of his job," and "always looks out for the needs of others before his own needs."

Mr. Williams lost most of his sight in 1992 when he was returning from a moving job in Salt Lake City, UT. After that experience, Mr. Williams had several eye surgeries because of glaucoma. However, his spirit and approach to life has remained unscathed and unaffected. His colleagues will tell you that his energy and attitude are positive and inspiring. This also reflects his great work ethic, as he is an owner of a community store that serves older and lower-income individuals in his hometown of Vivian, LA. In our Dallas community, he is a junior deacon and works with area children.

Mr. Speaker, Charles Williams is a motivated individual who is focused in both his service to others and his work. Therefore, it is fitting that he is the recipient of the Blind Employee of the Year award, presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding job performance. I congratulate Mr. Williams on receiving his award and wish him continued success.

EXERCISE TIGER ASSOCIATION

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, there is an old military saying which alerts us to "expect the unexpected." This time-tested adage is as true today as we send young fighting men and women to Bosnia as it was two generations ago in World War II.

On April 23-24, 1998, the New Jersey Exercise Tiger Association will commemorate the 54th anniversary of Exercise Tiger. This year