

E. Faulkner from drowning, Carver, Massachusetts, March 18, 1997. Faulkner, 62, and his wife, 71, were traveling in their automobile on a roadway atop an earthen dam when that section of the dam collapsed beneath them. Their car dropped into the deep, 10-foot-wide gap that was created initially and was pinned against debris by turbulent breach waters from East Head Pond, the adjacent reservoir. Faulkner and his wife were trapped in the car, which began to fill with water. Among the first motorists on the scene were Roderick, 37, heating and air conditioning technician; Meunier, 40, correction officer, and Morrison, 47, sales representative. Roderick obtained a hammer, then jumped onto the submerging car's exposed trunk and broke out the rear window before returning to the roadway. At the edge of the breach, he, Meunier, and Morrison pulled Faulkner, then his wife, from the car to the roadway, with Meunier, held by Roderick and Morrison, extended into the breach to reach the victims. The turbulent rush of water continued to widen the breach, undermining the pavement from which the men acted. Faulkner and his wife required hospitalization for treatment of their injuries.

REHABILITATION BENEFITS REINSTATEMENT

HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the "Reinstatement of the Medicare Rehabilitation Act (RMRA) of 1998." RMRA repeals the \$1,500 annual limits on physical and occupational rehabilitation services established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) which are set to go into effect on January 1, 1999 and requires the Health Care Financing Administration to implement a budget neutral alternative payment system no later than January 1, 2000.

In a rush to find savings in the Medicare program last year, Congress imposed an arbitrary \$1,500 annual limitation on most outpatient rehabilitation services. Unlike other BBA provisions, the \$1,500 limits were adopted without the benefit of committee hearings or a detailed analysis by HCFA of their likely effects on beneficiaries' ability to obtain medically necessary services.

In fact, analyses undertaken since the enactment of the BBA indicate that implementation of the limits will have a disproportionate effect on the most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries, including victims of stroke and other debilitating conditions which require concentrated therapy services. A \$1,500 annual payment may be sufficient to address the "average" case, but it will not be adequate for beneficiaries who require more intensive services. The option of transporting non-ambulatory resident of a skilled nursing facility or other rehabilitation setting to an outpatient hospital department will be disruptive to patients and ultimately more costly to the Medicare program. Savings will be achieved only if this inconvenience and disruption cause patients to forgo medically necessary services to which they are entitled under the Medicare program.

More importantly, American seniors have been encouraged to expect Medicare to cover the cost of medically necessary treatment,

subject to reasonable copayments and deductibles. The existence of an arbitrary coverage limitation on otherwise medically necessary services will likely come as a shock to affected beneficiaries and their relatives, often at a time of great stress. Surely, a less disruptive approach can be found to achieve program savings.

VSPA will prevent the \$1,500 annual limitations from taking effect on January 1, 1999 and will require HCFA to develop and implement an alternative payment system for outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services. Rather than limiting the availability of medically necessary services by imposing an arbitrary annual dollar limitation, the new system would be based on patient need. Payments would be based on patient classification by diagnostic category and would take into account prior use of services in both inpatient and outpatient setting. Payment rates would be established in a budget neutral manner. Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge that I did not oppose the inclusion of this provision in the Balanced Budget Act. Frankly, we did not understand how unfairly it could affect the most vulnerable of Medicare beneficiaries. Now that we have that information, we should not be reluctant to correct a policy which we now know will cause great hardship and unfairness.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Reinstatement of the Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Act of 1998.

ADOLESCENT COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the initiative of two young people who are residents of the Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry, New York who have courageously and creatively confronted a problem within their community.

Tamari Valentine and Nicholas Mercado, ages 14 and 13, have established Adolescent Council Workshops—Sensitivity Workshops with a difference—in response to an ugly incident that had occurred at the Children's Village. Instead of confronting the situation, which arose after some derogatory epithets had been sprayed on some of the residential buildings of the Village, with a response in kind, these young men stood back and thought about the circumstances that had probably motivated this misguided act they believed had been committed by other young people.

The solution Tamari and Nicholas came up with was to create a forum where residents from the Village and other young people from the surrounding community could come together and talk out whatever differences they felt they had between themselves. These meetings soon grew into workshops where the youth of Dobbs Ferry learned that stereotyping a person because of where he lives or his appearance is a barrier to appreciating individuals for who they are and what they have to offer.

The Children's Village Adolescent Council has now conducted more than 40 workshops,

including programs for schools, senior citizens groups, corporations, conferences and local groups. As a recognition of their courage and their creativity, Tamari and Nicholas were recently selected by the Walt Disney Company to participate in the U.S. delegation to the 1998 Children's Summit in Paris. I am proud that they are young constituents of mine and I hope my colleagues in the Congress will join in recognizing their outstanding initiative that promises to build a better future.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING MAUREEN PETERS, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Maureen Peters, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Maureen is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Maureen is an exceptional student at Jackson High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Maureen is actively involved in the Student Government and National Honor Society. Maureen is also involved with Varsity soccer, tennis and volleyball. Outside of school, Maureen is involved with her Church Youth Group.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Maureen Peters for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

HONORING SENECA S. FOOTE, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COM- MUNITIES, INC. ON HIS RETIRE- MENT

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to acknowledge the work of Seneca S. Foote, president of the United Methodist Retirement Communities, Inc.

Mr. Foote has been associated with the church-affiliated retirement communities since his ordination as a United Methodist Church minister 18 years ago. During his tenure, he has overseen major fund-raising, building, and

service projects at retirement communities in Chelsea, Detroit, and Ann Arbor, all of which have made a true difference in the lives of many families around Michigan.

Specifically, there are projects across mid and Southern Michigan, such as the Alzheimer's/memory loss unit at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital or the soon to open 120-bed Alzheimer's and memory loss facility in Chelsea, that would not have been completed without the work, leadership, and commitment of Mr. Foote. These projects have made and will continue to make a positive difference in our community and to our families.

Mr. Foote leaves his post as a nationally recognized leader in the field of long-term care. But most importantly, he ends his tenure after serving the people of Chelsea on the highest level. I thank Mr. Foote for his service and dedication and I wish him and his family the very best in the future.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH CITIZENSHIP ANNIVERSARY OF EMERY GROSINGER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to make a special tribute to a proud American who is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his U.S. citizenship.

Emery Grosinger came to our country more than 50 years ago as a young boy who had already endured a lifetime of hardship. Born in a part of eastern Europe that has passed back and forth between Romania and Hungary, Emery at the age of 10 was deported, separated from his family, and sent to concentration camps, including Auschwitz. He survived and came to the United States after World War II. He served in the Army, started a business, and raised a family.

Mr. Grosinger is having a celebration for being an American for 50 years. But all of us in America also need to celebrate his 50 years as our fellow American. His life and his passion for freedom and for justice are part of what makes our country great. How fortunate we are to live in a country that stands as a beacon of freedom for the world. How fortunate we are that America looks not to where you are from, but to what is in your heart and where you are going. People like Emery—whose hearts led them to America and whose love for our country enlightens us all—give our country hope and a bright future.

Mr. Grosinger loves America, and I am proud to extend to him my most heartfelt good wishes in honor of the 50th anniversary of his U.S. citizenship.

REORGANIZING GARY BRYAN FILLETTE'S WINNING ESSAY

HON. JOHN COOKSEY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, The Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsor a yearly scriptwriting contest and I am proud to represent the win-

ner from the State of Louisiana, Mr. Gary Bryan Fillette of Alexandria. Gary wrote an excellent script on "My Voice in our Democracy" and I submit it to be made part of the permanent record. I hope that my colleagues will take a moment to read Gary's words and that we all remember what a great privilege and responsibility we have in representing the ideals that he expresses.

"MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY"—1997-98 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

(Gary Fillette, Louisiana Winner)

When a baby wants something done, he has a way of letting everyone around him know. No matter if he's in his crib or at a crowded mall, he catches the attention of everybody with his distinctive cry, and keeps crying out until someone does something to satisfy him.

I learned from a baby. In a democracy I must freely and adamantly express my ideas until others listen to what I say. With my voice, I help fulfill my ever-present duty to improve America for both present and future generations.

I have a privilege that not all humans have. As an American, I have a voice in a democracy, and I have to use that voice if democracy is to mean something to me. For over 200 years, Americans have risked their lives for our nation. To show respect for these men and women, the least I can do is take what they have given me—a democracy—and support it vocally with my ideas.

Not everyone has the privilege to voice their opinions. In China, the government silences any utterance that opposes the government. In the Tiananmen Square demonstrations, the Chinese government muted the cries for more democracy and less government corruption by murdering 500 to 1,000 innocent Chinese citizens, leaving the democracy movement in ruins. Unlike China's citizens, I can speak about my government whoever and wherever I desire. I did not just get lucky, though. The lives of dedicated men and women in the Armed Services had to be sacrificed so that I could have my voice in our democracy.

Unfortunately, many young Americans often feel as though their opinions are too inferior to mention. Contrary to this belief, as an American citizen from birth, I have always had the responsibility to contribute my ideas to our nation. As a baby I cried at the top of my lungs for something, probably not patriotism; but then, as I became a young child, I learned what was important in my life as an American. I learned to say "The Pledge of Allegiance" and sing "The Star Spangled Banner." I did not just recite these familiar patriotic words. I respected what they stood for—freedom, democracy, and liberty, all made possible by the men and women whose blood was shed so that mine could flow. As I grew older and taller and my voice began to crack, I contributed my ideas as a Boy Scout. With an even deeper voice, I have spoken in mock governments and voted in mock elections as I learned more about the government at Boys State. I speak to others about our democracy in patriotic speech programs. As an adult, my voice will carry even farther, as I run for office or speak in favor of new ideas at election time. And most importantly, my voice will be heard with my vote: the single, most important characteristic of our democracy.

Without my voice and yours, the word democracy means nothing to us. Consider what a government of the people and by the people, would be if all the people were silent. It would be an idea that everyone thought was great, but it would remain just that: an idea. Fortunately, colonists, like Josiah Quincy,

spoke out against oppression in favor of independence. Quincy stated, "Under God, we are determined that whosoever, whensoever, or howsoever we shall be called to make our exit, we will die free men." These words helped inspire the fight for an independent nation. The formation of our democracy was not, however, a stopping point. We must continue to support our government with our voices. In the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights I am guaranteed the all-important freedom of speech. By freely voicing my opinions alongside other Americans, our democracy can thrive "for the people."

Although the audible characteristics of my voice have changed during my lifetime, what my voice has said, has always been loud and clear. Just as a baby's voice catches the attention of everyone, my voice is an intercom to spread the word to others of the importance of each individual in our democracy. Experiencing gradual pitch changes, my voice is also an instrument to show respect for those who sacrificed their lives for mine. In the future, my voice will continue to be a tool to repair and strengthen our democracy for future generations. The next time I hear a baby cry, I'll appreciate his expressions of his ideas, however loud they may be, and follow his example as I cry out for democracy.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING KRISTIN WARNER, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Kristin Warner, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Kristin is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Kristin is an exceptional student at Jonesville High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Kristin is the team captain for the school Quiz Bowl and a member of the schools S.A.D.D. program. Kristin is also involved with varsity track, cheerleading and cross country. Outside the school, Kristin is involved with various community activities.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Kristin Warner for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To his remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.