

streamlining offices while maintaining the quality of prison maintenance at the El Reno facility, Warden Flowers has saved taxpayers \$850,000 in operating expenses.

Under his direction, the El Reno Facility has worked with several state and federal law enforcement agencies to improve the quality of law enforcement. For example, Warden Flowers worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to construct a badly-needed pistol range on Bureau of Prisons property, therefore allowing both FBI agents and state correctional officers to use the new facility to improve their training.

Perhaps Warden Flowers' most important accomplishment is his work to help prisoners rehabilitate themselves, to cut down on the rate of repeat offenders. He has worked with several youth crime prevention initiatives, public, private and religious in nature. Warden Flowers realizes the best way to prevent crime is to give kids a positive influence and spiritual guidance at an early age.

Dedicated correctional officers like Warden Arnett Flowers play an integral role in maintaining law and order in our society. All Americans should appreciate the efforts of the hard-working correctional officers across our country who help keep violent offenders behind bars and who work tirelessly to keep our families safe.

HONORING DR. CLIFFORD SMITH

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, many people in this chamber are aware of my commitment to improving access to health care for rural residents. A doctor who practices in my district, Dr. Clifford Smith, was recently honored by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) as the NRHA Rural Practitioner of the Year. He will officially receive this award tomorrow, May 15, 1998.

Dr. Smith was raised in my district, and I am pleased that he decided to remain in a rural area to practice medicine. I am wish to congratulate Dr. Smith for this fine achievement. I am honored to submit an article from the April 15, 1998 edition of the Monona Billboard which describes Dr. Smith's commitment to his patients.

I am grateful for the many years of service that Dr. Smith has provided to my constituents.

DR. SMITH NAMED NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER

McGregor physician Dr. Clifford Smith has been selected as the 1998 National Rural Health Care Association Rural Practitioner of the Year. He will receive the award during the NRHA's 21st annual National Conference May 15, at Orlando, Fla.

Dr. Smith has practiced medicine in north-east Iowa and southwest Wisconsin since coming to McGregor in 1962. He first practiced at the McGregor Hospital. In 1963, he moved his office to 626 Main Street in McGregor and in 1979 the clinic was built. Dr. Smith became affiliated with Gundersen 1987. Dr. Smith also comes to the Monona Gundersen clinic.

Smith was raised in Waterloo and decided as a youngster that he wanted to become a

doctor. His plans were temporarily sidelined by World War II when he joined the Army with hopes of becoming a fighter pilot. He was a member of the famous Tuskegee Airmen, the first squadron of black American pilots to be allowed to fight for their country.

Returning to Iowa he attended the University of Iowa and went to Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn. He worked in New Jersey for four years before starting his practice in McGregor.

In the nomination sent to the National Rural Health Care Association by Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital and the Smith Gundersen McGregor Clinic staff, several stories are related to Dr. Smith's compassion and bedside manner.

Until his affiliation with Gundersen, Dr. Smith was known to accept bartering in exchange for care when the patient could not afford to pay.

He always carries his black bag and continues to make house calls to patients unable to come to the clinic.

Jean Bacon, RNC of Monona, has worked with Dr. Smith since his first day in McGregor. Today as Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department Clinical Coordinator, she still works with him. She says "Dr. Smith has been my family physician since he moved to this area. My family dearly loves him as do all of his patients. When my children were young they spoke of him as being really cool." She adds, "He is respected for his knowledge, but even more so for his compassion, caring and leadership as a role model."

Ellen Nierling, RNC, education director at Memorial Hospital, recalled a particularly busy night at the hospital working with Dr. Smith that left them both wondering at their career choices, but the following day Dr. Smith said, "It feels great when you know you make a difference in a patient's life."

Marilu Benz MD, Chief of Surgery and Chief of Staff at Memorial Hospital, states, "Dr. Smith is always willing to lend encouragement to hospital staff, and has a talent for bringing out the best in all of us. Our lives are truly enriched by his fine examples of devotion, compassion and dedication."

Dr. Smith is looking forward to the trip to Orlando. He says he has never been any place like it and, it should be fun.

His patients are proud of his national recognition, but they are even happier that even at 72, he is still there when they need him.

BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of H.R. 2829, the "Bulletproof Vest partnership Grant Act of 1998." I would like to thank my friend from Indiana Congressman Visclosky, and my friend from New Jersey Congressman LoBiondo, for bringing this long overdue and much needed bill to the floor of the House. Times have changed and we must pass H.R. 2829 in order to protect the men and women who risk their lives everyday for our safety. The bulletproof vests of 15 or 20 years ago are no longer adequate protection. The passage of this bill would authorize

up to twenty-five million dollars a year for a new matching grant program to help state and local law enforcement departments purchase new bulletproof vests and body armor. The new body armor today is thinner, lighter and offers more protection. The vests can even be fitted with additional plates for even extra protection.

The bill would also give preference in awarding grants to jurisdictions where officers do not currently have vests. The grants will be sent directly to the agencies that apply for them, resulting in the officers getting their new vests and body armor that much quicker. From 1987 to 1996, 637 officers ere feloniously killed by a firearm. Of that figure, 393 officers, roughly 62 percent, were not wearing a bulletproof vest or body armor when they were shot.

Every police officer and correctional officer in this country should have the protection of a bulletproof vest or body armor. This bill will go a long way in making that vision a reality. What better way to recognize national Police Week than by passing this legislation. Support H.R. 2829.

PERSECUTION OF ASSYRIAN CHRISTIANS

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to recognize the religious persecution and ethnic bigotry confronting the Assyrian Christian community in Eastern Turkey, Syria, Northern Iraq and Iran. As we consider the Freedom from Religious Persecution Act, I believe that the record should document our Nation's concern and commitment to stopping the violence and oppression facing the Assyrian people.

The Assyrian people have faced persecution throughout their history. As a religious and linguistic minority throughout the Near East, Assyrian Christians have long been the victims of violence and repression. Forced assimilation and gross brutality against this persevering people have occurred too often. From the murder of thousands of Assyrians by the Iraqi military in August of 1933, known as the Simele Massacre, to the recent attacks on Assyrian villages in Northern Iraq by Kurdish terrorist factions, the Assyrian people have and still continue to be the victims of violent persecution for their beliefs and values.

More than 30 Assyrians have been killed in Southeastern Turkey during the past three years. Assyrian Christians are caught in the escalating warfare that has long engulfed this crossroads at the head of two ancient rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates. The conditions facing Assyrian Christians continue to deteriorate. It is also clear that our nation must do more to protect the Assyrian people, their unique culture and their religious freedoms.

Reports of religious intolerance toward members of the Syriac Orthodox Church and the Church of the East have been documented by United Nations (UN) human rights observers. The education of young Assyrians about their history and the traditions of their ancestors has been prevented by national and local authorities across the region. This persecution threatens the ability of Assyrians to

freely practice their faith in their ancient homeland.

I believe our Government should pursue a policy that works to end this blatant religious bigotry toward Assyrian Christians. We must work with local and national leaders in Turkey to demand that the religious and civil rights of the Assyrian people be protected under Turkish laws. We must continue to pressure the various Kurdish factions across the region to respect the rights and autonomy of individual Assyrian towns and villages. We must also maintain the safe zone in Northern Iraq, to ensure that Saddam Hussein's tyranny cannot cause further destruction of the Assyrian community.

The traditions and customs of the Assyrian people have endured for countless generations. Our Nation must do all it can to ensure that these proud people can continue to abide and thrive in their ancestral homeland for countless more.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my extended family, I was unavoidably absent on Tuesday, May 12, 1998, and as a result, missed rollcall votes on H. Res. 423, H.R. 3811, H.R. 2829, and H. Res. 422.

Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted "aye" for all of these rollcall votes.

And I ask that my statement appear at the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

AMERICAN ARAB AND JEWISH FRIENDS OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT HOLDS 12TH ANNUAL AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Arab and Jewish Friends of Metropolitan Detroit as they hold their 12th Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner on Sunday, May 17, 1998 and honor two distinguished leaders from each community.

"The Friends" organization was established in 1981 to promote greater understanding and friendship between these two communities involving issues in Metropolitan Detroit. This annual dinner reflects their mission statement as it raises funds for college scholarships for Arab and Jewish high school seniors. The scholarship recipients are the winners of an essay contest emphasizing "The Ties That Bind" Americans of Arab, Chaldean, and Jewish backgrounds.

This year "The Friends" will honor two outstanding individuals who have sought to promote greater understanding between Arabs and Jews. They are both influential community activists who have been successful because of their intelligence, hard work, persistence, and a deep commitment to and caring for their community.

Dr. Haifa Fakhouri is the President and CEO of the Arab-American and Chaldean Council, the nation's largest community-based human service agency serving the Arabic and Chaldean speaking populations of southeast Michigan. Under her leadership, the Council grew from a single office in downtown Detroit to an agency of 28 outreach centers in the tri-county area. She has also served as a Special Advisor to the United Nation's on women's issues in the Arab World and as a delegate to the International Women's Conference in Mexico. Her work has been recognized through several awards including the Wayne State University Headliner Award and the Governor's Leadership Award.

Ms. Florine Mark is the President and CEO of The WW Group, Inc., the nation's largest franchise of Weight Watchers International. She started the company and has been the CEO for over 30 years during which the company has grown to approximately 70,000 members. She also serves as the Chair of the Detroit Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and serves on the boards of numerous community organizations including the American Red Cross, the Detroit Renaissance Board, and Hospice of Southeastern Michigan. Her work has been recognized through several awards including the National Association of Women Business Owners and the Michigan Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to these outstanding leaders and friends and to an organization which plays an important role in reminding all of us that we share a common goal of peace and security in the Middle East and community activism at home.

IN APPRECIATION OF NATIONAL POLICE WEEK MAY 14TH, 1998

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, thirty-six years ago, President John F. Kennedy designated May 15th as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15th falls as National Police Week. I rise today to salute all law enforcement officers across this country, and to remember those who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The protection offered to each of us by this country's law enforcement officials should not be taken for granted, nor should we forget the men and women who lost their lives in the line of duty. In 1997, 160 law enforcement officers, nearly forty percent more than in 1996, lost their lives in the line of duty. From 1990-1995, there had been an average of 151 fatalities annually.

Over the past two years, the city of Buffalo has lost two of our finest law enforcement officials, killed in the line of duty. On April 9, 1997, Officer Charles McDougal was senselessly murdered while on duty. Just a few months ago, Officer Robert McLellan was killed while chasing a fugitive sought by bounty hunters. Both officers served their community with honor, distinction and bravery.

Members of the law enforcement agency throughout this country play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of all Americans. We must continue to recognize

and appreciate the problems, duties and responsibilities faced by all law enforcement officials throughout this country.

Everyday, men and women across America go to work with the single purpose of making all of our lives safer. They work long hours in an often thankless job. But this week is our chance to thank them for all they have done and continue to do. It is also a chance to remember those that have died while making our country a safer place.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon all citizens of this country to observe Friday May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in honor of those peace officers who, through their courageous deeds, have lost their lives or have become disabled in the performance of duty.

HONORING JACK MCDOWELL, PULITZER PRIZE WINNING JOURNALIST, POLITICAL CONSULTANT, BELOVED FATHER AND HUSBAND

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise with the sad duty of informing you that America has lost an honored journalist, a warm friend and a great family man. Jack McDowell, whose storied career included winning a Pulitzer Prize for the now-defunct San Francisco Call-Bulletin, serving as political editor and columnist for the San Francisco Examiner and culminating with 26 years as partner in the highly successful political consulting firm Woodward & McDowell, has died at this home in Atherton. He was 84.

Born in Alameda to the founder and publisher of the Alameda Times-Star, McDowell quite literally had journalism in his blood. As a boy he snuck out of camp to make a lone trek through the Sierra snow to file a report from the ranger's station about how his Alameda boy scout troop was marooned by a freak springtime storm.

After attending what is now San Jose State University during Prohibition, McDowell went on to become managing editor and co-owner with his brother, W. Clifford McDowell, of the Eugene (Ore.) Daily News and Turlock Daily Journal.

In 1942 he was hired as a reporter for the Call-Bulletin. Three years later his story about the new process of donating blood that followed a donor's pint into the Pacific Theater of World War II and into the soldier who received the transfusion was awarded the Pulitzer Prize.

As his career progressed to writing a daily column, "Memo from Mac" and on to city editor of the Call-Bulletin, McDowell's noteworthy stories included confronting a wanted killer on the streets of San Francisco and taking the suspect back to the city room for an exclusive interview before turning him over to the police.

It was during the eras of Governors Goodwin Knight, "Pat" Brown and Ronald Reagan that McDowell served as political editor and columnist for the San Francisco Examiner. He was recognized as the dean of the capitol press corps and was often found at his "unofficial" office, the renowned gathering spot for California politicians, Frank Fat's.