

The Governor's citation continued: "His work on behalf of the community could not have succeeded without the support and active encouragement of his wonderful helpmate, Dinah."

Reb Leibish ironically died on Tisha B'av, one of the most solemn of all Jewish holidays. Over 5,000 persons attended his funeral service, where he was eulogized by grieving mourners as a genuine friend of all.

Leopold leaves behind his wife, Dinah, two children, Abraham and Chana, several grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind a legacy of humanity that all would be well advised to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join with us in expressing our condolences to the family, friends, and many admirers of Reb Leibish Lefkowitz.

## DECOMMISSIONING THE USS GUAM

### HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 5, 1998*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the *USS Guam* is slated for decommissioning this coming August 25. The soon to be decommissioned ship is the third to bear the name of my home island. The original *USS Guam* was a 159-foot river gunboat launched in 1928. She carried five officers and a crew of forty-four with a mission of protecting American interests on the inland and coastal waters of China in the period preceding World War II. Renamed the *USS Wake*, the gunboat was captured by the Japanese in Shanghai on December 7, 1941.

The second *USS Guam* was authorized by Congress on November 21, 1943. The second largest cruiser in the American fleet, the ship was manned by over 2,000 men. She entered the war in January, 1945 and earned two Battle Stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Area Medal, the Navy Occupation Service Medal, and the China Service Medal.

The current *Guam* was commissioned on January 1965. An amphibious assault ship designated LPH-9, she is designed to transport more than 2,000 Marine assault troops to combat areas and land them by helicopter at designated inland points. During the ship's distinguished service, she was assigned as prime recovery vessel for the Gemini XI mission. Among others, she also recovered a rocket designed to study atmospheric conditions during a solar eclipse, transported marines during several Caribbean deployments, performed humanitarian services in Peru, became part of the Multi-National Peacekeeping Force in the Middle East, and assisted in the rescue of 200 American citizens in Grenada. The third ship to be designated *USS Guam* received the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, and two Humanitarian Service Medals.

After being decommissioned, we can only speculate whether this vessel would ever again be called to be of service to our nation or as they say, "just fadeaway." Although we on Guam somehow feel sadness about the decommissioning of our island's namesake, we look forward to the return of several articles.

Back when the gunboat *Guam* was still sailing the Yangtze River in 1927, the people of

Guam learned that the ship had no bell. Although ship's bells are considered obsolete nowadays, prior to the advent of our modern communication systems, bells used to sound when the ship is anchored in a fog, mist, falling snow, or heavy rainstorm. Further, the ship's bell was rung to indicate the time. In light of the situation, the chamber of commerce raised money by urging Guam's school children to contribute a penny a piece. By December, 1928 over \$700 had been raised and a bell and a plaque was presented to LtComdr R.K. Autry, who was then the ship's commanding officer.

Details as to what happened to these items after the first ship's capture but they somehow ended up at the Marine Corps Barracks on Guam. In 1954, the bell and plaque was presented to the governor of Guam who decided to have it displayed at the Nieves Flores Memorial Library where the people of the island could see it. In 1985, Mr. Bill Banning, a retired marine, was able to arrange for the bell and plaque to be loaned to the current *USS Guam*.

On August 25, I will be joining a number of Guam residents in witnessing a solemn ceremony wherein the United States flag and the commissioning pennant will be lowered. As the crew marches off, the United States Ship will be transformed into a mere hull of steel. This is the passing of an era, a truly emotional moment for those who had the privilege to serve and to the people who hail from the island the vessel was named after. On behalf of the people of Guam, the Guam Society of America, and the Guam community of Norfolk, Virginia, I would like to commend the officers and sailors who have made great contributions and focused attention to the good name of our home island by serving on the *USS Guam*. I also thank the ship's commanding officer, Capital Bill Luti, USN, and his crew for allowing us the honor to attend the ceremony. Si Yu'os Ma'ase.

## INTRODUCTION OF HERO ACT

### HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 5, 1998*

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) made many changes to the home health industry. Probably the most significant of these was the implementation of an Interim Payment System (IPS) which changed the way home health agencies receive Medicare reimbursements. The IPS was supposed to be a temporary and efficient solution. Instead, it has been an unmitigated disaster. All parties for the most part seem unanimous to the fact that the system is not working and that something must be done.

As a result many agencies have either closed or dropped coverage from otherwise deserving senior patients. Many of our elderly have died because of these closures and removals of coverage.

Making the problem even more severe is the fact that the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), who is supposed to implement the permanent solution to aid home health agencies, has stated that they will be unable to make their deadline to end the IPS of October 1, 1999 due to among other reasons, severe Year 2000 computer problems.

As a result the situation will only get worse. Many agencies that have cut as far as they can will not be able to hold out much longer.

Yet, the bad news does not stop there. If HCFA fails to make the October 1, 1999 deadline, an across the board 15% reduction will occur in all reimbursements to home health agencies. This will surely drive out all the home health agencies left. As a result, even more of our seniors will pass away or be shipped to nursing homes to live their last days in isolation. Not only would this be costlier for taxpayers, but it is simply wrong. Something, very simply, needs to be done.

That is why I am introducing the Homebound Elderly Relief Opportunity Act, also known as the HERO Act. It aims to solve this problem by accomplishing seven things.

First, it creates a "moratorium" on the IPS. In other words the system goes back to the way it did pre-BBA with raised patient per visit cost limits. This is what all home health agencies need across the country to survive.

Second, it allows the home health system to recapture some of the unanticipated savings that the Balanced Budget Act estimated while still keeping the budget balanced. The savings in the home health industry have far surpassed the original savings envisioned by the BBA. This bill quite simply allows the industry the ability to recapture any unanticipated future savings. No longer will agencies be forced to go out of business and people removed from their health care providers. The moratorium will help this to occur.

Third, it establishes a "trigger" that will keep the budget in balance. While most experts in the field estimate that this trigger will likely not even be reached, this trigger is the essential component in attempting to maintain a balanced budget. This bill is designed to be budget neutral by using actual CBO estimates of spending on home health care under the BBA and capping at those levels. This cap will prevent PAYGO problems.

Fourth, the trigger created will then allow states more flexibility than found in another legislation by allowing each agency to choose between the 98% value of two formulas. Some states, like my home of Tennessee, would have the ability to choose a mix of a 75% "regional" component and a 25% "national" component. Other states that are structured differently, like New York and New Jersey would choose a calculation of 75% "national" component and a 25% "regional" cost comparison. Thus, this is one of the first bills that aims to be regional neutral. No longer will Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas, and Oklahoma be pitted against New York, New Jersey, and Vermont.

Fifth, it gives agencies who incur unusually high costs due to an abnormal number of high cost patients (such as through emergency care) to claim outlier status. An outlier status would allow agencies to care for patients with more freedom. However, this outlier status would come out of the funds created by the moratorium and fall under the money as used in the "trigger" explained earlier. Thus, even this provision aims to be in balance.

Sixth, it allows relief for new agencies and establishes a proration of Medicare benefits among agencies who share a patient. No longer will new agencies be unable to open due to the draconian provisions of the IPS. In addition, where agencies share the same patient, one agency will not be able to take all

the Medicare payments from an eligible enrollee, thereby leaving the second agency without payment.

Seventh, this legislation relieves the impending doom of the 15% across the board reduction of October 1, 1999. The trigger caps are in place in a similar fashion off January 1998 estimates in order to keep the same budget neutrality the rest of the bill tries to attain.

I urge all other members who see the need for a reform in IPS to back my bill. The Homebound Elderly Relief Opportunity (HERO) Act is a common sense way to relieve this system in a sensible and financially responsible manner.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GLENVIEW SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB

**HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 5, 1998*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute an organization in my congressional district that has supported the needs of senior citizens for the past 40 years. The Glenview Senior Citizen Club has expanded over the years to encompass a variety of health and recreational services needed to maintain the medical and social well-being of senior citizens throughout our area, and I am very proud to help recognize and celebrate the 40th Anniversary of its service.

The Glenview Senior Citizen Club was established in 1958 with eleven dedicated individuals organizing its monthly social events. Presently, more than one thousand members participate in forty active programs including: crafts, choral group, blood pressure testing, counseling, physical fitness programs, educational and informational activities, and a variety of social events.

This organization has attracted many members due to its accommodating services that make it easier for senior citizens to participate. First, there is a transportation service provided at no charge that takes senior citizens to and from the center. They also broadcast the center's programs over local cable television stations to educate their members and the greater public about the work being done there. A joint intergenerational program with the Glenview School System is also a way in which the center seeks to involve its members in community related activities.

It is no surprise that the club's unique programs, services, and achievements have received statewide recognition. They have twice been the recipients of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs "Governor's Hometown Awards" for Community Involvement in 1988 and "Individuals and Issues" programs in 1998.

Mr. Speaker, The Glenview Senior Citizen Club has long been a champion of civic service and of providing a variety of programs established to better the lives of its members. Together with everyone in the community, I wish to congratulate the Club on its 40th Anniversary and send best wishes for its continuing success in all years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO JORDAN HENRY WILSON, JR.

**HON. JULIAN C. DIXON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 5, 1998*

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commend Mr. Jordan Henry Wilson, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement from the Los Angeles Unified School District. On Saturday, August 15, 1998, Mr. Wilson, joined by his loving family and many friends, will be honored at a retirement luncheon in the fellowship hall of Park Hills Community Church. It is an honor to have this opportunity to recognize Jordan's contributions to the Los Angeles community.

Jordan was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to Jessie and Jordan Wilson, Sr. The Wilson homestead included 15 children. Always a hard worker, Jordan could often be found helping his father tend the family garden or in the kitchen, helping his mother with the enormous duties befitting such a large household. He also worked part-time to help support his family, and was well known for his positive attitude and determination to focus only on the good things which life had to offer.

In 1953, Jordan joined the United States Army. When not fulfilling his military obligations, Jordan was able to indulge his passion for sports by playing football with some of his Army colleagues. He was honorably discharged in 1955 and shortly thereafter, relocated to Los Angeles, California.

A devoutly Christian man, his first task was to locate a church home, which would serve as his spiritual sanctuary as he set about the task of building a life in his new adopted home. He found such a place at the Mount Moriah Baptist Church. Joining Mount Moriah Baptist Church turned out to be a very wise and fortuitous decision for Jordan. There, he met Rosa Verrett—the future Mrs. Jordan Wilson, Jr. Rosa and Jordan were married in 1961; they are the loving parents of daughter, Carolyn Renee Wilson Bowles; son, Keith Lamont Wilson; and the proud grandparents of Darryl Lee Bowles, Jr.

In 1987, the Wilson family joined the Zoe Christian Fellowship (ZCF) of Los Angeles. Under the leadership of ZCF's spiritual leader, Bishop Frank Stewart, Rosa and Jordan graduated from the ZCF training institute, and are now actively involved in ZCF's "Committee to Service Ministries." In recognition of his contributions to the ZCF ministry, in 1997 Jordan received the God's Man Award.

1998 marks Jordan's 14th and final year as a plant manager with the East Los Angeles Unified School District. He has provided outstanding service to the school district and I am certain that his presence will be sorely missed by his many colleagues and friends.

Jordan's retirement from the school district will afford him additional precious time to devote to his church and his family. In the past, he has served as chairman of the Deacon Board of the Zoe Christian Fellowship of Los Angeles; supervisor of Junior Brotherhood and vice president of the Courtesy Committee at the Mount Moriah Baptist Church; and vice president of the Good Neighborhood Council of Los Angeles. He also is a member of the Blind Institute of Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure to use this occasion to salute the career and accom-

plishments of Jordan Henry Wilson, Jr. I know that his family and friends are proud of him, and I join them in congratulating him on this well-earned tribute. As he prepares to set course on yet another chapter in his life, I ask that you join me in extending our best wishes to him and Rosa on a future abundant in the riches of God's love, good health, and much happiness.

GULBIN HONORED

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 5, 1998*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jack Gulbin, president of Schott Glass Technologies Inc. He is retiring in October after 30 years with Schott. A ceremony in his honor is being held on August 13, and I am proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

Born in 1935 in northeastern Pennsylvania's Forest City, John George Gulbin graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1961 from the University of Scranton with a degree in accounting. After graduation, Jack spent the next 7 years working for Arthur Anderson & Company, a public accounting firm, in New York City, and Stanley Works, a hardware and tool manufacturer, in New Britain, Connecticut.

In 1968, Jack was hired as the first controller of a fledgling company then named Schott Optical Glass Inc. As his hard work was recognized by Schott, Gulbin began to climb the corporate ladder. In 1970, he was appointed Schott's Treasurer and 5 years later, he was promoted to Vice President of Finance. In 1989, Jack became Schott's Executive Vice President and on October 1, 1991, he was named President of Schott Glass Technologies Inc.

During Jack's tenure with Schott, the company has moved to the cutting edge of glass technology. One of Schott's newest ventures is to build a processing plant in Duryea, Pennsylvania that will produce super-thin glass using "down draw" technology, which allows for thinner glass to be created that requires less polishing. This glass will be used in displays for hand-held electronics for the U.S. Department of Defense ground forces and in avionics displays for military jets. Other uses include displays for laptop computers, work stations, and commercial jet avionics. Schott's new plant will be the first facility of its kind in the United States. In addition to being important for the national security, the expansion is expected to create an additional 100 jobs in Northeastern Pennsylvania, adding to Schott's status as one of the region's largest employers.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Gulbin is an able businessman and a proven leader. I am pleased to have had this opportunity to bring Jack's many accomplishments to the attention of my colleagues. I thank Jack for all he has done for his native northeastern Pennsylvania and I wish him a happy retirement.