

willingness to roll up his sleeves and get to work resolving many of the nation's problems that face lawmakers. He is a man of his word and his character defines the meaning of integrity.

As the senior Republican member of the House Appropriations Committee, JOE MCDADE led the fight for a strong national defense. As the ranking republican of the Defense Subcommittee since 1985, Mr. MCDADE has been a key architect of the annual defense and national security legislation during much of the strengthening of the military during the 1980s. He played a key role in crafting compromises which preserved weapons programs and gave the United States leverage in negotiating arms control treaties like the START treaty with the Soviet Union and the 1989 United Nations Agreement to totally eliminate chemical weapons by the year 2000. He has supported military programs which emphasize a high-quality force, with emphasis on training and readiness for combat.

He also served the House of Representatives with distinction as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, which has jurisdiction over most programs of the Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works programs, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, and several other agencies.

On the Interior Appropriations panel, I was proud to work with Congressman MCDADE in helping our nation address national energy problems. Because of his work promoting parks and recreation, he has been honored by the National Parks and Recreation Association.

Mr. MCDADE served from 1978 to 1991 as the top-ranking Republican on the Small Business Committee. On the Small Business Committee, Congressman MCDADE focused on measures to stimulate the nations small businesses and industries, and to create new opportunities for small businesses to compete in the international marketplace. Over 98 percent of New Mexico's businesses are classified as small businesses, and many of these owners are extremely grateful for the Congressman's positive work on their behalf.

I wish Mr. MCDADE and his family all the best and look forward to his continuing dialogue and conversations with members of Congress who need advice from time to time in addressing and resolving the challenges that face our nation.

THREAT OF NUCLEAR MISSILE ATTACK

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would ask his colleagues to consider carefully the following editorial from the October 6, 1998, edition of the Norfolk Daily News, entitled "Defense System is Needed in U.S."

[From Norfolk Daily News, Oct. 6, 1998]

DEFENSE SYSTEM IS NEEDED IN U.S.

1972 TREATY DOESN'T BAR UNITED STATES FROM
DEVELOPING ANTI-MISSILE WEAPONS

A bipartisan commission headed by Donald Rumsfeld, a former U.S. Secretary of De-

fense, recently concluded that nuclear missiles from rogue nations would strike American cities with "little or no warning" in just a matter of a few years.

At the same time, U.S. intelligence agencies are saying that the United States has nothing to worry about from such missile attacks.

What is one to believe?

The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based public policy research institute, thinks Americans would be wise to heed the findings of the Rumsfeld commission and take the steps necessary to ensure the United States has an effective missile defense system. We agree.

The Soviet Union may be no more, but the threat of a missile attack on the United States is as real as ever. China is a bona fide nuclear power with missiles already aimed at the United States, and India and Pakistan have detonated nuclear devices as well. In addition, North Korea and Iran have been developing missiles that soon may be able to reach the United States. And a number of countries already possess missiles capable of striking U.S. allies and troops stationed abroad.

All of this prompts Edwin Feulner, president of Heritage Foundation, to make two points:

1. Those who argue that the 1972 ABM Treaty bars the United States from having a military defense system are mistaken. The treaty, which the United States signed with the Soviet Union, was designed to prevent the deployment of missile defenses. But the Soviet Union no longer exists. That makes the treaty null and void.

2. A missile defense system doesn't need to spur flashbacks of Star Wars and President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative that was proposed in 1983. Since then, defense experts have been able to devise an effective missile defense system that could be operational simply by upgrading the U.S. Navy's existing fleet of guided-missile cruisers.

Those two points should help further the cause of establishing a missile defense system. For if even one nuclear missile reached the United States, millions could die within minutes. As Mr. Feulner has said, building such a defense system is not just a defense consideration, it's a moral imperative.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER IRENE KRAUS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to consecrate the memory of a woman whose life was spent treating the sick in my state of Michigan and throughout the nation, Sister Irene Kraus, a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

Sister Irene was a pioneer in the health care industry. She was the first woman to chair the American Hospital Association, she also chaired the Catholic Health Association and was inducted into the Healthcare Hall of Fame of the American Hospital Association. The number of honors bestowed upon this extraordinary woman are too great to list in full. Sister Irene's many accolades include: the American College of Healthcare Executives Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Hospital Administration, the B'nai B'rith International National Health Care Award, and the American Hospital Association Distinguished Service Medal.

I became personally acquainted with Sister Irene while serving on the Lay Advisory Board

at Providence Hospital in Southfield, Michigan. As President and Chief Executive Officer of Providence Hospital, Sister Irene provided the leadership and vision necessary to implement a health care policy and value system based on respect, advocacy for the poor, quality care, simplicity and inventiveness. It was this literally divine combination that made Southfield's Providence Hospital, and the many other institutions guided by her hand, so valuable to their respective communities.

Underlying her many professional accomplishments, however, was her ability to look beyond organizational structures, to recognize every individual's need for medical and mental health care, and find practical avenues toward prevention and treatment. She did not hesitate to seek answers beyond the conventional wisdom of the day. Her combination of functional command, common sense and diplomacy often persuaded her colleagues to support her ground-breaking approach to policy.

Her rare combination of compassion, clear thinking and spirited leadership will be sorely missed by all those whose lives she has touched. Our family will miss her as a person whom we had the privilege of knowing and working with; like with so many others, she left an indelible imprint on our lives.

On Friday, October 9, a Memorial Service will be held to honor Sister Irene at Providence Hospital, Southfield, Michigan. Only the session in Congress will prevent my joining in this observance. I will be there fully in spirit.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AUTISM STATISTICS, SURVEILLANCE, RE- SEARCH, AND EPIDEMIOLOGY ACT OF 1998 (ASSURE)

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to improve the quality of research on pervasive developmental disorders like autism. My legislation—The Autism Statistics, Surveillance, Research, and Epidemiology Act of 1998 (ASSURE)—will provide critical support for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) ongoing efforts to better quantify the incidence and prevalence rates of autism and its related developmental disorders.

This legislation was crafted in close cooperation with the National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR), the developmental disabilities experts at CDC, as well as with service providers from my district. It is an important health care and medical research bill which I urge all members to support.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "autism is a serious life-long developmental disability characterized by impaired social interactions, an inability to communicate with others, and repetitive or restrictive behaviors." It is estimated that autism affects one out of every 500 children, although precise rates are unknown. There is also a general consensus that autism rates seem to be increasing, although it is not known whether these increases represent a better understanding the developmental disability (i.e., better diagnosis), or an actual increase in developed cases of autism.