

the property is not acceptable. In this procedure, the United States assumes title of the property immediately, or at any time before judgment, by simply filing a "declaration of taking" along with the complaint in condemnation and depositing with the court an amount of money equal to the estimated value of the land. Normal protocol is then followed, with the court ascertaining the value of the property, and the balance is issued to the landowner.

The Prompt Compensation Act will require the federal government to deposit with the court an amount equal to the estimated value of the land within 90 days or it must forfeit its interest in the property, thus making the "quick take" procedure the only alternative available. The Prompt Compensation Act will make a significant impact in curbing the takings authority of the federal government, while at the same time, strengthening the private property rights of America's landowners. I urge all my colleagues to join me in this important endeavor.

SOCIAL SECURITY GUARANTEE
INITIATIVE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we debate our respective positions on Social Security, let us be mindful of a critical issue facing senior citizens—the prohibitively high cost of prescription drugs. Medicare is the main source of health care for the elderly, yet it does not cover the cost of most prescription drugs.

Many senior citizens live on a limited, fixed income. The cost of prescription drugs is an important issue because senior citizens are more likely to suffer from chronic long-term illnesses, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and Alzheimer's disease which require medication.

Although prescription drugs are covered by most private insurance, thirty-seven percent of senior citizens do not have their own prescription drug coverage. The average senior citizen takes several medications a day (up to 30 prescriptions a year) and many of them pay for their own medications out of pocket.

Senior citizens who cannot afford their medication may not fill them or may not take the proper dosages which can endanger their lives. Seniors who do not take their medication risk living in pain, being hospitalized, or even death.

The cost of prescription drugs directly affects the health and welfare of the elderly. We cannot force our senior citizens to make a choice between buying food and buying their medication. This should not be choice between life and death. We must offer plans to reform the Medicare program that protect the interests of our seniors.

IN HONOR OF MOORPARK HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Moorpark High School, which, for the second consecutive year, will represent Ventura County in the Academic Decathlon California state finals on March 12.

These 16 students are representative of the best and brightest our country has to offer. I say that without exaggeration. Moorpark High School's A Team is rated second-best in the country—quite a feat for a relatively small high school. And their coaches, head coach Larry Jones and assistant coach Michelle Bergman, are examples of what is right in our educational system today. Their dedication is to be applauded.

Moorpark High School fielded two teams to compete in the Ventura County Academic Decathlon against the best and brightest from other country high schools on Feb. 6. At the end of the day, Moorpark High's two teams bested all the rest, coming in first and second.

Now they are readying themselves to take on last year's state champion—El Camino High School, which is the only school rated higher than Moorpark in the nation.

Unfortunately, because of contest rules, only Moorpark's A team will be able to compete in the state contest, even though the B team is rated higher than many of the other contestants. But rather than dwell on the unfortunate, the B team members are rallying their A team peers. These teen-agers are taking nothing for granted. For several weeks, the academic achievers have been studying at school until 10 p.m., then hitting a coffee shop or a student's home to study some more.

The fine students representing the A team are: Valerie Lake, Mitul Patel, Ari Shaw, Arturo Barragan, Alexandra Dove, Rebecca Wershba, John Ellis and Nick Lange. The B team is represented by Shanna Gibbs, Tiffany Chou, Jennifer Lawrence, Shaun Berry, Tara Hernandez, James Marlier, Charles Pomerantz and Jason Sweitzer.

On a personal note, let me add that Ari Shaw served as an intern in my office last year. The time he spent here apparently was positive: He won a gold medal during the contest for a speech on his experiences.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon Teams for their achievements to date, and in wishing the A team great success in the state championships.

PRESTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers and parents of Preston Junior High School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the facility of the school as well as all the students, parents

and individuals who contributed to their special canned food drive. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort and happiness to families in Colorado. That the school produced so much for Santa Cops for the benefit of the needy is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let the school's example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN B. ANTHONY
IN CELEBRATION OF HER BIRTHDAY

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, February 15th was set aside as President's Day, a day to honor the high office and those individuals who have been given the honor by their fellow citizens to hold it. And indeed, many who have held the office rank among our nation's greatest leaders.

But February 15th also marked the 179th birthday of another of our country's greatest leaders, one who never held high office, but nonetheless changed our nation's history through her relentless protests of inequality. That leader is Susan B. Anthony.

Susan B. Anthony is often remembered for her pioneering work in the cause of equal rights for women. Her fierce opposition to slavery was a natural counterpart to her struggle for women's rights. But as she fought to widen society's guarantee of equal rights to include women, she also sought to widen this guarantee for others, including unborn children.

As we mark her anniversary, let us honor Susan B. Anthony's endeavors which established a legacy for posterity. When she died in 1904 only four states granted suffrage to women. Fourteen years later the nineteenth amendment granted universal suffrage. Let us continue her work toward a more equal and just society.

PROTECTING YOUTH AT WORK:
HEALTH, SAFETY AND DEVELOPMENT
OF WORKING CHILDREN
AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE
UNITED STATES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, every five days a young person is killed on the job in this country. Every 40 seconds a child is injured on the job. The occupational injury rate for children and teens is more than twice as high than it is for adults. These statistics are totally unacceptable for a civilized, advanced society like ours. On the eve of the 21st Century, this situation is a national disgrace and it is totally unacceptable.

We must ensure that our children are safer at work. Education and healthy development are of primary importance during childhood