

friends and confidants Daniel, Sharie, Richard, Walter and Nora Bohlmann together with a host of supporters over the years to salute Paul Monea's triumph over incalculable odds. Paul's family and true friends have always stood by him over the years; a tribute to his honesty and integrity in working with his fellow colleagues. Paul proudly notes that his favorite pastime is spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Charitable and community support in a silent behind the scenes fashion has always been Paul's style. As a young businessman, Paul mustered the support of his fellow Hobby Industry Association members to contribute on a per mile basis for his walk-a-thon dedication to the Muscular Dystrophy of America. Paul walked 28 straight days, over 400 miles from Louisville, Ohio to King of Prussia, Pennsylvania and raised well over \$25,000, all without any desire for personal publicity. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of that noteworthy event where Paul in his true reserved fashion is silently supporting Walk-A-Thon and other charitable events in his mid-west area. Paul has formed the Paul Monea Family Charitable Foundation, to benefit programs targeted to assisting our youth in a better quality of life and the elderly to live in dignity. Paul's challenge to the young people of America is: "Focus on the future with honesty, integrity, and a spirit of innovation in your hearts."

Paul Monea is widely recognized as the World's leading trendsetter in state of the art, multi-level marketing and informercial programs. *TaeBo*, starring Billy Blanks, was the mastermind informercial creation of Paul who in his typical humble style gives credit for this phenomenal success story to everyone except himself. Incidentally, Johnny Unser, driving his father's "retired" number 92 will drive the "Tae-Bo" race car at this year's Indy 500 in honor of America's National Fitness month. Prior to *TaeBo*, Paul originated the 2 for 1 Dine out Programs, "The Stimulator," pain relief product promotions, "My Little Angel," children's programs, and the "Super Salsa" machine for gourmets. Monea Publishing company is also the distributor of works done by artist Sharie Hatchett Bohlmann, who created the art commemorating the 1987 White House Easter Egg Roll. Always vigilant to offer to the world products which make life safer, cleaner, healthier and less troublesome, Paul is currently producing a "Stop Smoking" program that has proven results.

Paul has never been a political person and those around Paul Monea are frequently reminded by him that his work is never about making money. On the contrary, it is always about providing a better way of life for others. This inward desire to provide innovative products because, "It's the right thing to do," puts Paul Monea in a class by himself.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and our colleagues to join me in recognizing one of America's business leaders and legends, Paul Mark Monea. We salute him on his special day and thank him for the countless millions of people around the World whose lives he has made better because of his dedication to mankind.

NATIONAL CEMETERY FOR VETERANS IN MIAMI, FLORIDA AREA

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation requiring the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery in the Miami, Florida, metropolitan area to serve the needs of veterans and their families, and to report to Congress on a schedule for that establishment and an estimate of associated costs.

I am distressed that the Department of Veterans Affairs continues to ignore the long-identified national veterans' cemetery needs of southern Florida. In both 1987 and 1994, the Miami area was designated by congressional mandated reports as one of the top geographic areas in the United States in which need for burial space for veterans is greatest. Yet, as late as August 1998, VA's strategic planning through the year 2010 indicated nothing more than a willingness to continue evaluating the needs of nearly 800,000 veterans in the Miami/Ft. Lauderdale primary and secondary service area. Mr. Speaker, that is over 54 percent of the estimated State veteran population and 3.3 percent of the total U.S. veteran population. By VA's estimate, there will be nearly 25,000 veteran deaths in the greater Miami area in FY 2000, and by the year 2010, the annual veteran death rate in southern Florida will be nearly 26,000.

Although VA statistics show that demand for cemetery space will increase sharply in the near future—with burials increasing 42 percent from 1995 to 2010—the Administration's FY 2000 budget for VA failed to include a request for the funding required to initiate a single new national cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, the time for evaluating the needs of southern Florida is long past and the time for action is rapidly slipping away. National veterans' cemeteries are not built in a day. It takes at least five-to-seven years to plan and build one. For those who served this country with pride and dignity, VA has an obligation to provide an opportunity to be buried in a national cemetery near their home—an opportunity not now available to those who live in southern Florida.

It has been the intent of Congress since the establishment of the National Cemetery System in 1862 that the Federal Government purchase "cemetery grounds" to be used as national cemeteries "for soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country." Today, of the 115 national cemeteries administered by VA, only 57 are open to all interment, 36 can accommodate cremated remains and family members of those already interred, and 22 are closed to new interments. In southern Florida there is not a veterans cemetery of any description.

I urge Members to support my legislation so that the Memorial Days of the 21st century can be observed by the families and friends of veterans in southern Florida at a nearby, appropriate national resting place of honor for an American hero.

THE MEDICARE CRITICAL NEED GME PROTECTION ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce "The Medicare Critical Need GME Protection Act of 1999." This important legislation seeks to protect our nation against the depletion of health care professionals that are trained to appropriately treat costly and deadly illnesses.

Under current law, the Medicare program provides reimbursement to hospitals for the direct costs of graduate medical education training. That reimbursement is designed to cover the direct training costs of residents in their initial residency training period. However, if a resident decides to proceed with further training in a specialty or subspecialty, a hospital's reimbursement is cut to half (50 percent) for that additional training.

The rationale for this policy is strong. In general, we have an oversupply of specialty physicians in our country and a real need to increase the number of primary care providers. By reducing the reimbursement for specialty training, the Medicare program has promoted increases in primary care training rather than specialty positions.

I agree with this policy. However, as is often the case, there are always exceptions to the rule. We do not want to hinder training of particular specialties or subspecialties if there is strong evidence that there is a serious shortage of those particular physicians. That is why I am introducing The Medicare Critical Need GME Protection Act.

To provide an example of a current subspecialty facing serious shortages of professionals, we can look at nephrology. Between 1986 and 1995, the number of patients with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) has more than doubled. At present, more than 40 million Americans die from kidney failure or its complications each year. In 1998, the estimated cost to treat ESRD exceeded \$12 billion. However, current data indicates that only 51.8 percent of today's nephrologists will still be in practice in the year 2010.

Most primary care physicians are not trained to treat the complex multi-symptom medical problems typically seen in ESRD and are unfamiliar with particular medications and technology prescribed for such patients. The decreasing supply of nephrologists, coupled with an expanding population of renal patients, puts the health of our nation at risk.

The Medicare Critical Need GME Protection Act provides a tool to help combat such shortages of qualified professionals. The bill would simply provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the flexibility to continue full-funding for a specialty or subspecialty training program if there is evidence that the program has a current shortage, or faces an imminent shortage, of physicians to meet the needs of our health care system. The Secretary would grant this exception only for a limited number of years. The Secretary would have complete control of the exception process. Programs would present evidence of the shortage and she could agree or disagree with the analysis. Nothing in this bill would require the Secretary to take any action whatsoever.

The bill also includes protections for budget neutrality. If the Secretary approves a specialty or subspecialty training program for full-funding under this bill, the Secretary must adjust direct GME payments to ensure that no additional funds are spent.

Again, The Medicare Critical Need GME Protection Act does nothing more than provide limited flexibility to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that we are training the health care professionals that meet our nation's needs.

I would encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation. By giving the Secretary the flexibility to allocate funds to attract and train professionals in certain "at risk" fields of medicine, we will significantly improve patient care and lower long term health care costs.

A TRIBUTE TO MORRIS W. OFFIT

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great admiration for Morris Offit, a remarkable individual and leader in the world of business and finance who this year will be honored by the Educational Alliance for his exceptional community service.

A man of high principle, piercing intelligence, and boundless energy, Mr. Offit has acquired a well-deserved reputation for financial expertise and creativity. He formed Offitbank in 1983 and has since built it into a highly respected wealth management firm offering comprehensive investment management services to private clients and not-for-profit institutions.

Mr. Offit's professional success is matched by his devotion to philanthropy and community service. He has served as Chairman of the Boards of Johns Hopkins University and the Jewish Museum, as well as in leadership positions with organizations such as UJA-Federation of New York.

We are a better community and nation thanks to Morris Offit's vision and leadership. I am confident that his exceptional example will remain a source of guidance and inspiration for many years to come and that he will continue to set a standard of excellence in all his professional and civic endeavors.

CELEBRATION OF THE FREE SONS OF ISRAEL 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to celebrate a momentous occasion, the 150th Anniversary of the Free Sons of Israel, the oldest Jewish Fraternal Benefit Society in the United States. The society was established in 1849 and officially marked 150 years on January 7, 1999. This is an impressive achievement and I am proud to call many of the members of the Free Sons of Israel my good friends.

The Free Sons of Israel are a national order, formed to promote the ideals of their

motto: Friendship, Love and Truth. They protect the rights of Jews and fight all forms of persecution on behalf of their members. During the years, their scope has broadened to include all people worldwide, regardless of race, religion or color.

This special organization is the first of its kind to donate a substantial amount of money to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. Furthermore, their charitable arm has raised millions of dollars for worthwhile causes on a non-sectarian basis, including thousands of toys that they donate during the holidays to needy children in hospitals and care centers. The Free Sons of Israel has a scholarship Fund that grants awards to its members and children. It also has a bloodbank, credit union and insurance fund.

The Free Sons of Israel make this a better place for people throughout Long Island, New York and the entire world. They are a model of community service and action. I thank my friends for all their work and I commend them on this important anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PHILIPPINE PHYSICIANS IN OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of the Association of Philippine Physicians in Ohio (APPO).

The APPO is a non-profit, professional organization of Filipino American physicians in Northeast Ohio. The group strives to provide continuing medical educational programs for physicians and allied professionals and conducts medical and surgical missions to the Philippines for the indigent. APPO also sponsors scholarships and grants to deserving medical students in the U.S. and in the Philippines. The selfless members of APPO are committed to helping the needy and less fortunate, and they often volunteer in free clinics, hunger centers and nursing homes.

APPO will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in conjunction with its annual Sampaguita Ball on May 1, 1999. The Sampaguita Ball is a fund raising event to support the various charitable projects of the organization.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the Association of Philippine Physicians in Ohio for the service they have provided to the Cleveland area and to those in the Philippines for 25 years.

THE WORLD CELEBRATES THE DUKE'S CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN CONYERS JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today is a historic day for jazz lovers all over the world, because today marks Duke Ellington's 100th birthday. Edward Kennedy Ellington was born right here in the Nation's capital on April 29, 1899. The nickname Duke was given to him by his friends because of his regal air and his

love of fancy clothes with elegant style. He retained those traits throughout his life, but he wore his sophistication without a hint of pretentiousness. The Duke was a genius at instrumental combinations, improvisations, and jazz arranging which brought the world the unique "Ellington" sound that found consummate expression in works like "Mood Indigo," and "Sophisticated Lady."

He said he decided to become a musician when, in his youth, he realized that "when you were playing piano there was always a pretty girl standing down at the bass clef end of the piano." It became obvious that he was truly talented when he played his first musical composition, "What You Gonna Do When the Bed Breaks Down?" When he finished the crowd went wild and demanded more, however, since he had not written any other music he changed the arrangement and style right there on the spot. Thus, began the Duke's magnificent career as one of the world's greatest composers.

A pioneer, an innovator and an inspiration to generations, Duke Ellington personified elegance and sophistication. Also, he was a creative genius who never stopped exploring new dimensions of his musical world. By the end of his life, he would declare, "Music is my mistress." And so it was. No other lover was ever better kept, or in grander style. Duke Ellington knew how to treat his Muse. And she returned the favor.

The power of his presence was as strong off the stage as on. Ellington's nephew, Stephen James, says, "When you were in his presence, you felt it. If no one knew him and he were in . . . [a] room, everybody would be drawn to him. It was just the nature of his aura, his magnetism."

Ellington's career as a bandleader lasted more than fifty years; during at least forty-five of which he was a public figure of some prominence. It is often said that there were three high-water marks in that span. The first occurred in the late 1920s, when he attained the security and prestige of a residency at the Cotton Club, where the best black entertainers of the day worked for gangsters and performed at night for all-white audiences. Duke survived those years with his dignity intact—no small achievement—and he learned from his musicians, some of whom were then more skilled than he. By the end of the twenties, he had begun to experiment as a composer and arranger, and had several hits under his belt.

In the early thirties, he sharpened his skills, and made his first attempts at composing longer works. By the late thirties, he had assembled the best collection of players he ever had under his command at one time. Duke showed off his musicians in miniature masterpieces, three-minute concertos that displayed a single soloist against the backdrop of a tightly-knit ensemble. Many of these pieces are among his most enduring. Others from this time, equally memorable, explore a dizzyingly shifting labyrinth of textures, as different instruments take the lead and the accompaniment moves from one section of the band to another.

Billy Strayhorn, a brilliant young arranger who had joined the band in 1939, became increasingly important as Duke's principle collaborator in composition. By most accounts, Strayhorn was a musical genius of Mozartean proportions for whom composing music was as natural as breathing. Capable of doing almost anything musically, he chose to spend