

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UNITED STATES-CHINA TRADE RELATIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the Administration's toothless human rights policy towards China has failed miserably. In the five years since President Clinton de-linked China's MFN status from human rights considerations, there has been regression—not progress—within China. Even standing apart from new revelations of nuclear espionage and the skyrocketing U.S.-China trade deficit, this deteriorating situation justifies a fundamental reassessment of U.S.-China trade policy. A couple of examples may help flesh out the seriousness of the matter.

In 1992 the U.S. and Chinese Governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) prohibiting trade in slave-made goods, which was followed by a 1994 Statement of Cooperation. Notwithstanding those agreements and China's own laws against slave-made exports, Beijing is turning the Laogai—the Chinese Gulag—into a profit-making venture. Slave-made products—from office supplies to Christmas decorations—regularly make their way to the shelves of American stores. Even the State Department has been forced to admit that “[f]orced labor is a problem” and that China's cooperation with the MOU “has been inadequate.” Indeed, the Department reports that in every case where the United States asked to visit a suspect facility during 1998, “the [Chinese] Ministry of Justice refused the request, ignored it, or simply denied the allegations made without further elaboration.” In short, the MOU is not worth the paper it is written on.

Similarly, in October 1998, the Chinese regime signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Taking the bait, the Administration used China's promise to sign the ICCPR as a reason not to raise China's human rights violations at last year's meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission. The Administration heralded China's signature as an improvement—something that would lay the groundwork for future human rights accountability within China. Admittedly, the ICCPR contains many worthwhile guarantees, such as the right of political self-determination (Article 1), the basic rights of criminal defendants (Article 14), the right of free expression (Article 19), and the right to free elections (Article 25). But within two months after signing the ICCPR, the Chinese government violated each of those provisions in a brutal, systematic crackdown on democratic dissent that continues to this day. In fact, in the last month alone, Chinese officials have detained over 150 dissidents.

The slave labor MOU and the ICCPR signing are only two of many examples. But they illustrate a fundamental lesson that we ignore at our peril: When dealing with the Communist

dictatorship of the People's Republic of China, the United States cannot settle for paper promises or deferred compliance. We must stop accepting pledges of future improvement in place of actual improvements. The Chinese dictatorship regularly tells bold-faced lies about the way it treats its own people, such as by asserting that no one died at Tiananmen Square, and that there is complete religious freedom in China. How, then, can we take its word when it comes to matters of mere commerce? We cannot. Reforms within China must precede the rewards of WTO membership, and should be a prerequisite for annual MFN status.

When I say “reforms,” I do not mean only economic reforms. We must also demand respect for the basic rights of the Chinese people. The Administration's policy of so-called “constructive engagement” on behalf of human rights has been a disaster, even according to the Administration's own benchmarks.

In quarterly reports, Amnesty International has been tracking the seven human rights policy goals that President Clinton publicly announced before his trip to Beijing in 1998. Those reports detail a complete lack of progress in all categories, and even some regression, during the past year: Release all prisoners of conscience and Tiananmen Square prisoners: “Total failure, Regression”; review all “Counter-Revolutionary” Prison terms: “Total failure, no Progress”; allow religious freedom: “Total failure, no progress”; prevent coercive family planning and harvesting of organs: “No progress”; fully implement pledges on human rights treaties: “No progress”; review the “Re-education through labor” system: “Total failure, no progress”; and end police and prison brutality: “Total failure, no progress”.

The Communist government of the PRC continues to engage in systematic violations of basic human rights on a massive scale. It does not allow significant political dissent. It prohibits the free exercise of religion and imprisons religious leaders, ranging from the 10-year-old Panchen Lama to the elderly Catholic Bishop Su of Baoding Province. It summarily executes political prisoners in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. It harvests and sells the internal organs of executed prisoners. It forces women who have “unauthorized” pregnancies to abort their children and submit to sterilization. It continues to brutalize the indigenous peoples of Tibet and East Turkestan. The failure of the Administration's current policy to effect any improvement should come as no surprise. While the rulers of the Chinese Communist Party may be ruthless and despotic, they are not stupid. If there are no costs associated with the brutality that keeps them in power, then they have no incentive to become less brutal.

Thus, when big business and the Clinton Administration really want to change Beijing's conduct—for instance, in the effort to get China to respect international copyright—what do they do? Do they decide that we should be

patient, that we should constructively engage for a few years, and sooner or later Beijing will come around? No. They use economic sanctions—the very same sanctions they say would be counterproductive as a means of promoting political and religious freedom in China. I am aware of at least three occasions since 1991 when the U.S. Trade Representative threatened to impose billions of dollars in sanctions to vindicate U.S. intellectual property interests. In each of those cases, when faced with the sanctions, the Chinese government changed its behavior.

By their actions, big business and the Clinton administration show their faith in sanctions. By their reactions, Chinese leaders show the efficacy of sanctions. Thus, the question before us is not “Can economic sanctions work?” It is, “Why do we use sanctions to protect software, but not human life; to protect musical recordings but not fundamental political and religious freedoms; to stop movie piracy, but not torture?” In all the years I have been asking that question, I have not yet heard a good answer.

We have abandoned the American ideals of freedom and democracy for the sake of marginally cheaper consumer goods. We have squandered our patrimony of liberty for the profit of corporations who want access to China's inexpensive labor market. The people of the United States are waking up to this reality and, I believe, will no longer stand for it.

It is time to do an about face, to condition expanded trade relations upon respect for internationally recognized, fundamental human rights. American interests and American values demand no less.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES ON DOCTORS NOT TO PROVIDE CARE: FEDERAL COURT EXPLAINS THE DANGERS: REASONS WHY WE SHOULD PASS H.R. 1375

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, recently, I introduced H.R. 1375, a bill to limit the amount of financial pressure an HMO can place on a doctor to discourage referrals and testing. A recent Federal Appeals Court case provides new documentation on why we should pass such legislation.

Current regulations allow an HMO to withhold up to 25% of a doctor's compensation as a way to discourage “unnecessary” treatment. The problem is, such “withholds” can discourage necessary as well as unnecessary treatments and tests. My bill would limit any HMO “withhold” to 10% and encourage the use of quality measures as the basis of payments to doctors.

On August 18, 1998, the US 7th Circuit issued a majority opinion in the case of Herdrich v. Pegram, Carle Clinic Association,

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and Health Alliance Medical Plans. Following are portions of that opinion—exhibit #1 for why we need a national policy limiting HMOs and medical plans for putting too much financial pressure on doctors.

On March 7, 1991, Pegram, Herdrich's doctor, discovered a six by eight centimeter "mass" (later determined to be her appendix) in Herdrich's abdomen. Although the mass was inflamed on March 7, Pegram delayed instituting an immediate treatment of Herdrich, and forced her to wait more than one week (eight days) to obtain the accepted diagnostic procedure (ultrasound) used to determine the nature, size and exact location of the mass. Ideally, Herdrich should have had the ultrasound administered with all speed after the inflamed mass was discovered in her abdomen in order that her condition could be diagnosed and treated before deteriorating as it did, but Carle's policy requires plan participants to receive medical care from Carle-staffed facilities in what they classify as "non-emergency" situations. Because Herdrich's treatment was considered to be "non-emergency," she was forced to wait the eight days before undergoing the ultrasound at a Carle facility in Urbana, Illinois. During this unnecessary waiting period, Herdrich's health problems were exacerbated and the situation rapidly turned into an "emergency"—her appendix ruptured, resulting in the onset of peritonitis. In an effort to defray the increased costs associated with the surgery required to drain and cleanse Herdrich's ruptured appendix, Carle insisted that she have the procedure performed at its own Urbana facility, necessitating that Herdrich travel more than fifty miles from her neighborhood hospital in Bloomington, Illinois. The "market forces" the dissent refers to hardly seem to have produced a positive result in this case—Herdrich suffered a life-threatening illness (peritonitis), which necessitated a longer hospital stay and more serious surgery at a greater cost to her and the Plan. And, as discussed below, we are far from alone in our belief that market forces are insufficient to cure the deleterious affects of managed care on the health care industry.

Across the country, health care critics and consumers are complaining that the quality of medical treatment in this nation is rapidly declining, leaving "a fear that the goal of managing care has been replaced by the goal of managing costs." (Jan Greene, *Has Managed Care Lost Its Soul? Health Maintenance Organizations Focus More on Finances, Less on Care*, Am. Hosp. Publishing Inc., May 20, 1997.)

An increasing number of Americans believe that dollars are more important than people in the evolving [HMO] system. Whether justified or not, this assumption needs to be taken seriously, according to keepers of the industry's conscience. University of Pennsylvania bioethicist Arthur Caplan argues that managed care should take a lesson from professional sports, which has alienated some fans because money and profits have eclipsed the reasons why fans are about the games: hero worship and the virtues of teamwork, loyalty and trust-worthiness. The same goes for doctors. "People go to their doctor not because he's a good businessman . . . but because he's a good advocate, someone we can admire," says Caplan. "If we have to struggle with him to get what we want, we will have no trust anymore."

To regain trust, HMOs need to be more sensitive to the doctor-patient relationship and remove the physician from direct financial interest in patient care, says Caplan. Instead, doctors should have a predetermined budget and be able to advocate for patients without direct personal gain or loss.

Another hot-button issue for HMO members is the fear that a lifesaving experimental procedure will be denied because of its cost. Caplan says the industry should follow the lead of the handful of HMOs that have established outside, independent panels to make final decisions.

Even care providers fear that they "have become somewhat preoccupied with [their] ownership status and consequently have not paid as much attention as [they] should have to improving [their] basic core competencies." (Id.) The specter of money concerns driving the health care system, says a group of Massachusetts physicians and nurses, "threatens to transform healing from a covenant into a business contract. Canons of commerce are displacing dictates of healing, trampling our professions' most sacred values. Market medicine treats patients as profit centers." (For Our Patients, Not for Profits: A Call to Action, JAMA, Dec. 3, 1997, at 1773.) As one professional stated, "It's too bad. We used to spend most of our time worrying about how to do a better job. Now we worry about doing a better job at a lower price." (Id.)

Thousands of American physicians and nurses, outraged by the increasingly "corporate" nature of American medicine, recently staged a reenactment of the Boston Tea Party by symbolically dumping \$1 million each minute into Boston Harbor to dramatize the amount of health care money that is being wasted to pay for HMO marketing, profits, and administrative salaries. See Id.

The shift to profit-driven care is at a gallop. For nurses and physicians, the space for good work in a bad system rapidly narrows. For the public, who are mostly healthy and use little care, awareness of the degradation of medicine builds slowly; it is mainly those who are expensively ill who encounter the dark side of market-driven health care. We criticize market medicine not to obscure or excuse the failings of the past, but to warn that the changes afoot push nursing and medicine farther from caring, fairness, and efficiency.

Another commentator observed that "American 'market theology' is being invoked as an excuse for the downgrading of patient care and the growing absence of compassion in health care." (Bob LeBow, *Nation Needs to Take Control of Health Care System for Patients, not Profits*, Idaho Statesman, Dec. 2, 1997, at 6A.) Instead of providing health care, doctors are forced to "spend many hours persuading health insurance companies that we are not trying to manipulate them into paying more money than Medicare does for kidney transplants." (Gabriel M. Danovitch, et al., *And How the Decisions Are Made*, 331 *New Eng. J. Med.*, at 331-32 (1984).)

In order to minimize health care costs and fatten corporate profits for HMOs, primary care physicians face severe restrictions on referrals and diagnostic tests, and at the same time, must contend with ever-shrinking incomes.

Sixty percent of all managed-care plans, including HMOs and preferred-provider organizations, now pay their primary-care doctors through some sort of "capitation" system, according to the Physician Payment Review Commission in Washington, D.C. That is, rather than simply pay any bill presented to them by your doctor, most HMOs pay their physicians a set amount every month—a fee for including you among their patients. At Chicago's GIA Primary Care Network, for instance, physicians get \$8.43 each month for every male patient . . . and \$10.09 for every female patient. . . . Some HMOs, such as Oxford Health Plans, Cigna and Aetna, have "withhold" systems, in

which a percentage of the doctors's monthly fees are withheld and then reimbursed if they keep their referral rates low enough. Others, like U.S. Healthcare, pay bonuses for low referral rates. (John Protos, *Ten Things Your HMO Won't Tell You*, Inside, June 30, 1997, at 44.)

There is ample evidence that the bottom-line mentality is taking over. HMOs refer to the proportion of premiums they pay out for patient care as their "medical-loss ratio"—a chilling choice of words. The Association of American Medical Colleges reported last November that medical-loss ratios of for-profit HMOs paying a flat fee to doctors for treatment averaged only 70% of their premium revenue. The remaining 30% went for administrative expenses—and profit.

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Along the same lines as its "market forces" argument, the dissent submits that the defendants' plan "encouraged physicians to use resources more efficiently." Although we agree, at least in principle, with the idea that financial incentives may very well bring about a more effective use of plan assets, we certainly are far from confident that it was at work in this particular case. The Carle health plan at issue was not used as efficiently as it should have been. Indeed, the eight-day delay in medical care, and the onset of peritonitis Herdrich incurred as a result of such delay in diagnosis, subjected her to a life threatening illness, a longer period of hospitalization and treatment, more extensive, invasive and dangerous surgery, increased hospitalization costs, and a greater ingestion of prescription drugs.

The dissent also somehow contends that "ERISA tolerates some conflict of interest on the part of fiduciaries," and therefore, "allowing a plan sponsor to designate its own agent as a fiduciary reassures the sponsor that, in devoting its assets to the plan, it has not relinquished all ability to ensure that the plan's resources are used wisely."

* * * * *

A doctor who is responsible for the real-life financial demands of providing for his or her family—sending four children to school (whether it be college, high school or primary school), making house payments, covering office overhead, and paying malpractice insurance—might very well "flinch" at the prospect of obtaining a relatively substantial bonus for himself or herself. Here, the Carle physicians were intimately involved with the financial well-being of the enterprise in that the yearly "kickback" was paid to Carle physicians only if the annual expenditure made by physicians on benefits was less than total plan receipts. According to the complaint, Carle doctors stood to gain financially when they were able to limit treatment and referrals. Due to the dual-loyalties at work, Carle doctors were faced with an incentive to limit costs so as to guarantee a greater kickback.

* * * * *

In summary, we hold that the language of the plaintiff's complaint is sufficient in alleging that the defendant's incentive system depleted plan resources so as to benefit physicians who, coincidentally, administered the Plan, possibly to the detriment of their patients. The ultimate determination of whether the defendants violated their fiduciary obligations to act solely in the interest of the Plan participants and beneficiaries, see 29 U.S.C. §1104(a)(1), must be left to the trial court. On the surface, it does not appear to us that it was in the interest of plan participants for the defendants to deplete the Plan's funds by way of year-end bonus payouts. Based on the record we have before us, we hold that the plaintiff has alleged sufficiently a breach of the defendants' fiduciary duty.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
CULLEN T. GALLAGHER ON HIS
APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Recently, I had the opportunity to nominate Cullen T. Gallagher for an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

I am pleased to announce that Cullen has been offered an appointment and will be attending the Air Force Academy with the incoming cadet class of 2003. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is one of the most rewarding and demanding time periods these young men and women will ever undertake. Our military academies turn these young adults into the finest officers in the world.

Mr. Speaker, Cullen has demonstrated the kind of leadership and dedication needed to enter the Air Force Academy with the class of 2003. While attending Perkins High School in Sandusky, Ohio, Cullen excelled academically attaining a grade point average of 3.795, which ranks him forty-first in his class of one-hundred sixty students. Cullen is a member of the National Honor Society, the Academic Challenge Team, and the Who's Who Among American High School Students. In October, 1998, Cullen was named the Rotary Club's Student of the Month.

In addition, he attended the National Youth Leadership Forum on Law and the Constitution in Washington, D.C., and attended the United States Air Force Academy Summer Scientific Seminar. Outside the classroom, Cullen is the president of the Ski Club, and is a member of the Spanish Club, Drama Club, Marching Band, and Show Choir. On the fields of competition, Cullen is a member of the Perkins High School Varsity Cross Country and Tennis teams.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Cullen T. Gallagher. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Cullen will do very well at the Air Force Academy, and I wish him much success in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO WESTLAKE HILLS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the designation of Westlake Hills Elementary School as a United States Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School.

The Blue Ribbon Award for Educational Excellence recognizes a school's achievement in all facets of academic development including teacher training, student achievement, edu-

cational innovation, and community involvement.

Westlake Hills Elementary School has far transcended the norm in all these areas and has demonstrated its deep commitment to molding well rounded, socially conscious leaders for the 21st century through its outstanding range of programs.

Westlake Hills teachers frequently participate in workshops and conferences on a wide range of educational issues, showing the tremendous value Westlake Hills places on maintaining the high caliber of its faculty and keeping its teachers abreast of new idea in education. These teachers then employ these ideas in the classroom, resulting in projects including a 6th grade "wax museum" and a 1st grade "dinosaur dig." In addition, Westlake Hills recognizes the importance of involving a child's first and most influential teachers in the learning experience, with 75% of Westlake Hills parents logging in an astounding 12,000 hours of volunteer time.

These efforts are reflected in the test scores of the student body, which place Westlake Hills above all the other elementary schools in its district. Westlake Hills has also answered President Clinton's "America Reads Challenge" by forging a partnership with nearby Pepperdine University, in order to ensure that each and every child can read both independently and effectively.

Along with its demonstrated excellence in the classroom, Westlake Hills realizes the importance of extracurricular activities in creating the "total" student. Over 200 children participate in clubs for subjects including drama, physical fitness, and Spanish. A club also exists for computers, making use of the school's technology center.

Westlake Hills believes that their goal in forming the "total" student would also be incomplete without instilling in the students a sense of their responsibilities as members of their local community. They have joined General Colin Powell's "Make a Difference" volunteer program, where the children share their time assisting senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in celebrating the recognition of Westlake Hills Elementary School as a National Blue Ribbon School. It is a prime example of the extremely positive effects which a partnership between all members of a school community can produce. Westlake Hills' approach to public education is a paradigm which all American schools should strive to emulate.

A TRIBUTE TO THE DE JONG
FAMILY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the de Jong family of San Diego County, California. Over the last few years, I have had the privilege of working with Arie de Jong and other members of a family that epitomizes the American success story. The de Jong's are close friends to America, which has given them the opportunity to lead and succeed.

On May 26, the de Jong family celebrated 50 years of American heritage with a reunion

in Poway, California. Since 1948, when Tom de Jong moved to America, the de Jong family has been an important piece of San Diego's community.

I have attached an article from the online edition of the San Diego Union Tribune that explains more family history and this recent celebration.

In addition, I want to extend my personal congratulations on their first 50 years in American history, and wish them health and happiness for the next 50 years.

FAR-FLUNG FAMILY MEETS, MARKS 50 YEARS
IN U.S.

(By John Berhman)

POWAY—The de Jong family is a coming-to-America success story.

Fifty years ago, from their native Holland, the family—a mother, father and 10 children—traveled across the United States to a relative's sparse cattle ranch here. From that beginning, they grew into one of the most successful and well-known families in North County.

The family's Hollandia Dairy in San Marcos in an institution. Family members have spread out all over California and the country, many of them working in the dairy business.

Yesterday, many of them returned to their American roots, celebrating 50 years of being in this country with a family reunion where it all started.

They met at Old Wyoming Picnic Grounds, the family homestead at the end of Old Pomerado Road in south Poway. They gathered around shady oak trees and three stone buildings that served as the family's first homes in this country to reminisce and give thanks.

It is quite an extended family now. From 10 brothers and sisters have come 54 children and nearly 100 grandchildren, most of whom are expected during the reunion. About five family members, mostly cousins, are attending from Holland. Other family members have come from Oregon, Michigan, New Mexico and various parts of California.

"This is wonderful. This is what family and friends are all about. And, this great country. We feel so privileged to be a part of this country," Tom de Jong, at 73 the oldest of the 10 brothers and sisters, said yesterday at the kickoff of the event.

Tom was the first of the family to come to America. That was in 1948, when he took a job working on his uncle Sam Bruinsma's ranch in what is now Poway. Bruinsma was married to Tom's father's twin sister, Tante Jet.

Impressed with America and the opportunities it offered, Tom wrote to his parents, insisting they join him.

The rest of the family did indeed follow the oldest son, arriving in New York on May 26, 1949. This week's reunion—expected to draw more than 200 de Jongs and close friends—marks the 50th anniversary of that event.

"I will never forget that day," Arie de Jong, 60, perhaps the best known of the clan, said yesterday. "The Statue of Liberty and that New York skyline—and coming to America.

"America has been good to us."

Arie, after helping his family start the Hollandia Dairy, became a millionaire in the trash-hauling business. Among the possessions he has acquired are the three stone structures in Poway that his family first lived in.

The reunion, the first of its kind for the family, was Arie's idea.

"It's really for the kids and the grandkids through," he said. "It's to show them where their family started in this country."

Arie has arranged a busy schedule that included a barbecue picnic last night at the old family homestead, a trip to Catalina today and tomorrow, another barbecue and picnic Saturday at nearby Big Stone Lodge, and church on Sunday followed by final farewells.

A TRIBUTE TO H. GAYLON GREENHILL

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished public servant. H. Gaylon Greenhill, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, has decided to retire after 37 years of dedicated service to the institution and our region. Chancellor Greenhill has done so much to advance the cause of higher education in Wisconsin, and it is for his service that I salute him today.

H. Gaylon Greenhill has served in a variety of capacities at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater throughout his tenure. Before being appointed chancellor in 1991, he served as Chairman of the Political Science department, Dean of Summer School and Extension Services, Acting Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, and Vice Chancellor and Dean of Faculties.

Chancellor Greenhill received his Bachelor's degree in Social Studies at University of Wisconsin-River Falls and earned his Master's and Doctorate degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois. He was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Oslo from 1960-61.

During his tenure as chancellor at UW-Whitewater, the university developed and implemented the campus exterior plan, constructed the Irvin L. Young Auditorium, renovated the James R. Connor University Center and Hyer Hall, and made major technological advances such as the construction of a fiber optic computer network, the addition of numerous workstations in computer labs and the complete wiring of the residence halls.

Under Chancellor Greenhill's leadership, UW-Whitewater has been ranked in U.S. News & World Report's top tier of midwestern regional universities for five consecutive years. UW-Whitewater has also recently received accreditation from the North Central Association and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Chancellor Greenhill initiated the Excellence for the 21st Century Campaign to raise \$10 million for scholarships and university betterment. Not only did UW-Whitewater surpass this goal, it did it two years early and had \$2.4 million in excess.

Chancellor Greenhill will retire from UW-Whitewater effective June 30, 1999. I know that I speak for everyone in the UW-Whitewater family when I wish him and his family well as they begin this new and exciting stage in their lives together. Thank you for your service to your community, Chancellor, and thank you for what you have done for the university.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE MAJOR JOHN B. MAHAN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy-heart that I wish to take this moment to recognize the life and career of one of The United States' great men, Major John B. Mahan. Sadly, Major John Mahan died after suffering a stroke in 1995. While his family and friends remember the truly exceptional life of Major Mahan, I, too, would like to pay tribute to this remarkable man.

Major John B. Mahan served proudly in the U.S. Army from 1938 until his retirement in 1961. During that time, he served in North Africa. While in North Africa, Major Mahan was wounded and had to spend months in a state-side hospital to recover. In the Marine Division, Major Mahan served in the Korean War as a liaison officer/transportation officer in some of the war's most intense months.

Later in his life, Major Mahan was stationed at Fort Carson as company commander. In 1957, he was chosen to be the Commandant of Cadets in the R.O.T.C. program for the Denver Public School District. Major Mahan put his all into the R.O.T.C. program, running it until his retirement.

Although his professional accomplishments will long be remembered and admired, most who knew him well remember Major John Mahan, above all else, as a friend. It is clear that he is truly missed, yet his family can take solace in the knowledge that each is a better person for having known Major John Mahan.

ANOTHER REASON WE NEED A RX BENEFIT FOR EVERYONE IN MEDICARE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, a number of us have introduced H.R. 1495, a bill to provide a prescription drug for everyone in Medicare. A provision in that bill requires a system to prevent drug errors and the use of contra-indicated drugs.

Over-prescription and reactions among multiple prescriptions costs Americans billions of dollars a year in illness—and thousands of deaths. If we can reduce those errors, the total health care system can make enormous savings.

A new article in the May/June 1999 issue of the Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association provides another example of why we should improve the quality of drug use among all Medicare beneficiaries. Following is the abstract of Rajender Aparasu's study entitled, "Visits to Office-Based Physicians in the United States for Medication-Related Morbidity."

Objective: To examine the prevalence, nature, demographics, and resource use associated with visits to office-based physicians in the United States during 1995 for medication-related morbidity.

Design: A nationwide cross-sectional survey of ambulatory care visits to physician

offices, based on data from the National Center for Health Statistics' 1995 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Setting: Physician office-based settings in the United States.

Patients: Patients visiting office-based physicians for principal diagnoses of adverse effect of medications (ICD-9-CM E-code 930.00-947.9).

Main Outcome Measures: Weighted measures of prevalence, nature, demographics, and resource use associated with visits related to adverse effects of medications.

Results: An estimated 2.01 million (95% confidence interval, 1.69 to 2.34 million) visits for medication-related morbidity were made to office-based physicians in the United States during 1995, representing an annual rate of 7.70 visits per 1,000 persons. Medication-related visit rates were greater in women, in patients between 65 to 74 years of age, and in the Midwest. The most frequently cited reasons for medication-related visits were skin rash, nausea, and shortness of breath. The therapeutic agents responsible for medication-related visits were most often hormone and synthetic substitutes (13.32%), antibiotics (11.55%), and cardiovascular drugs (9.30%). Medication-related visits most often involved diagnostic services and medication therapy. The majority included instructions for a scheduled follow-up, and fewer than 1% resulted in hospital admission.

Conclusion: Medication-related ambulatory care utilization can pose a significant burden on health care resources unless specific strategies are initiated to control medication-related problems. The provision of pharmaceutical care can play an important role in reducing medication-related problems and associated health care costs.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ELBERT GILL IN CELEBRATION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE OTTAWA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a very special tribute to one of the truly outstanding individuals from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Mr. Elbert Gill. On Monday, May 31, 1999, Elbert Gill will retire from service as Chairman of the Ottawa County Board of Elections.

Elbert Gill has certainly been a valuable asset to the Ottawa County Board of Elections. Since joining the Board of Elections in March 1989, Mr. Gill has worked diligently to serve the voters of Ottawa County in every manner possible. Whether it is his generosity in taking the staff to meetings or assisting with trouble-shooting on election night, Elbert Gill has given unselfishly of his time and helped make Ottawa County one of the best Boards of Elections in the state of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Elbert Gill embodies the very spirit of American workmanship through his conscientious attention to detail. In his job as Chairman of the Ottawa County Board of Elections, Mr. Gill has epitomized the word that best describes him—service. Although he is retiring after ten years on the board, his hard work, commitment, and dedication to the citizens of Ottawa County will continue long into the future.

Mr. Speaker, it has often been said that America succeeds due to the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of her citizens. It is very evident that Elbert Gill has given freely of his time and energy to assist in the preservation of American ideals. Our electoral process is the backbone of our nation, and those individuals, like Elbert Gill, who work hard to make that system free and democratic are true American patriots.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Elbert Gill. On the occasion of his retirement as Chairman of the Ottawa County Board of Elections, we thank him for his service and we wish him all the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE FOR
HOMICIDE VICTIMS

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Justice for Homicide Victims. The Board of Directors of the California Center for Family Survivors of Homicide, which includes its action arm, Justice for Homicide Victims has been a constant advocate for victims rights.

Today, we honor those who make it possible to help create a working environment with legislators so victims and their survivors may attain equal rights. Marcella Leach, Executive Director of JHV, is one of the many dedicated individuals who help to make the public and legislators alike aware of the need for victims rights.

Justice for Homicide Victims was founded in 1984 by Ellen Griffin Dunne. The first goal of JHV was to establish a public perception that those who commit serious or malicious crimes should be punished accordingly.

JHV has been working tirelessly to effect legislative change. As a result, JHV helped implement a newly passed Victims Bill of Rights. In addition to support services through their hotline and at murder trials, JHV cooperates with the District Attorney's office on a regular basis which results in positive relationship and spreads JHV's goals and objectives.

JHV has worked for many years to educate and inform legislators on many aspects of the law. This year, JHV was honored to be the most organization for the Governor's Crime Summit and their efforts helped in the passage of legislation that was previously thought to be unattainable.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in celebrating the success of the California Center for Family Survivors of Homicide and Justice for Homicide Victims.

LEGISLATION HONORING FALLEN
FIREFIGHTERS

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution honoring fire-

fighters throughout our nation that have died in the line of duty. It is appropriate that the Congress pay its respect to these individuals.

Just last week, the District of Columbia lost two brave and dedicated public servants. Firefighter Anthony Phillips died while fighting a fire at a DC town house. Firefighter Louis Matthews died days later from burns sustained while fighting the same blaze.

There are over 1.1 million firefighters on active duty everyday in the United States, and over the last 10 years, we have lost 1,109 of these courageous individuals to circumstances associated with doing their job.

Almost a month ago, the National Fire Protection Agency announced that 91 firefighters died in the line of duty during the year 1998. That is the lowest number of deaths in the last 10 years, and one of the lowest totals on record. While we are pleased to see the number of deaths decrease, clearly all Americans look forward to the day when we don't lose a single firefighter.

These brave individuals, many of whom serve as volunteers without compensation, risk their lives daily to insure that we can exit safely from our homes when they catch fire and provide life-saving care when we are injured in an accident. It is for these reasons that we honor these courageous individuals.

I trust my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, both in the District I serve, and all across the nation.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE STAFF
SERGEANT ALVIN W. PLASTER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a man who exemplified courage and determination, Staff Sergeant Alvin W. Plaster. Tragically, Alvin Plaster died in 1996 after a long battle with a grave illness. While family and friends remember the truly exceptional life of Staff Sergeant Alvin W. Plaster, I, too, would like to pay tribute to this remarkable man.

Persistence and dedication displayed on the part of Alvin Plaster is what got him into the Army. Failing the physical examination twice, he convinced an Army physician to bend the rules slightly and let him enlist. From 1942 to 1945, Alvin Plaster was Staff Sergeant in the Quartermaster Corps. He served with integrity, enthusiasm, and most of all, pride.

Individuals such as Alvin Plaster, who contribute selflessly, are a rare breed. Though his family and friends no doubt mourn his absence, they have all gained immensely through knowing Alvin W. Plaster.

CHILD SAFETY AND YOUTH
VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, today, the House Judiciary Committee will introduce legislation

designed to help fight the scourge of violence among young people. Included in this bill is a proposal I authored with my colleague ROD BLAGOJEVICH of Illinois.

Our plan, HR 1717, known as the Violent Youth Offender Accountability Act, will prohibit violent juvenile felons from ever purchasing a firearm. Under current law, many states permit juveniles who have been convicted of violent felonies to have their criminal records expunged upon reaching age 18. As a result, it is perfectly legal for a juvenile with a record as a violent felon to legally purchase a deadly weapon. Mr. Speaker, this is wrong.

As many of my colleagues know, I spent nearly a dozen years as a criminal trial court judge and gang murder prosecutor. Some of the most serious crimes I have seen were committed by juveniles. We need to ensure that our streets are kept safe, and that young people learn how serious committing a violent crime can be. One of the surest ways to meet this goal is by keeping firearms out of the hands of serious criminals of any age.

We must also take steps to ensure that the law applies equally to all Americans. The Juvenile Justice bill includes a key provision of our bill which will apply the same standard to juveniles as to adults who have committed serious felonies. Crimes that are considered "serious violent felonies" and would disqualify an adult from legally purchasing a firearm must also apply to juveniles. Under current federal law, these crimes include: murder, rape, manslaughter, robbery, extortion, arson and similar severe crimes.

Mr. Speaker, we need to keep guns out of the hands of violent criminals. I am proud that my colleague ROD BLAGOJEVICH and I have reached across party lines to stand for what is right: protecting our nation's youth. Later this week, the Judiciary Committee will mark up legislation incorporating our proposals and a number of key measures to ensure that the same goal is met. We must not cease in our efforts to ensure safe, effective schools and communities our children deserve nothing less.

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION NO. 8:
SETTING THE GOAL OF MOVING
TO A SINGLE, UNITED P.P.S.
SYSTEM FOR POST-CARE HOSPITAL SERVICES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as part of a series of bills to provide for the modernization of Medicare, I am today introducing a bill to set the goal that by the year 2010 Medicare develop and use a single, united prospective payment system for post-acute hospital services.

Currently, payment for post-acute care is a Tower of Babel, with different PPS and non-PPS systems used depending on whether one goes to a non-PPS hospital, a skilled nursing home, a home health agency, or some other form of therapy. The different payment rates and systems greatly increase Medicare's complexity and makes the system vulnerable to 'gaming'—the placement of a patient where the provider will get the most money, not where the patient will get the best care.

The Congressional advisory commission MedPAC, and other health experts, have long warned that the proliferation of payment systems makes it evermore difficult for us to know what we are buying and how well patients are being treated.

But moving to a single, unified, and simpler system is not easy. In many areas, the data or basic research is not available. Therefore, my bill sets out a long-term goal for Medicare to move in this direction. I hope that HCFA can develop these simplifications and cross-comparisons sooner, but if not, the bill sets a 'hammer' of requiring the provider communities and HCFA to come together to achieve this goal by the end of the next decade.

In the long run, this effort should yield savings and improve quality measurement. My introduction of this bill is a signal that this is the direction we should be moving.

Following are some quotes from the March 1999 MedPAC report to Congress on why this worky issue is also an important issue:

To guide the development of consistent payment policies across post-acute care settings, MedPAC recommends that common data elements be collected to help identify and quantify the overlap of patients treated and services provided. Further, it is important to put in place quality monitoring systems in each setting to ensure that adequate care is provided in the appropriate site. We also support research and demonstrations to assess the potential of alternative patient classification systems for use across settings to make payments for like services more comparable. . .

A lack of readily available data on patient function and health status limits the ability to identify where differences and overlaps in patients occur and to compare costs and payments across provider types. In particular, policymakers are concerned that payment policies may furnish incentives for providers to place patients in settings for financial, rather than for clinical reasons. A core set of common data about patients in all post-acute care settings will improve considerably the ability to monitor and make policy decisions about post-acute care.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE
LATE MAJ. GEN. WALTER A.
CHURCHILL (RET.), U.S. MARINE
CORPS, FOR HIS DEDICATED
SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding individual from the state of Ohio, the late Major General Walter A. Churchill (ret.), United States Marine Corps. On Monday, June 7, 1999, a special celebration will take place in Toledo, Ohio to honor the outstanding life and military career of General Churchill.

Mr. Speaker, Walter Augustus Churchill, Sr. was born on November 12, 1903. At the age of 19, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and began a distinguished military career culminating with the rank of Major General in 1962. General Churchill retired from the United States Marine Corps on December 1, 1963, after a remarkable 41 years and 8 days of service to his country.

During his career in the Marine Corps, General Churchill served the United States proudly around the world at Guantanamo Bay, Iceland, Guam, Guadalcanal, and other areas of the Pacific theater in World War II. While serving in World War II, General Churchill was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for Valor and a Gold Star as Commander of the Fifth Field Service Command, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

After his military career, General Churchill was instrumental in forming the United States Marines Youth Foundation, whose goal is to keep children free from the dangers of drugs and substance abuse. General Churchill was also the Chairman of the Board and CEO of Churchill Supermarkets, Inc., the family business of five supermarkets. His tireless dedication and innovation helped propel General Churchill's standing in the business community.

Always the community activist, General Churchill was a member of the Toledo City Council and was Chairman of the Toledo Republican Executive and Central Committees. He was a member of the Toledo Rotary Club, National Association of Grocers, Ohio Automobile Association, and many more. Among others, General Churchill was recognized as "Marine of the Year," "Grocer of the Year," and, in 1992, he received the President's Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying tribute to the late Major General Walter A. Churchill. For his unwavering service above and beyond the call of duty, we owe him our most gracious thanks.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID AND ELAINE
GILL

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elaine and David Gill for their almost fifty years of leadership and devotion to the Brandeis-Bardin Institute and the Los Angeles Jewish community.

Since they first attended the Brandeis Collegiate Institute in the 1950s, Elaine and David have forged a warm, longstanding relationship with the Brandeis-Bardin Institute as a whole. Both of them have served on the Board and David is a member of the Executive Committee. Elaine has served as chair of the Alonim Committee, the Women of Brandeis-Bardin, and as co-chair of the Brandeis-Bardin Associates. The Gills have recognized the important role that BBI plays in enhancing the spiritual life of Jews of all ages and levels of observance, and they have committed their time and energy to ensuring the Institute's continued success and development.

The Gills' relationship with the Brandeis-Bardin Institute exists on the personal level as well. All four of their sons have attended Camp Alonim, the youth resident summer camp held on the grounds of the Institute. Between 1971 and 1994, at least one of their sons was involved with the camp either as a camper or a staff member. In fact, both of the couple's married sons met their wives at Alonim. A third generation of Gills, grandsons Jasper, Jonah, and Micah, are all future campers.

In addition to all their efforts on behalf of Brandeis-Bardin, Elaine and David have found time to volunteer with several other Jewish organizations, showing that their dedication to the local Jewish community extends far beyond the tree-lined gates of the institute.

At Valley Beth Shalom, one of the largest Conservative synagogues in the San Fernando Valley, the Gills have both been active members. They have served as pararabbinic counselors and they have been instrumental in developing the synagogue's havurah program, which brings together families with similar interests for social and religious fellowship. David has been chairman of the Board and has led two building fund campaigns. Elaine is currently Religious Vice President.

The Gills have also devoted an extraordinary amount of time to the Los Angeles Jewish Federation which offers a wide range of activities and services to individuals throughout Los Angeles. Together, David and Elaine have led several missions to Israel and they have each chaired committees too numerous to mention.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Elaine and David Gill's outstanding work with the Brandeis-Bardin Institute and the Los Angeles Jewish community. They are the true embodiment of the concept that "all Israel are responsible for one another."

MILITARY HOME OF RECORD ACT
OF 1999; LEGISLATION TO CLARIFY
THE "HOME OF RECORD"
FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR
THE PURPOSE OF THE 2000 CEN-
SUS.

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to introduce legislation that I feel is essential to achieving an accurate count in Census 2000.

Military personnel are a unique group because they often pay taxes and vote in a state in which they are stationed; therefore, it is difficult to clearly define their actual residence. Most would not be residing in the place they have been stationed were it not for their military service. Many have family in another state.

My bill will provide clarity by ensuring that military personnel are allocated to their "Home of Record." This will ensure that federal funding and redistricting are based on an accurate count of the population.

Currently, the Census Bureau plans to use "Home of Record" data for counting military personnel who are stationed overseas in Census 2000. This bill requires the Census Bureau to work in partnership with the Department of Defense to count military personnel who have been stationed in the United States as well.

This bill is not a radical shift in policy for the Census. In the 1990 Census as well as in the 1970 Census the Department of Commerce utilized "home of record" data. In 1992, the Supreme Court stated that the Secretary of the Department of Commerce was acting within the law when he used "home of record"

data from the personnel files to count military personnel in the 1990 Census.

I am not seeking to uproot years of tradition here today; I am merely fighting to ensure that the Census is done in a fair and equitable manner, accounting for all U.S. citizens in their proper home. These men and women have claimed a state to be their "home"—why shouldn't we honor that claim. There are many states that, merely based on location, have been chosen to house military personnel. Counting military personnel as residents of these states when they are voting and paying taxes elsewhere simply does not make sense.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE DR.
THEODORE MILLER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I wish to take this moment to recognize the remarkable life and significant achievements of one of Pueblo, Colorado's treasured pediatric physicians. Tragically, Dr. Theodore Miller died after a long battle with prostate cancer. While his family and friends remember the truly exceptional life of Dr. Theodore, I, too, would like to pay tribute to this remarkable man.

As a pediatrician in Pueblo, Colorado, for forty years, Dr. Miller's bedside manner was the best around. According to former patients and colleagues, Dr. Miller was the kind of man who took time for the children to get them directly involved with their diagnosis and recovery. Dr. Miller's love for his work was evident through his dedication to his partner, and his patients.

Dr. Theodore Miller served in the medical corps in World War II, and moved to Pueblo Colorado soon after. He graduated from Northwestern Medical School in 1945 and started his partnership in 1951. After forty years of serving the community of Pueblo, Dr. Miller retired in 1991. He was a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Colorado State Medical Society. Dr. Miller also served on the American Board of Pediatrics, and was once president of the Pueblo County Medical Society.

Although his professional accomplishments will long be remembered and admired, most who knew him well remember Dr. Miller, above all else, as a friend. It is clear that the multitude of those who have come to know him, mourn his absence. However, Mr. Speaker, I am confident that, in spite of this profound loss, the family and friends of Dr. Theodore Miller can take solace in the knowledge that each is a better person for having known him.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF RUTH
SQUIRES

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 36th year of service for a teacher in my

district. Sadly, as students and parents in La Crescenta, CA, would agree, it also marks the end of her distinguished career in education. To honor this service to our youth and to our Nation, I ask my colleagues here today to join me in saluting Ruth Squires.

Ruth's career in teaching would carry her from coast to coast. She began her career in New York State, earning a degree at the State University Teachers' College in Cortland. Eventually finding her way to California, Ruth joined the faculty at Rosemont Middle School in La Crescenta in 1963. She immediately became actively involved in both community and school events. She is best known for her leadership in the school's production on the United States Constitution. This community event is Ruth's trademark, bring to life the two-hundred year old document that is the foundation of our government.

In her 36 years at Rosemont, Ruth has taught history, social science and economics, and served as a mentor for her peers. Currently, she is the chair of the history and social science department. And her leadership has not gone unnoticed. In 1988, she was awarded the prestigious Masonic Award, and in 1993, received the John Del Monte Award for her service to campus and community. Ruth is also recognized by "Who's Who, American University and Colleges Edition."

Mr. Speaker, too often, the service of those who mean the most goes unnoticed. Although another school year has come to an end, we must not let it pass without recognizing the service of the men and women in education who have unconditionally served our youth. Ruth Squires is one of these patriots.

For her three decades of service to the families of California's 27th Congressional District, and for her distinguished work in the La Crescenta community, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of Ruth Squires.

TRIBUTE TO THE REPUBLIC OF
CROATIA FOR CELEBRATING THE
NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS
INDEPENDENCE ON MAY 30, 1999,
AND FOR OPENING A NEW CON-
SULATE GENERAL IN CHICAGO
ON APRIL 8, 1999

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Republic of Croatia for celebrating the 9th anniversary of its independence on May 30, 1999, and for opening a new Consulate General in Chicago on April 8, 1999.

I am proud, and especially proud today, to be one of the more than 2 million people of Croatian descent living in the United States who have maintained their links with Croatia. Croatian Americans arrived in the United States with little except for the belief in the "American Dream" and a perseverance to succeed and watch their children excel. Since they first arrived in large numbers in the United States more than one hundred years ago, Croatian Americans have done well in all aspects of American historical, socio-cultural and political life. Their sons and daughters

have grown up to be doctors, lawyers and other professionals who have served the country which welcomed their ancestors with open arms.

Croatia is a country rich in history, culture and beauty. Its people have a special appreciation for the United States and Americans. A Croatian poet, Antun Gustav Matos, wrote in 1906 that "America is presently the most important factor in the creation of Croatian democracy, the best school of Croatian vitality." Today these words are even more meaningful than they were in 1906.

We all remember Croatia's lengthy war for independence that made headlines worldwide in the early part of this decade. We celebrated when Croatia finally broke from the Serbian-dominated Yugoslavia in 1991, after such great loss of human life, to become its own independent country. Today, we stand with the Croatians to pay tribute to their courage and perseverance. We pay tribute to Croatia's fully functioning, democratic political structure, and its commitment to further economic development.

I also want to pay tribute to the Republic of Croatia's opening of a new Consulate General in Chicago on April 8, 1999. The three-day series of events entitled Croatia in Chicago was the largest gathering ever of the Croatian community in the U.S. and it demonstrated that the partnership between Croatia and the U.S. is constantly being strengthened. One particularly special event was a Gala Dinner organized by the Croatian community in Chicago. There were 1,400 guests in attendance and the revenues of the dinner went to benefit the children's hospitals in Croatia.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the remarks of Ambassador Robert Gelbard at the Croatia in Chicago event. Mr. Gelbard said "As our trade and business ties grow so must Croatia's integration into the full range of Western and Euro-Atlantic institutions." I believe we must do all we can to help Croatia achieve these goals, and we must continue to reinforce to the Croatian people that our goal is a full partnership with Croatia. Finally, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Republic of Croatia for celebrating the ninth anniversary of its independence and for opening a new Consulate General in Chicago.

THE POTOMAC—AN ENDANGERED
RIVER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and District of Columbia Appropriations Subcommittee, I am deeply concerned about the environment in and around our nation's capital.

Two years ago the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus held a monthly informational briefing on fishing in the Washington, D.C. area. Following that briefing I submitted for the record an article written by Charles Verharen, a Professor at Howard University and avid local fisherman, that highlighted threats to the Potomac River fishery.

At the request of local fishermen, a study on the impact of sediment discharge on anadromous fish was initiated by the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service (FWS), with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Interstate Commission for the Potomac River Basin, the District of Columbia Fish and Wildlife, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The report concludes that this sediment discharge is causing a significant adverse impact to anadromous fish during the spawning season.

I have attached another article by Charles Verharen that describes the impact of this environmental problem. In addition, I have enclosed the summary of recommendations from the Fish and Wildlife Service report to update my colleagues on the problems facing the Potomac River environment.***HD***JOE FLETCHER'S FISH STORY

(By Charles Verharen)

Joe Fletcher is tempted to cry over his beloved river. And a recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report claims he has good reason.

Joe and his family have rented fishing boats on the Potomac at Fletcher's Boat House for three generations. One of Joe's favorite stories—not about a fisherman but a ferry passenger—shows why he's sad.

Joe's story starts in colonial times when the Potomac was one of the greatest fisheries in the world. George Washington owned highly profitable commercial fishing rights on the Potomac near Mount Vernon. The king of all fish in the Potomac was the sturgeon, ranging up to ten feet in length and weighing over four hundred pounds. Potomac caviar was a delicacy prized around the world.

In colonial Washington, the only way across the Potomac was by ferry. One time a sturgeon leaped out of the water and landed on a Georgetown passenger sitting in a small ferry's stern. The fish was so huge that it crushed the man's hip and he died from the injury several weeks later.

Joe's doubly sad when he tells this story—sad about the passenger and sad that sturgeon leap out of the Potomac no more. But now Joe's got something else to be sad about. He fears that the sturgeon's fate threatens rockfish (striped bass) and shad, abundant at Fletcher's Cove even in times when the Potomac was one of the most polluted rivers in America.

Ironically, Joe blames this new threat of extinction on pure water. The Washington Aqueduct drinking water treatment plant discharges the equivalent of up to twenty five dump-truck loads of aluminum and copper sulfates and other waste material into the Potomac above Chain Bridge every day as a by-product of its water purifying process.

Joe fears the chemicals are damaging the spawn and fry—as well as fishing. "Every time the water treatment plant dumps a big load into the river," Joe claims, "the fish just stop biting."

Joe can't imagine Washingtonians would sit still if they saw twenty five trucks parked on Key Bridge dumping waste into the Potomac. And twenty five trucks a day adds up to over nine thousand trucks a year. "How many times would nine thousand trucks go around the Beltway?", Joe wonders.

A recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report on the Washington Aqueduct confirms Joe's fears. Prepared by Fish and Wildlife's Chesapeake Bay field office and a panel of area-wide fisheries biologists, the report advocates eliminating all Washington Aqueduct waste discharges into the Potomac, one of fourteen American Heritage Rivers targeted for "environmental, economic, and social restoration projects."

Surprisingly, the panel claims shortnose sturgeon have been found in the lower and

middle Potomac, and Aqueduct waste discharge points are potential spawning habitats for sturgeon. The panel's report asks the Environmental Protection Agency to investigate the Aqueduct's potential threat to a sturgeon comeback.

The EPA gives the Washington Aqueduct a permit to discharge its waste. Long past its expiration date, the permit has been "administratively extended." The EPA won't renew the permit in its present form because the Army Corps of Engineers which operates the Washington Aqueduct isn't doing everything it can to clean up its waste.

The Corps could truck the waste to disposal sites but a citizens group that calls itself "CRUDD" (Committee for Responsible Urban Disposal at Dalecarlia, the old name for the Aqueduct) doesn't want the trucks threatening their children's safety and their Palisade neighborhood's clean air.

The waste could be pumped to Washington's Blue Plains waste water treatment plant through existing sewer lines, but the Washington Aqueduct would have to pay for using the lines and enlarging Blue Plains treatment capacity. The local governments that buy clean water from the Aqueduct don't feel that Washington area residents want to pay extra taxes to stop the Potomac pollution.

Those same customers want to save money by paying chicken farmers and other polluters upstream to stop their discharge. The EPA allows polluters to buy and sell pollution rights from one another. But that kind of exchange wouldn't save the fish.

Joe Fletcher thinks that if Washingtonians knew how dirty their clean drinking water makes the Potomac, they might want to pay a little extra so the shad and the rockfish have a chance to make a comeback. Joe even dreams about the day he might see a sturgeon breaking the water close to his boat—but not too close!

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Annapolis, MD, March 2, 1999.

Re: Washington Aqueduct Report.

MS. PATRICIA GLEASON,
U.S. EPA, Region III,
Water Protection Division,
Philadelphia, PA.

MS. GLEASON: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Interstate Commission for the Potomac River Basin, District of Columbia Fish and Wildlife, and National Marine Fisheries Service have completed a report on the sediment discharges from the Washington Aqueduct, Washington, D.C. The enclosed report concludes that significant adverse impacts to anadromous fish during the spawning season could occur from the sediment discharges. The report entitled, "Washington Aqueduct Sediment Discharges Report of Panel Recommendations" includes recommendations to the Aqueduct Administrators on how to minimize the impacts during the spawning season.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information relevant to fish and wildlife resources. If you have any questions on this report, please contact David W. Sutherland at (410) 573-4535 or DavidXSutherland@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

ROBERT J. PENNINGTON,
ACTING SUPERVISOR,
Chesapeake Bay Field Office.

Enclosure.

WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT SEDIMENT
DISCHARGES

REPORT OF PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS
Fisheries Panel Summary of
Recommendations, March 1999

A panel of fisheries biologists from the District of Columbia, State of Maryland, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was convened to provide recommendations on minimizing impacts to migratory fish from sediment discharges at the Washington Aqueduct. The fisheries panel provides these recommendations to the administrators at the Washington Aqueduct in an effort to advance the anadromous (and resident) fish restoration efforts in the Potomac River. By minimizing the adverse effects to water quality from sediment discharges at the Dalecarlia and Georgetown settling basins, fisheries resource managers have a better chance at achieving fish and habitat restoration goals for the Potomac River.

1. The goal is to eliminate sediment discharges to the Potomac River. If sediment discharges are absolutely necessary, the panel recommends eliminating the flocculent/sediment discharges from February 15 to June 15, to avoid the early and late spawning activities of migratory fish.

2. Mix the flocculent/sediments with raw river water in the settling basins to produce an effluent, that when discharged to the river, reduces the adverse impacts of concentrated sediments on migratory fish.

3. Slow the rate of flocculent/sediment discharge to the river to a minimum of 72 hours per basin. We recommend that the ratio of discharge to river flow be less than 0.1%. This will also reduce the adverse impacts to migratory fish from concentrated sediments entering the river.

4. Monitor water quality daily at the discharge sites to identify a time when water quality conditions are least sensitive to sediment discharges in the river. The water quality monitoring parameters include: pH, temperature, alkalinity, and conductivity.

5. Remove rocks from the Dalecarlia outfall to ensure controlled and measurable sediment discharge rates, and establish outfall maintenance and discharge monitoring plans to promote safe operation and predictable discharge rates.

6. Create a panel of stakeholders to assist the Washington Aqueduct with issues relating to the Potomac River ecosystem. These entities could include citizen coalition, local, state, interstate, and federal representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF MEDICARE
MODERNIZATION NO. 7: "MEDI-
CARE CLINICAL PRACTICE PAT-
TERNS ACT OF 1999"

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the seventh bill in my Medicare modernization series: the "Medicare Clinical Practice Patterns Act of 1999." This bill would give the Secretary the authority to document patterns of clinical practice in the Medicare program, determine the effectiveness of treatment, and bring medicare policy in line with that of the private sector. If implemented, the "Clinical Practice Patterns Act" would help to standardize the delivery of health services

within Medicare, thereby improving the quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries and achieving savings for the program overall.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 1544, the "Patient Empowerment Act of 1999." The "Patient Empowerment Act" was the first step toward eliminating the wide variation in treatment patterns across the U.S., as identified by Dr. John Wennberg in the Dartmouth Atlas. The "Clinical Practice Patterns Act" builds on this theme by developing evidence-based clinical guidelines to assist providers in treating various illness.

Mr. Speaker, there are literally millions of doctors, nurses, and health administrators working in thousands of different hospitals, all trained at different schools in different communities, who provide care to the 39 million elderly, disabled, and ESRD patients covered by Medicare. With all of these elements interacting together, it's no wonder that we have such wide variation in treatment patterns across the United States.

Medicare is a combination of both art and science. For most treatments, there are no empirical data on clinical effectiveness that suggest one method is better than another. In these cases, providers use their "best guess" to make treatment decisions—relying on their individual knowledge, preferences, and the resources available to them. This "art" of medicine exacerbates the variation in treatment patterns, and Medicare expenditures, across the U.S.

Yet, as Wennberg notes, there is virtually no difference in health outcomes between low and high spending areas. If less expensive treatments are available, why aren't we prescribing them more readily? By collecting and distributing data on clinical effectiveness, and encouraging providers to use treatment guidelines, we may be able to minimize practice variation. We simultaneously may be able to achieve substantial savings for Medicare.

Following is a portion of an interview from the May/June 1999 issue of Health Affairs by Princeton professor Uwe Reinhardt with HHS Secretary Donna Shalala discussing how Medicare's financial problems would be greatly reduced if the variation in clinical practices were minimized:

REINHARDT. "Count on me to be a real thorn in the side of the status quo, then, because I believe that if everyone in America could consume medical care while spending at rates similar to those of Minnesota, Oregon, and Wisconsin, providing health care to the aging baby-boom generation would be a piece of cake, wouldn't it?"

SHALALA. "Absolutely, and the doctors would feel as though the system were fairer. But once the infrastructure is built and physicians get comfortable with consuming a certain level of resources, it's very difficult to work your way out unless you buy yourself out, as we have attempted to do with the downsizing of medical residency positions through HCFA's New York demonstration."

Clinical practice guidelines are being used more and more throughout the private sector to improve the quality of health care as well as to increase the efficiency of the health industry. This practice does not in any way diminish the art of medicine, it only improves the science behind treatment decisions.

Medicare is a natural candidate for clinical practice guidelines. With an outstanding database of information on beneficiaries across the country, and the resources of the NIH and

AHCPR at hand, Medicare could effectively implement a program to improve clinical effectiveness and achieve savings through efficiency.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM S. HEFRON ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that William S. Hebron, of Amherst, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Mr. Speaker, Bill as accepted his offer of appointment and will be attending West Point this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2003. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

While attending Lorain Catholic High School, Bill has attained a grade point average of 4.062 on a 4.3 scale, which places him third in his class of sixty-six students. Bill's scholastic honors include the Lorain Catholic Honor Roll and National Honor Society. Bill is also taking several AP classes to further his outstanding academic achievements.

Outside of the classroom, Bill has distinguished himself as an outstanding student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Bill is a Varsity letter winner in cross country, track, football, and basketball. During his Junior season, Bill was captain of the cross country team, Most Valuable Runner, and a school record holder. In track, Bill won the 800 meters at the District Track & Field Meet, and placed fifth in Regional competition. And currently, Bill is the Secretary of the Senior Class.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to William S. Hebron. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Bill will do very well during his career at West Point, and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE KEITH CLARK

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I would like to take this moment to honor the remarkable life and exceptional achievements of a great Coloradan and American, Keith Clark. In doing so, I wish to pay tribute to Keith for all of his many years of service and sacrifice on behalf of this nation. At the same time, I would also like to

offer my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Keith as they grieve at his passing. Like those who knew him well, the entire Grand Junction community will miss both Keith and his tireless service on their behalf.

For 29 years in Grand Junction, Colorado's School District 51, Keith was a pillar of education who served with great distinction, both as a teacher and as an advocate for improving our schools. Keith was, for nearly three decades, a powerful voice of leadership and vision for education in the Grand Valley. It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that his leadership in education will continue to benefit students in our school system for many years to come. I know that this is a legacy that Mr. Clark would take great pride in.

In addition to his service as an educator, Keith also served his country with great valor as a B-52 pilot during World War II. Mr. Clark flew and fought bravely over the skies of North Africa and Italy in defense of the nation he loved deeply.

At one might surmise from his sustained service and selfless sacrifice, Keith was also a fierce patriot and proud American. He believed deeply in our constitutional form of government and in the bedrock principles—like freedom, liberty, and individual self-determination—upon which this great republic stands.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Mr. Keith Clark for his decades of service, both in defense of our country as an airman and in defense of our future as an educator. He was truly a great American.

At the same time, I would also like to offer my heart-felt condolences to Keith's family: his wife of 52 years Anita, his children Katie and Cal, and his three granddaughters Amber, Lily and Hillary. I hope that these family members, like everyone who has had the good-fortune of knowing Keith, will take solace in the undisputable fact that they are a better person for having known him.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF JOAN KELLY

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, none of us here today would have found success without the help and guidance of a teacher. As students, we were all influenced by those who commit their lives to the service of others. Too often, this service goes unnoticed. Today, I would like to salute the service of a teacher who has dedicated over a decade of her career to the students in my district.

Joan Kelly has taught in La Crescenta, California for 11 years. However, her work as a teacher began long before her move to my district. Throughout her life, Joan has committed herself to serving the needs of students and the needs of the community.

Joan is a native of Brooklyn, New York. A graduate of Fordham University, she taught elementary school and worked extensively in the New York area. Her work with students and parents led her to develop a counseling program in Yonkers, New York. This program is a shining example of her relentless pursuit of innovative and creative ways to reach students.

Joan joined the faculty at Rosemont Middle School in the Spring of 1987. Her efforts as a math, history, and English teacher and school administrator contributed to Rosemont being recognized as a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and a California Distinguished School.

In her years of service at Rosemont Middle School, Joan has proven herself to be a leader. She is often called on by colleagues to direct teacher in-service programs, passing on to her peers a lifetime of knowledge about education. Further, she has instilled in teachers the skills to help students be the best they can be. In 1993, she was awarded the prestigious Masonic Award for her service.

Mr. Speaker, the strength of our nation tomorrow depends on the quality of the education our youth receive today. And one need look no further than the roster of Joan's former students to see the leaders of tomorrow. For her service to our nation, and for her commitment to public education, I ask my colleagues here today to join me in recognizing Joan Kelly.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I missed three votes last night, rollcall Numbers 167, 168 and 169. These votes were missed due to a canceled airline flight. On these votes, I would have voted "aye".

TRIBUTE TO DR. AUGUSTO ORTIZ AND MARTHA ORTIZ

HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Augusto Ortiz and his wife Martha, who have for half a century provided medical and clinical services to the Spanish-speaking population of Arizona. I wish to recognize their selflessness and commitment to the health and welfare of their fellow Americans.

During the past year in particular, we have witnessed many discussions about the role that Puerto Rican-Americans play in the mainstream United States. Some have questioned our right to equality as Americans because of our language and our culture, but I want to assure you that the patriotic and law abiding citizens of Puerto Rico have distinguished themselves in all facets of life in the United States, be it in defense of our nation, as community leaders, as athletes, professionals, scientists or as performing artists, making numerous contributions to our great nation. Our language and culture have enhanced and enriched our national culture, contributing to the service and understanding of our fellow citizens throughout the United States.

The merging of our cultures is especially evident in the life of Dr. and Mrs. Ortiz. Their lifelong commitment to Arizona is enhanced by the fact that Dr. Ortiz is a Puerto Rican-American

who together with his wife have dedicated their lives to the service of their fellow human beings. Thousands of Arizonans feel deep gratitude for Ortiz' commitment to their health and lives.

How is it that this "Jibaro Puertorriqueño" came to lead his life in the desert? While a boy in Puerto Rico, Dr. Ortiz dreamt of helping others. His parents encouraged his love of learning and dedication to the public service. After graduating from medical school at the University of Illinois in 1945, he joined the military and served as a physician at several posts throughout the country. In the early 1950's, while stationed at Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix, Arizona, Dr. Ortiz volunteered to assist Dr. Carlos Graeth to provide medical services to the 80,000 Hispanics in Maricopa County. They were the only two Spanish speaking doctors in the County.

Dr. Ortiz became a champion for the rights of those he served. His involvement in improving human needs and access to medical care, better education, housing and jobs led him to become politically active and an ally for people who lacked a voice, particularly farm workers. He worked to improve field sanitation conditions and was instrumental in enacting state laws to regulate the use of pesticides.

Martha Ortiz was the organizational brains of this effort. She served as the full time administrator, personnel director and business manager of the office mostly as a volunteer, because she refused to accept payment for her services. She ably handled the many "pay what you can" patient alternatives that enabled the medical practice to continue to make health services available and affordable to low income and indigent residents of Arizona.

Since 1972, Dr. Ortiz has headed the University of Arizona Rural Health Office and has successfully directed more efficient health services including prevention-focused health campaigns, mobile clinics and community health boards. He is a living model to aspiring doctors and others in the health professions.

During their 50 year commitment to their fellow man and woman, Dr. and Mrs. Ortiz have been awarded many rightfully deserved honors and recognitions at the community, state and national levels.

As a fellow Puerto Rican-American, as a fellow Hispanic and as a fellow American, I am pleased and proud to recognize the achievements of this couple who have made a difference in the lives of thousands. Dr. Ortiz deserves our deepest gratitude and the nation's recognition. I ask my colleagues in Congress to join with me in saluting and honoring, Dr. Augusto Ortiz and his wife Martha Ortiz.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROBERT M. "BOB" ROSE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Robert M. "Bob" Rose was honored with the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities during the 1999 academic convocation at Missouri Valley College on Sunday, May 16, 1999.

Mr. Rose is a graduate of Marshall High School in Marshall, Missouri. He also earned

a degree from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., a Master of Arts degree in English Literature from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Arts degree in International Affairs from The George Washington University and is a graduate of both the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

In 1949, Mr. Rose was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and he remained a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army until 1971. His overseas service included Germany from 1950 to 1953, Korea from 1960 to 1961, another tour in Germany from 1965 to 1967 and Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. His service time in the United States was divided among Fort Knox, Ky., Fort Meade, Md., Washington, D.C., and various service schools.

Key positions held by Rose while in the U.S. Army included instructor and assistant professor of English at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point from 1956 to 1959, commander of combat units from platoon to division support command in Vietnam and staff officer from battalion to Department of Army headquarters (Pentagon). Rose was promoted to colonel in 1968 and he retired from military service on February 1, 1971.

As a civilian, Rose was the managing partner of Rose and Buckner Store on the east side of the Marshall square. Bob was the third generation of the Rose family in this position. The store closed upon his retirement. Other local business and civic offices held by Rose include being past president and board member of the Marshall Rotary Club, serving on the board of directors of Wood and Huston Bank in Marshall, serving on the board of directors of Wood and Huston Bancorporation Inc. in Marshall and acting as past chairman of the board for Corwin Corporation in Kansas City.

Rose was also a board trustee of Ridge Park Cemetery Association in Marshall, a board member of the Missouri River Chapter of the American Red Cross, executive board member of the Great Rivers Council of Boy Scouts of America, past chairman of the Missouri Valley College Board of Trustees and a member of various military, veteran and civic organizations.

Rose in an active member of First United Methodist Church in Marshall. He and his wife Betty are the parents of one son.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in congratulating Robert M. "Bob" Rose for his honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities, and for his lifelong service to his community and to his country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the vote on final passage of H.R. 1915, Jennifer's Law or Grants to the States to Improve the Reporting of Unidentified and Missing Persons. If I had been present I would have voted "aye".

TRIBUTE TO D. MAE JOHNSON, W. RAY JOHNSON, MYSER JAMES KEELS, PASTOR CHESTER RIGGINS, AND JAMES E. WALTON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to D. Mae Johnson, W. Ray Johnson, Myser James Keels, Pastor Chester Riggins, and James E. Walton, Ph.D., for being selected the 1999 Portraits of Success program Honorees by KSEE 24 and Companies that Care. In celebration of African-American History Month, these five leaders were honored for their unique contributions to the betterment of their community.

D. Mae Johnson was a teacher in Fresno and Oakland for twenty years; during this time she also obtained a master's degree in both Counseling and Guidance from California State University, Fresno (CSUF) and Administration from Pepperdine University. For the past 20 years she has been executive director of Quality Group Homes one of the Central Valley's largest providers of residential treatment care for adolescents and children. Mrs. Johnson is involved with many professional, church and community organizations, including being a lifetime member of the NAACP. In 1997, she helped found the Fresno chapter of Links Inc., a nonprofit humanitarian organization that provides support services to enrich the quality of life through cultural, civic and educational activities. Inspired by her niece's long struggle with Sickle Cell Disease, she worked with Fresno Links and St. Agnes Hospital, to bring to Fresno, the only Sickle Cell Anemia program in the Valley.

W. Ray Johnson has been a dedicated public servant for three decades. He is the Director of Community Resources for the City of Fresno. He reports to the City Manager, and works closely with the Mayor and City Council members. He was formerly the Fresno Deputy City Manager and Director of Human Resources. One of his proudest accomplishments was his role in establishing a facility for the African-American Museum for which he has helped to secure almost half-a-million dollars in funding over the years. He is currently instrumental in setting up the African-American Multi-Service Center as a one-stop facility to work with youth and gang members. Mr. Johnson has served on many boards and commissions, including two terms as vice president of the NAACP. His many awards include State of California Black Women Organized for Political Action, Man of the Year award, United Black Men Community Service award, California State Assembly Civic Involvement award, and the California State Senate Outstanding Community Contribution award.

Myser James Keels has long given himself to benefit the Fresno community. For 27 years, he was a groundsman with the Fresno County Parks and Recreation Department until his retirement in 1995. Along with park upkeep and worker supervision, he also provided supervision of adult and youth offender programs. He gave ten years to the County of Fresno Social Security Board, eight to the County Human Services Advisory Board, and two to the Equal Opportunities Commission. Mr. Keels also served on the Conservation

Corps Commission Community at Large Revitalization Board, Southwest Edison Planning Committee, Fresno Neighborhood Alliance, as a deacon for St. Joseph's Baptist Church, president of the Black Political Council, president of the Coalition for Cooperative Development & Community Development Corporation, treasurer of King of Kings Center Board of Directors, vice chairperson of Westside Fellowship and board member of Central California Legal Services. Honors and awards have come from these entities and many more including a special Certificate of Appreciation for 11 years of assisting alcoholics in their recovery.

Pastor Chester Riggins has served the St. Rest Missionary Baptist Church since 1950 as a Sunday School teacher, Baptist training union instructor, church clerk, financial secretary, deacon, chairman of the Deacon Board and chairman of the Church Pulpit Committee. For many years he was a mail carrier for the Postal Services, but resigned in 1979 to serve the church full time. Pastor Riggins' activities outside the church have included being the temporary chairman for organizing the Fresno Model Cities Program, member and officer of the West Fresno Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance, charter member of the Fresno Police Program, member of the Concerned Citizens for Quality Education, secretary-treasurer of the Home Mission Board of the California State Convention and 1st Vice Moderator Emeritus of the St. John Missionary Baptist Association.

Dr. James E. Walton, Ph.D., has been teaching since 1967 and has been a professor of English at CSUF since 1990. He previously taught at Mt. Union College for 20 years and was an exchange professor in Osaka, Japan in 1988. Dr. Walton served as a member of Search Committees at CSUF for the Dean of Education, Human Relations Director and vice president and has been a member of the Committee on Academic Policies and the Committee on Faculty and Strategic Planning. Apart from the university, he has served as Library Trustee, on the Fair Housing Board, and as a Board Member of the American Red Cross, Junior League, and the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to D. Mae Johnson, W. Ray Johnson, Myser James Keels, Pastor Chester Riggins and Dr. James E. Walton, Ph.D. for being recognized as the KSEE 24 Companies that Care 1999 African-American Portraits of Success honorees. I applaud the contributions, ideas, and leadership they have exhibited in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing these fine people many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT D. ANDERSON, JR.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert D. Anderson, Jr., an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be honored by the San Mateo Central Labor Council on Saturday, June 12, 1999.

Robert D. Anderson, Jr. has been a leader in both the labor movement and his commu-

nity for the last twenty-five years. After nineteen years of exceptional leadership and service, Bob has announced that he is stepping down as President of the San Mateo County Labor Council.

Throughout his career Bob has dedicated himself to improving the living and working conditions for families in San Mateo County and the airline industry nationwide. He is a former United Airlines mechanic and a member of the International Association of Machinists, Local Lodge 1781. He is currently the ground safety coordinator at San Francisco International Airport.

During his tenure as President he helped establish, build and chair the San Francisco Airport Labor Coalition and its predecessor, the Airport Health and Safety Coalition. He has also served on the advisory boards of the California Occupational Safety Coalition and Health Administration, and the Labor Occupational Health program at the University of California, Berkeley.

Over the last twelve years Bob has worked with labor and community leaders to bring affordable, high-quality, around-the-clock childcare to families who work non-traditional hours. He has also served on the Board of Directors of PALCARE, San Mateo County's community-based childcare center since its opening in 1993.

Mr. Speaker, Robert D. Anderson, Jr. is an outstanding individual, a respected labor and community leader, and a valued friend. I salute him for his remarkable contributions and commitment to our community and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him upon his retirement as President of the San Mateo Central Labor Council.

HONORING NAVAL COMMANDER KENT ROMINGER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the career of one of Del Norte, Colorado's natives who has shown great character and motivation, Naval Commander Kent Rominger. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who has illustrated the notion of duty and service for Colorado and the Navy alike.

Kent Rominger has been flying for the Navy since 1978, when he earned his degree in civil engineering from Colorado State University. As a Naval officer, Rominger flew in Operation Desert Storm. In 1992, Officer Rominger was selected to join the astronaut program. Since his start in the astronaut program, Commander Rominger has piloted three previous space missions, one of those being in the space shuttle *Discovery*.

On May 27, 1999, Kent Rominger returned to the space shuttle *Discovery* and guided six astronauts into orbit. As commander, Rominger oversaw all aspects of the mission and the crew. This is a great honor for Rominger to command a space shuttle that he once piloted into space.

Kent Rominger is an outstanding citizen of Colorado who's accomplishments will be long remembered and admired. Selfless service and dedication makes Commander Rominger

a valued and respected man. His achievement are a great service to us all, and for that we owe him a debt of gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SOLANO
COALITION FOR BETTER HEALTH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to recognize the Solano Coalition for Better Health (SCBH), which is celebrating its 10th Anniversary year. On June 5, SCBH kicked off its 10th Anniversary Celebration by hosting an Enrollment Day for the Solano Kids Insurance Program (SKIP), in an effort to promote free or low cost health insurance options for Solano County children, and it's fitting that we honor SCBH at this time for its many contributions to the community.

SCBH is a nonprofit organization of health care administrators, government officials, local physicians, representatives from the business and educational communities, and neighborhood advocates. Its focus is to improve the health and quality of life in Solano County by sharing resources through effective partnerships. It is a nationally recognized model of public and private partnerships, creating system changes in the provision of care and services to promote and improve the health and safety of the people and their communities.

SCBH works in a collaborative fashion and places high value on efforts that benefit the community, neighborhoods and people of Solano County, and meets the interests and needs of individuals and specific constituencies within the community.

SCBH recognizes and values diverse communities, neighborhoods and people within Solano County and encourages their participation in improving the health of all county residents, through a multi-lingual network of health and social services providers, reflective of the population of Solano County in gender, sexual orientation, culture, ethnicity, and disability.

SCBH is innovative in its approach to addressing the health needs of Solano County

residents and is not adverse to taking risks for potential rewards. Further, it recognizes and values the unique importance of innovative approaches in responding to health issues that disproportionately impact ethnic communities.

SCBH has initiated such unique programs as:

(1) the Partnership HealthPlan of California, a public/private organization designed to provide a cost-effective method of health care delivery to Medi-Cal recipients in Solano County, which has now expanded to include Napa County

(2) Healthier Solano Communities, an initiative that promotes wellness in each of Solano County's seven cities by creating or supporting a team in each city to look at issues in each city that impact health and wellness; identify one or more issues in each city that can be addressed; and, develop partnerships and plans to address those issues.

(3) the Community Services Task Force, which includes volunteers who are service providers from public, private, County nonprofit, and community based organizations, and advocates for health and human services that are culturally, linguistically, geographically, physically, and financially accessible to all residents of Solano County.

(4) Solano Health Improvement Initiative (SHII), which addresses the most critical indicators of health in the community, and has expanded countywide efforts to pursue strategies that address three initial goals:

1. All children will be healthy and ready to learn when they enter school.

2. Comprehensive prevention, early detection, and support services will be developed for individuals living with cancer in Solano County.

3. People with diabetes or at risk of diabetes will live well and independently in the community.

In recognition of the SHII's outstanding cancer community outreach efforts, the U.S. Postal Service presented the first Prostate Cancer Awareness Stamp Dedication in California on June 5th at the SCBH's 10th Anniversary celebration.

(5) SKIP which provides outreach efforts to enroll children in free or low cost health insurance options in Solano County.

Mr. Speaker, SCBH participants are people who are personally committed and who dedicate their time, talent and knowledge to influence the organizations they represent to support the Coalition's mission. I commend them for their outstanding contributions to the community.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
REBECCA KREPICK

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievement of Rebecca Krepick. On May 29, 1999, Rebecca graduated from Klein High School. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating her and her family.

Although this achievement deserves recognition in and of itself, Rebecca accomplished much more. When she was in second grade, the Anthony Robinson Foundation offered 600 students a \$20,000 scholarship if they maintained a B+ average, participated in community service, and were a model student for 10 years. On the day of graduation, less than thirty of these students completed the program. Rebecca's achievement should be recognized and commended.

Rebecca and her fellow scholarship recipients are examples of what is right with public education. They should be held up as role models for other students everywhere to emulate.

Rebecca plans to use the scholarship at the University of Houston, one of the finest universities in our nation. Rebecca's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Barbosa, family, friends and community are very proud of her. We wish her well in her future education pursuits. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members join me in congratulating Rebecca Krepick for her outstanding achievement