

being asked to educate an additional 8.3 million children. At the same time, over 70 percent of our Nation's schools were built before 1960 and are now in need of major repairs.

Visiting schools in the 2nd Congressional District in Colorado, I have seen firsthand the spaces in which our children are learning and growing. Many districts can't afford sorely needed remodeling or construction of new schools, while others are scrambling to address severe overcrowding issues. And we aren't alone: School enrollment in Colorado increased by 70,000 students in the last five years. While new schools open at or above capacity, enrollment is projected to grow in Colorado by 120,000 in the next decade.

Clearly, there's an urgent need for school construction—in Colorado and in every state across the country. Thousands of communities nationwide red even now in the process of building new schools and renovating existing ones. But in drawing up construction plans, schools often focus on short-term construction costs instead of long-term, life-cycle savings. My bill would help ensure that school districts have the tools and assistance they need to make good building decisions.

High performance schools are a win for energy savings and a win for the environment, but best of all, they are also a win for student performance. A growing number of studies link student achievement and behavior to the physical building conditions. A study from Mississippi State University, for example, showed that in schools in North Carolina, Texas and Nevada, variables such as natural light and climate control played a role in improved test scores, higher moral and fewer discipline problems.

We wouldn't dream of just putting typewriters in these new schools—we would install today's computer technology. Nor should we build yesterday's "energy inefficient," non-sustainable, and less effective schools. Our kids are our country's future, and they should have the best school facilities, especially if they will cost less and benefit us all in other ways.

In short, we have an enormous opportunity to build a new generation of sustainable schools, schools that incorporate the best of today's designs and technologies and as a result provide better learning environments for our children, cost less to operate, and help protect our local and global environment. The High Performance Schools Act would start us on the road to achieving these goals. I look forward to working with Mr. MILLER and other Members of the House to move forward with this important initiative.

RED RIBBON WEEK

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor today to recognize youth throughout the nation, and especially in the seventh district of Georgia, who will be celebrating "Red Ribbon Week," from October 23rd to 31st.

In 1985, the first Red Ribbon Week was held shortly after the tragic murder of Drug Enforcement Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena. Now, small towns and large cities across

America take part in Red Ribbon Week, a seven-day observance promoting drug-free communities. The message during this week is simple, "just say no to drugs." The vibrant red ribbons tied around flagpoles, street signs and school yard fences remind us together we can do something about drugs and drug abuse in our communities.

Sponsored by the National Family Partnership and observed by numerous other public service organizations, Red Ribbon Week has grown from its humble beginnings in memory of Camarena's tragic death, into a national movement against drugs and drug abuse. In communities everywhere the week is observed through rallies, lectures, essay contests and other awareness activities.

In a period such as this, where pro-drug referenda are being voted on and some public officials are calling out in favor of drug legalization, it is truly outstanding that our young people are uniting to show they still know what is right: staying away from drugs. I commend all of the young people participating in Red Ribbon Week, as well as other anti-drug activities, for taking an interest in improving their lives and their communities, now and for the future. If we are to ever win the War on Drugs, grassroots efforts such as this are surely where we must start . . . and stay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 523, I was late arriving on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

OPPOSITION TO THE NORWOOD-DINGELL INSURANCE REGULATION LEGISLATION

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to the Norwood-Dingell health insurance regulation legislation. I have listened to my colleagues and constituents to learn all I could before casting my vote. Although I am convinced that something needs to be done to redress a health insurance system that is out of balance, I have several concerns that could not be allayed.

Norwood-Dingell properly expands the ability of patients to recover damages from health care plans in court. The current bar to recovery of any damages against a health plan is inappropriate. Those plans that act negligently or are found guilty of medical malpractice should be held accountable as any medical professional would be. Norwood-Dingell, however, would open the gates to these types of suits too broadly.

Had the amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Representative HOUGHTON, the gentleman from New York, been adopted by the House, I would have voted for Norwood-Dingell on final passage. That common sense amendment would have ensured that

employers and directors would not have to worry about liability except in very rare cases. Under the vague language of Norwood-Dingell, however, there is uncertainty. Uncertainty is always a breeding ground for lawsuits, and the result would be their employers willing to provide health care to working families. Had Mr. HOUGHTON's substitute passed, the bill would have had all the protection and access provisions of the Norwood-Dingell bill, but lawsuits would have been limited in a reasonable way.

I also support the same common sense limits on suits against doctors and other professionals that have forced malpractice insurance to skyrocket, doctors to practice "defensive medicine" and raise everyone's costs, forcing even insurance companies to raise prices and reduce quality of care. Doctors should not have any greater liability than insurance companies and they also need help redressing the balance of power that is now tilted too heavily towards insurance companies, which is why I am a cosponsor of legislation such as H.R. 1304, a bill that would allow doctors to come together when dealing with health insurers.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, we need to do more to protect patients and give doctors the freedom to treat their patients using their sound medical judgment as the yardstick rather than an insurance company's bottom line. Still, there are now more Americans without health insurance than there were just a few short years ago and we need to make sure that we don't raise health care costs more than necessary. I would note that the Congressional Budget Office has not done a cost estimate of this bill as required by the Unfunded Mandates Act and that none of us really know how much costs will increase and how many of our constituents will lose their health coverage. Before passing a bill that will affect nearly every American, I think we owe it to them to find out.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANK E. MATTHEWS, JR.

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Frank E. Matthews for his tremendous work for the River Cities Combined Federal Campaign, his many years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as the leadership and generosity that he has shown toward the City of Huntington and the State of West Virginia as a whole.

At the Huntington District Corps of Engineers, Frank serves as executive officer to the district engineer—a position that he has held for 19 years. He adds much needed continuity and leadership to this constantly changing field.

Despite his many responsibilities to the Army Corps, Frank still makes time for worthy causes such as the River Cities Combined Federal Campaign, where he has served as coordinator since 1966. Frank has been described as the glue that holds the River Cities' CFC campaign together. Always modest, Frank refuses to take credit for the campaign's success—preferring to attribute the success to his coworkers' generosity. However, his internal auditing system is one of the many ideas

that has turned the annual fund-raising drive into such a success. It gives the fundraiser credibility while assuring donors that their money is spent appropriately. The auditing system allows Frank to track funded agencies and ensure that money is spent properly. Anyone at anytime can look at the report to see where the money is going. Initiatives such as the auditing system explain how the River Cities' campaign has grown and blossomed into a highly successful fund-raising drive under Frank's leadership. Just last year, Corps of Engineers employees donated \$32,000 to the River Cities' CFC campaign, or almost 40 percent, to the campaign's overall total of \$82,608.

In addition to his official responsibilities, Frank is very active in his hometown community of Huntington, West Virginia and his list of activities reads like a Who's Who of area organizations. He is a member of the American Legion Post 16, the Elks and Rotary Clubs, the Huntington Museum of Art, the Marshall University Alumni Association, the Southside Neighborhood Association, and is a past commandant of the 340 Marine Corps League. He has also served on the board of directors of the Region II Mental Health Association, the Boy Scouts of America Tri-State Area Council, and the Huntington Jaycees.

I have had the privilege of knowing Frank for many years. I consider him a dear friend and am honored to have worked with him on behalf of West Virginia. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Frank's wife, Jewell, his three married daughters, Maureen, Samantha, and Juliet, as well as his son, Matt, for sharing Frank with all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Frank on all of his hard work for West Virginia and the United States. He is truly a model of generosity and the epitome of a public servant.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on October 21st, I was unavoidably detained from casting rollcall votes 522, 523, 524, and 525.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 522, "aye" on rollcall vote 523, "no" on rollcall vote 524, and "aye" on rollcall vote 525.

TRIBUTE TO B.T. COLLINS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to B.T. Collins. The date of November 6, 1999 will see the dedication of the B.T. Collins Army Reserve Training Center, currently under construction at the old Sacramento Army Depot. Because of this great honor, I ask all of my

colleagues to join me in acknowledgment of this event.

This twenty million-dollar facility will provide training for 1,200–1,400 soldiers each month. These men and women will receive training in field medical surgical hospital techniques, field mess preparations, high tech communications, and other basic or advanced military occupational specialty training.

The lobby of this new training center will house the B.T. Collins Museum. This will provide a permanent home for many of the historical photographs, letters, uniforms, and other paraphernalia that B.T. Collins had collected throughout his Army and political careers. His sisters and friends will donate much of the collection. They will also work closely with the military and the builders to insure that the museum will reflect B.T. Collins' love of country, family and community service.

On this extraordinary day, perhaps the most notable event will be the dedication of a bust of B.T. Collins to be placed at the entrance of this important facility. The artist, Garr Ugalde has been commissioned to create the bust, and he has presented a preliminary wax model of his work that amazingly captures B.T. Collins in his green beret. This bust will be donated by his family and friends.

B.T. Collins' friends and family made a promise that they would not allow his memory, patriotism, ideals, and contribution to his country to be forgotten. This memorial is one way to make good on that promise. It is their sincere hope that this museum will inspire soldiers to emulate the ideals that B.T. Collins espoused.

Mr. Speaker, as the friends and family of B.T. Collins gather to celebrate this landmark event, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most outstanding citizens. B.T. Collins' contributions to his community, state, and country are commendable. I am sincerely pleased that this museum and monument to this great man will preserve his memory for generations. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing B.T. Collins and his family continued success in all their endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL RAISE THE ROOF DAY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Clinton signed the HUD–VA appropriations bill into law providing housing assistance to many impoverished Americans. Unfortunately, while this bill is an improvement over the initial House passed spending levels, it does not go far enough to address the needs of homeless individuals, tenants living in expiring Section 8 properties or distressed public housing, and impoverished communities. To ensure that our government has the political will to invest adequately in housing assistance, we need to raise public consciousness about the unmet housing and community development needs and educate the public about the existing and proven programmatic and policy solutions that address these needs.

One recent step to educate, organize, and mobilize Americans in this direction took place last Saturday, October 16th, when more than 10,000 volunteers in 150 cities joined together for the first ever National Raise the Roof Day. Under Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Andrew Cuomo's leadership, they spent the day repairing and building homes. But they were also building something much bigger—a national awareness of one of the most pressing problems facing our nation, the need for safe, decent and affordable housing.

I would like to commend everyone who participated in this landmark event. In Washington, D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams, actress Sarah Jessica Parker, home improvement expert Bob Vila, and community volunteers joined Secretary Cuomo to repair homes in the Columbia Heights community. In my home state of California, more than 1,800 volunteers repaired or built new homes for families in fifteen cities and counties. Similar events took place throughout the nation—led by the nation's mayors, national non-profits, local community and faith based organizations, businesses, and impoverished Americans—themselves in need of affordable housing.

Secretary Cuomo convened this Raise the Roof Day for three simple but important reasons. First, while we live at a time of record economic strength, a record number of people are facing an affordable housing or home ownership crisis. There are still a record 5.3 million households with worst case housing needs, and two million units in need of major repairs. Despite a record home ownership rate, home ownership for minorities and in cities still lags behind.

Raise the Roof Day also showed us that there is something that we can do about this crisis. We are not helpless. We are not powerless, either as a nation, or as a community in confronting this challenge. Don't listen to those who say that nothing works. There are many programs that are making a difference. HUD's FHA is expanding home ownership with a record 1.3 million loans insured this year. HOPE VI grants are replacing the worst public housing with livable communities. Americans can take action to organize and mobilize for adequate investments in affordable housing.

And last year, in partnership with Congress, HUD won its best budget in a decade. And this year we've done it again—a significant budget increase for HUD, that includes 60,000 new affordable housing vouchers, more money for the homeless, and increases in funds for Fair Housing and public housing.

Finally, Raise the Roof Day celebrates the spirit of voluntarism—the spirit of community—that we need as a nation to tackle our toughest challenges. Government must provide the funds and the resources, but that's only part of the solution. It's when people come together to help their neighbors that we can really make a difference. That's how this country was built, and that's how we must take on this challenge as well.

Mr. Speaker, Raise the Roof Day was a rousing success. Americans need to become more involved in these events. This is an issue where we can really make a difference—and a cause that truly deserves our time and our energy. I look forward to similar events in the future.