Dress realized how serious the injury was, he made the decision to put the wounded man in the patrol car and take him to Jacobi Medical Center, a few minutes away.

''We could have waited for the ambulance,'' Dress says, ''but we didn't know how, long it would take, and where it would have to come from.''

Dress' evaluation of the situation and prompt administration of appropriate first aid is credited for saving the man's life.

Only later did Dress and the other officers learn that the wounded man was an undercover NYC police officer. The investigation into the shooting is continuing.

As an EMT, Dress' first obligation is always to treat the patient. As a police officer, Dress also had to obligation to try to get information from the shooting victim while he was treating him.

''He was trying to give me a name,'' Dress says, ''but he was in a lot of pain.'' At Jacobi, doctors determined that the bullet had pierced the undercover officer's heart and had lodged near his spine.

On Saturday, Dress and other officers visited the wounded man, still in intensive care, whose name is not being released because he is an undercover policeman.

''He seemed to be improving; he shook hands with me. His wife and children were there, too. His two year-old son also hugged me and thanked me.'' The wounded officer is now reported to have regained some feeling in his legs, leading to hope for a more complete recovery.

Dress is the first to disclaim the hero label. ''I did what I was trained to do. Any police officer would have done the same thing; we're all trained in first aid. I think was EMT experience made the difference in evaluating the situation.''

Dress is back on duty, having been given New Year's Eve off at the discretion of his unit commander. And he still spends his days off working at the S. Orangetown ambulance headquarters, and riding the rig when needed.

His hope for the new year? That the man whose life he helped save makes a full and complete recovery.

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY MONTH

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 31, 2000

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Mr. GREENWOOD of Pennsylvania, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Ms. DUNN of Washington, and Mr. TANNER of Tennessee to recognize January 2000 as National Biotechnology Month.

It is fitting that in the first month of this new year, at the start of a new century, we look to biotechnology as our greatest hope for the future.

Mapping the human genome, for example, is ahead of schedule and nearly complete. That achievement, begun 10 years ago, will rank as one of the most significant advances in health care by accelerating the biotechnology industry's discovery of new therapies and cures for our most life-threatening diseases.

Biotechnology not only is using genetic research to create new medicines, but also to improve agriculture, industrial manufacturing and environmental management.

The United States leads the world in biotechnology innovation. There are approximately 1,300 biotech companies in the United States, employing more than 150,000 people. The industry spent nearly $10 billion on research and development in 1998. Although revenues totaled $18.4 billion, the industry recorded a net loss of $5 billion because of the expensive nature of drug development.

In 1999, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved more than 20 biotechnology drugs, vaccines and new indications for existing medicines, pushing the number of marketed biotech drugs and vaccines to more than 90. Total FDA biotech approvals from 1982 through 1999 reach more than 140 when adding clearances for new indications of existing medicines. The vast majority of new biotech drugs were approved in the second half of the 1990s, demonstrating the biotechnology industry's surging proficiency at finding new medicines to treat our most life-threatening illnesses.

Biotechnology is revolutionizing every facet of medicine from diagnosis to treatment of all diseases. It is detailing life at the molecular level and someday will take much of the guesswork out of disease management and treatment. The implications for health care are as great as any milestone in medical history. We expect to see great strides early in this century.

A devastating disease that has stolen many of our loved ones, neighbors and friends is cancer. Biotechnology already has made significant strides in battling certain cancers. This is only the beginning.

The first biotechnology cancer medicines have been used with surgery, chemotherapy and radiation to enhance their effectiveness, lessen adverse effects and reduce chances of cancer recurrence.

Newer biotech cancer drugs target the underlying molecular causes of the disease. Biotech cancer treatments under development, such as vaccines that prevent abnormal cell growth, may make traditional treatments obsolete. In addition, gene therapy is being studied as a way to battle cancer by starving tumor cells to death.

Many biotech drugs are designed to treat our most devastating and intractable illnesses. In many cases these medicines are the first ever therapies for those diseases. For example, advancements in research have yielded first-of-a-kind drugs to treat multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis as well as cancer.

Other medicines in clinical trials block the start of the molecular cascade that triggers inflammation's tissue damaging effects in numerous disease states. In diseases, such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's, clinical trials are under way to test a variety of cell therapies that generate healthy neurons to replace deteriorated ones. Recent breakthroughs in stem cell research have prompted experts to predict cures within 10 years for some diseases, such as Type I (Juvenile) Diabetes and Parkinson's.

With more than 350 biotechnology medicines in late-stage clinical trials for illnesses, such as heart ailments, cancer, neurological diseases and infections, biotechnology innovation will be the foundation not only for improving our health and quality of life, but also lowering health care costs.

In the past two years Congress has increased funding for the National Institutes of Health's basic research programs by 15 percent per year. We are 40 percent of the way toward doubling the NIH budget. Health-care research, however, is not one-sided. The public funds we provide are for basic research. The private sector takes this basic science and then spends many times more than what the government has contributed to create new drugs and get them to patients. In today's world, biotechnology companies are among the greatest innovators and risk takers.

Biotechnology also is being used to improve agriculture, industrial manufacturing and environmental management. In manufacturing, the emphasis has shifted from the removal of toxic chemicals in production waste streams to replacement of those pollutants with biological processes that prevent the environment from being fouled. And because these biological processes are derived from renewable sources they also conserve traditional energy resources. Industrial biotechnology companies are the innovators commercializing clean technologies and their progress is accelerating at an astonishing rate.

In agricultural biotechnology, crops on the market have been modified to protect them from insect damage thus reducing pesticide use. Biotech crops that are herbicide tolerant enable farmers to control weeds without damaging the crops. This allows farmers flexibility in weed management and promotes conservation tillage. Other biotech crops are protected against viral diseases with the plant equivalent of a vaccine. Biotech fruits and vegetables are tastier and firmer and remain fresher longer.

The number of acres worldwide planted with biotech crops soared from 4.3 million in 1996 to 100 million in 1999, of which 81 million acres were planted in the United States and Canada. Acceptance of these crops by farmers is one indication of the benefits they have for reducing farming costs and use of pesticides while increasing crop yields.

Biotech crops in development include foods that will offer increased levels of nutrients and vitamins. Benefits range from helping developing nations meet basic dietary requirements to creating disease-fighting and health-promoting foods.

Biotechnology is improving the lives of those in the U.S. and abroad. The designation of January 2000 as National Biotechnology Month is an indication to our constituents and their children that Congress recognizes the value and the promise of this technology. Biotechnology is a big word that means hope.

HONORING LARRY LEDERHAUSE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 31, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause and remember the life of Larry Lederhause who passed away on December 11, 1999. Many relatives and close friends will miss this remarkable person.

Larry Lederhause was born on January 30, 1963. He attended Eagle Valley Junior/Senior High School in Gypsum, Colorado. He was very involved in 4–H and Future Farmers of America projects. He served as a volunteer with the Gypsum Fire Department. Larry attended college in Oregon at Western Baptist College.

Larry returned to Colorado and worked for the Garfield County Airport. He then owned and operated L&L Sanitation Service.

Larry loved animals, especially his dog, Happy. Larry also sang with the ''Sagebrush Singers'' of the Battlement Mesa and liked to go hunting, hiking, swimming and flying.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remember Mr. Larry Lederhause, a great American who was loved and cherished my many.

THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION STATEMENT IN REFERENCE TO CERTAIN TYPES OF RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 31, 2000

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, in December of last year, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) overstepped its bounds and authority by issuing statements that if enforced, would restrict certain types of religious broadcasting.

I am happy to report that the FCC reversed its decision on Friday. I applaud the decision of the FCC but am troubled that such a decision was ever made.

While issuing a ruling on a routine license transfer, the FCC editorialize about new, strict standards for educational programming that could have affected many non-commercial, educational television broadcasters. The FCC stated that ''religious exhortation, proselytizing, or statements of personnally-held religious views and beliefs generally would not qualify as 'general education' programming. Thus, church services generally will not qualify as 'general education' under our rules.''

It is arrogance of the highest form for the FCC to attempt to determine what is—and—what is not educational. The FCC's statements amount to an unconstitutional restriction on religious speech. This type of content regulation and suppression of religious expression is not acceptable. The FCC is neither qualified nor does it have any legal authority to engage in this sort of line drawing.

The FCC was established by the Communications Act of 1934 and is charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable. The FCC's jurisdiction covers the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. possessions. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is an independent United States government agency, directly responsible to Congress.

Shortly after reading the FCC's anti-religious statements, Reps. MIKE OXLEY, STEVE LARGENT, CLIFF STEARNS and I wrote the Chairman of the FCC to remind him that the FCC is still directly responsible to Congress and that he should reverse the anti-religious statements or he could stand by and see it overturned by Congressional action.

Last week, we introduced H.R. 3525—The Religious Broadcasting Freedom Act to overturn the ruling issued by the FCC and did so with over 60 cosponsors. The FCC is accountable to the Congress and I believe we have demonstrated that we will take decisive action when the FCC or any other federal agency exceeds its authority—and especially when such actions threaten our religious freedoms.

The FCC's action was an unprecedented action by a government agency in an attempt to decide what is acceptable religious programming and content. The fact is, it is not the place of any government agency to determine what is acceptable religious speech because religious freedom and freedom of speech are both protected by the Constitution.

I have heard from many religious broadcasters in Mississippi and across the country who expressed outrage at the FCC and their actions. I am pleased to tell them that we have stopped this un-Constitutional decision in its tracts. Yet, I urge my colleagues to remain vigilant. I assure you that if the FCC takes any actions that suggest they may attempt to pursue this action in any other format, I will fight it once again.

TRIBUTE TO PHIL BLAZER

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 31, 2000

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues Mr. BERMAN and Mr. SHERMAN, and I rise today to ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the extraordinary career of our dear friend Phil Blazer. Phil has dedicated his thirty-five-year career to serving the Jewish community as editor and publisher of the Jewish News and as an effective activist for important Jewish and human rights causes. Phil began his career as an eager and wide-eyed seventeen-year-old radio announcer at KVFM in the San Fernando Valley of California. He moved to Minnesota for college and continued his radio career at KUXL, and quickly began a Jewish community radio program for Minneapolis and St. Paul. After college, he retuned to KVFM as station manager and continued his Jewish community program in the San Fernando Valley. Phil's current radio program is now on KIEV and is heard throughout Southern California. He has many devoted listeners who depend on his program for news, perspective, and insight.

In 1977, Phil started a television program, which still airs today and is now carried in over 300 communities in Southern California. It is also broadcast in New York City and New Jersey on Sundays. His audience numbers over 250,000 people and he has become an icon to his audiences throughout the nation.

Perhaps Phil's greatest contribution has been his newspaper, The Jewish News, which he founded in 1973. Hardly a local paper, it now serves 73 countries worldwide. The Jewish News serves to connect distinct Jewish communities by sharing local, national and international news and trends. It is a beloved paper and a staple of Los Angeles Jewish life.

Phil's career has also been dedicated to human rights work and Jewish causes. He is a visionary leader who has worked to shape critical historical events. In 1973, he helped smuggle a Torah into Leningrad to support the Jews of Russia. In 1978, he traveled to Washington, D.C. at the invitation of former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to confer with the State Department and the White House as a participant in the redirection of U.S. Middle East policy.

Also in 1978, Phil attended the historic Begin/Sadat meeting in Jerusalem. The following year he aired a landmark broadcast of his radio program via satellite from the studios of Radio Cairo as the guest of Anwar Sadat.

Phil's philanthropic work continued in 1985 when he organized the now famous Operation Joshua, which succeeded in rescuing nearly 1,000 Ethiopian Jews from refugee camps in Sudan and resettling them in Israel. In 1992, Phil developed California legislation with Assemblyman Richard Katz that mandated a course of study about the Holocaust be taught in all California public schools. This bill was signed into law by the Governor of California on September 21, 1992.

These are a few examples of Phil's tireless dedication to Jewish causes and human rights around the world. His real gift, however, is his compassion and love for humankind. While successfully building his own media empire, Phil has never lost sight of his commitment to better the human condition in every way possible. He is truly an example of one person making a difference in thousands of people's lives.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring Phil Blazer for his remarkable accomplishments over the past thirty-five years and in wishing him continued success and happiness in all future endeavors.