

TRIBUTE TO LINDSAY NICHOLS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend Lindsay Nichols from my hometown of Collinsville, Illinois. Lindsay was named as one of Illinois' top student volunteers for the year 2000 in the fifth annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Lindsay is a 17 year-old senior at Collinsville High School. She launched a month-long drive to encourage responsible pet adoption and to collect donations of soda cans, paper towels, pet food, and cash for the benefit of two Humane Shelters in our community.

I heartily applaud Lindsay for her initiative in seeking to make our community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world. Lindsay's actions show that young Americans can and do play important roles in our communities and that the American spirit is alive and well in the actions of our younger generation. Thank you Lindsay.

HONORING A MILITARY HERO

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to my constituent, Bill Crawford, who was one of our Nation's distinguished military heroes and one of my community's great treasures. Bill passed away on March 15 at the age of 81, having led an exemplary life that took him from being a small-town grocery delivery boy to a recipient of the nation's highest military honor.

As an Army private in the fall of 1943, Bill was on a scouting mission near Altavilla, Italy when he encountered an enemy machine-gun nest prepared to fire at his platoon. Without orders, Bill advanced to within yards of the German fighters, threw a grenade into the pit from which they were firing and saved his platoon.

Private Crawford then turned his valor on not one, but two, additional machine-gun nests firing at American soldiers. He was able to overtake both German encampments and turn the captured machine-guns on fleeing German soldiers.

When United States forces moved ahead, Crawford stayed behind to care for a friend who had been injured. He was captured by German soldiers and spent 19 months as a prisoner of war.

Presumed dead, Crawford was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously on May 11, 1944. Maj. Gen. Terry Allen presented the award to Bill's grieving father at Camp Carson, just 30 miles from Bill's hometown of Pueblo, CO.

Two months after Private Crawford's Medal of Honor was presented to his father, the family received news that Bill was alive. One year later, Private Crawford was released from prison.

After his release, Bill returned to his Colorado roots. He met and married his wife Eileen, and began a family that eventually included two children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He returned to military service, much of it as an Army recruiter in his home town of Pueblo.

Bill ended his career at the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he worked as a janitor and served as a mentor to the students. The cadets at the Academy loved Bill and paid tribute to his distinguished military career by asking him each spring to present the "Outstanding Cadet" award to a member of the graduating class.

On May 30, 1984, Bill was presented with an honor of his own. President Ronald Reagan was the commencement speaker that day at the graduation ceremonies at the U.S. Air Force Academy. During his speech, President Reagan turned his attention to Bill, who was crisply dressed in his military uniform, and hung the Medal of Honor around his neck. Seventeen years after his retirement from the military, and 40 years after his heroism at Altavilla, Bill was finally presented with his Medal of Honor award.

As a Medal of Honor recipient, Bill distinguished himself through exemplary service to this nation. He answered the call to arms and bravely faced hazardous duty, hand to hand combat and imprisonment by the German army.

He was also dedicated to his family and his community. He was an extraordinary man, who displayed humility, kindness and love in all that he did. We will miss this gentle man in Colorado Springs, and we extend to his family our sincere condolences.

Our Nation bids farewell to one of her great heroes and I bid farewell to a friend.

NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION
WEEK**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, today marks the beginning of National Poison Prevention Week, an event each and every parent ought to mark in big, bold letters on their calendar. Ever since 1962, we've set aside one week each year to raise awareness about accidental poisonings and how to prevent them. But we also know poison prevention is a round-the-clock, day-in, day-out concern. Between two and four million poisonings occur each year, sending thousands to the hospital. Most accidental poisonings occur in the home, and more than half of the victims each year are children. It is critical we all learn how to prevent children from accidentally gaining access to these products.

The theme of this year's poison prevention campaign is "Children Act Fast. So Do Poisons." Poisonings can occur in the blink of an eye, when parents or caregivers are briefly distracted by the telephone or doorbell, leaving curious children alone for a split second. Because poisons act quickly, quick action is needed to save the child's life. Often, the first and best response is to call the nearest Poison Control Center or local emergency personnel. Time after time they are quickly able

to determine what the child has swallowed and what's the best remedy.

How do they do it? How do they do it so fast? And most miraculously, how do they do it while a distraught parent waits and prays on the phone? Do these heroes have encyclopedic memories? No, but they have the next best thing. They have access to a comprehensive electronic database called POISINDEX® which identifies and provides ingredient information with 1.2 million entries for commercial, pharmaceutical and biological substances. It also provides treatment protocols—or antidotes—for poisons. Every day, emergency teams are tapping into POISINDEX® to get answers while a life hangs in the balance.

I am proud to have MICROMEDEX and their 500 employees which provide such important products in my district. It is especially appropriate we recognize the value of this under-appreciated database as Congress prepares to take steps to prevent database piracy. MICROMEDEX, of Englewood, Colorado and the producer of POISINDEX®, has grave concerns that unless we close a gap in the law its work could be stolen, an act of piracy that could endanger the safety of many people.

Some might argue that the more widely we distribute information about poisons and their antidotes, the better. Although this notion is well intended, it is also misguided and could have serious consequences. Scientific knowledge is constantly moving forward, and as a result, medical information can rapidly go out-of-date. The POISINDEX® team of 125 industry expert editors is dedicated—as a business and as corporate citizens—to providing unbiased information of unsurpassed breadth and depth. For 25 years they have invested a lot of time, money and effort doing precisely that. The problem is, a commitment to the integrity of the information is not necessarily shared by people who would pirate the contents of POISINDEX® and distribute or sell them on the Internet or elsewhere. This is the type of "sweat of the brow" databases that Congress needs to prevent from being pirated.

If POISINDEX® can be copied and distributed by pirates, it raises a truly frightening specter: the emergency team searching frantically for information, only to find it is incomplete, out-of-date or inaccurate. Imagine yourself as the parent in that nightmare.

Legislation pending before the House, H.R. 354, of which I am a cosponsor, will prevent database piracy and ensure that POISINDEX® will continue to help save lives. By preventing piracy, H.R. 354 maintains the incentives database publishers need to stay in business. It also encourages competition within this growing industry, which will lead to the creation of more high quality products.

Yes, POISINDEX® is an extreme example with potentially extreme consequences. But even in less dire cases, the principle is the same. Unless we do something about database piracy, we will undermine the commitment of producers to build and maintain the integrity and accuracy of the databases we depend on every day.

We can all be grateful to MICROMEDEX for creating and maintaining such a vital product, and for showing how accurate information can literally save lives. It is the most graphic example I can imagine of how poison prevention and database protection go hand-in-hand.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this year's National Poison Prevention