

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE SENIORS HEALTH CHOICE PRESERVATION ACT

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Seniors Health Choice Preservation Act. This bill will protect Medicare+Choice HMOs from additional payments cuts. Furthermore, the bill will assist Medicare HMO's that cover preservation drugs so that they can continue to provide this important benefit.

I believe we have a commitment to America's seniors to provide dependable health care through the Medicare program.

I strongly supported giving seniors more options and flexibility when I voted for Medicare+Choice in the Balanced Budget Act.

Empowering consumers to choose their care is the best way to improve quality and affordability in the health care system.

Unfortunately, more than 700,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Medicare+Choice HMOs nationwide have had their coverage either disrupted or discontinued over the past two years.

In some congressional districts—like mine—many seniors were forced to return to fee-for-service Medicare because there were no other options in this area. Even in areas that still have Medicare HMOs, seniors have been hit with increased out-of-pocket costs and reduced benefits,

Seniors in my district love their HMOs. They get things like prescription drug coverage, dental care, and eye exams and glasses. At a time when HMOs are getting a bad rap in a lot of places, we want to keep our HMOs in Florida.

Unfortunately, the policies of the Health Care Financing Administration are making this very hard to do. They have taken some well-intentioned provisions in the Balanced Budget Act and twisted them in order to cut payments to the HMOs who need it most, forcing them to leave certain areas—like rural areas—where they can't cover their expenses.

Even though we provided these HMOs with some relief last year, we need to build on this work to guarantee that current and future generations of Medicare beneficiaries have a strong health care system that offers them choices in how they receive care.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Seniors Health Choice Preservation Act in order to preserve their constituents health care choices and to prevent future crisis for seniors on Medicare.

COMMENDING JAMES SPELLMAN, SR. OF PAWCATUCK, CONNECTICUT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, today I commend Mr. James Spellman, Sr. of Pawcatuck, Connecticut for more than five decades of public service on behalf of his Town, State and Country. On April 28, Mr. Spellman will mark his 80th birthday.

Mr. Spellman has dedicated the better part of his adult life in roles assisting the residents of his community and beyond. He served as a member of the Board of Education between 1948 and 1953. From 1955 and 1961, he was Judge on the Stonington Town Court. In 1961, Mr. Spellman was elected to his initial term as First Selectman. He would be reelected to this position successively for another 11-terms until he stepped down in 1985. His long tenure is a testament to the excellence of his service which was marked by innovation, foresight and a balanced stewardship of Town affairs.

During those years, the Town of Stonington went through a period of considerable growth, adding three new schools, a police station and a significant amount of public infrastructure necessary to serve a growing population and to respond to economic development fueled by the tourism industry. Throughout his career as Chief Elected Official and Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Spellman was known for his concern for all segments of the community, his willingness to respond to constituent needs at all times of the day and night, and his sincerity in pursuing the duties of the office.

Jim Spellman has also served his nation in a number of capacities. He was in the Navy in the Pacific during World War II. He was a member of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for nearly 15 years. In this assignment, he worked to ensure that the region's fishery resources would be healthy for existing and future generations of fishermen from Stonington and throughout southeastern Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, James Spellman, Sr. has a record of service to his community that few will ever equal. Although he no longer holds formal positions on boards or commissions, he continues to remain active in the community offering his bountiful experience and energy to help Stonington in the Twenty First Century. I joint citizens in Stonington in wishing him all the best in the years ahead.

HONORING STEVEN T. KOIKE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Steven T. Koike for being named the re-

ipient of the second annual Award for Outstanding Achievement, by the Friends of Agricultural Extension.

The Friends of Agricultural Extension is a volunteer group that supports the Agricultural Extension program in the San Joaquin Valley. Each year Friends of Agricultural Extension publicly recognizes the author of an outstanding program in adaptive research and extension, which addresses a problem or opportunity facing production agriculture. This year, Koike's program, on the subject "Research and Education about Spinach Diseases: A Model for Responding to the Needs of Growers of Minor Crops in California", has been selected.

Steven T. Koike serves as the Plant Pathology Farm Advisor for Monterey County as well as the counties of Santa Cruz and San Benito. Koike's research specializes in regional diagnosis of diseases of vegetables and floral plants.

Koike, in assuming the position he now holds, brought to the region the vision of a country-based pathology laboratory to provide rapid diagnostic and research services to the farming community.

Koike envisioned and brought into being (through grants, industry support, and county resources) a pathology laboratory fully equipped to deal with most fungal, bacterial, and nematode pests.

Steven T. Koike, with the laboratory in place, is able to provide California farmers timely and accurate diagnostic methods, serving growers and farm advisors from no less than 15 California counties.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Mr. Steven T. Koike for his extraordinary research in the field of plant pathology, and to congratulate him on being named the recipient of the second annual Award for Outstanding Achievement. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Koike many more years of continued success.

AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1776) to expand homeownership in the United States:

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment by my estimable colleague from California, Congresswoman WATERS.

As a former Mayor of a large city, I know a thing or two about depending on Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) to pay for services and housing for

• 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.

poor communities. And let me tell you—there is never enough money in the pot to meet the needs of those communities.

I think the proposals made here today are great. I think creating incentives for teachers and police officers to move into distressed communities is a great idea. Mixed income communities provide lower income neighborhoods with much-needed role models and opportunities.

But let us be very clear about the funding for these changes. The money for these proposals we are discussing here today will have to come from the same pot of money that is currently set aside for the very neediest of Americans.

And there isn't enough of it to go around.

Today the floor is filled with talk about the need to reinvest in our communities. What I want to know is—when we are all back here in the fall debating the budget, will we be as committed to these programs—to these communities—as we are today?

Will we be willing to put our money where our mouth is today?

I support this underlying legislation. We should work together to revitalize those areas that need our attention.

If we are going to take these programs beyond their intended mission, we should be prepared to increase the funding necessary to add each of the groups we want to make eligible.

We cannot stretch dollars too thin at the expense of the people we say we are trying to lift up. I look forward to working with the sponsors of this legislation to ensure that the funding is in place to meet our shared goals.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF RAY MINTON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ray Minton on his retirement as the Cannon County Election Commission's Administrator of Elections. He has served as Cannon County's chief election officer for 32 years.

A lot has changed since 1968, the year Ray started working for the Cannon County Election Commission. Ballots have gone from paper to computer, and records from handwritten to typed to computer. District lines have been redrawn. Candidates have won or lost by the will of the voting public.

No doubt the biggest change in Ray's life and the event that led him to the election commission was the discovery of a cancerous spinal tumor. After losing the use of his legs, he began to work part time at the election commission as part of his recovery. Ray has said that the work kept him busy and made him feel needed. And I can assure you that Ray has been, and still is, needed by his community and friends like myself.

We will sorely miss him, but I'm sure Ray will continue to be a positive role model, admired for his attitude and service to his community.

Ray, I wish you the best of luck in any new endeavors you decide to take on and for you to have a long and happy retirement spent with your family and friends.

HONORING DOCTOR ROCCO ORLANDO FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and join the Italian American Historical Society of Greater New Haven as they pay tribute to one of our community's outstanding citizens, my cousin, Dr. Rocco Orlando. This evening family, friends, and colleagues will gather as Rocco is honored with this year's Distinguished Service Award.

I often speak of our Nation's need for talented, creative, enthusiastic teachers who are ready to help our children learn and grow. Rocco is just that kind of educator. Throughout his career he has touched the lives of children from elementary school to college. His career culminated as he was appointed as a professor in the Sixth Year Graduate Program in Educational Leadership at Southern Connecticut State University—charged with preparing students for administrative positions in public school systems themselves.

Public education is the cornerstone of the American dream, leveling the playing field and providing every child with the opportunity to make the most of his or her talents. It is talented professionals like Rocco who truly shape the leaders of tomorrow. His unique dedication to education extends outside the classroom into the community itself. Rocco has long been affiliated with the New Haven Scholarship fund, currently serving as vice president, enabling hundreds of needy students to continue their education.

Shortly after the Connecticut General Assembly passed a collective bargaining law in 1966, Rocco began to study the effectiveness of the provided mediation process. His doctoral dissertation studied the collective bargaining negotiations between teacher organizations and Boards of Education in Connecticut. His extensive research led to his appointments, which he continues to hold, as an Arbitrator with the Connecticut State Board of Arbitration and Mediation, the Connecticut Board of Education and the Office of Policy and Management of the State of Connecticut. Rocco has worked diligently to ensure that the concerns and goals of employees and management are heard in a fair and just forum—helping to create an environment which meets the best interests of all Connecticut residents.

Today, as Rocco is honored with this very special award, I would like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation for his tireless efforts on behalf of our young people. He has made a real difference in the lives of many, leaving an indelible mark on our children and community. I am honored to join with his wife, Rae; children, Lisa and her husband Michael, Rocco and his wife, Joanne; grandchildren, Laura, Alexander, and Rocco; family; friends; colleagues; and the Italian American Historical Society to congratulate Rocco as the recipient of this year's Distinguished Service Award. His remarkable contributions are a reflection of the very spirit of this award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE DIGITAL ACCESS ACT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, with the Government's increasing dependence on information technology to accomplish agency goals, and at the fast pace with which technology is changing, the Government is finding it difficult to hire, train, and retain a technology literate workforce. The ability to use computers and the Internet has become indispensable to employees' education, career, social, and cultural advancement. Technology literacy has become not only a basic job requirement, but also a basic life skill.

Economists and policymakers have highlighted an acceleration in the growth of productivity, which measures worker output per hour, as a key reason the economy has performed so well in recent years. Economists have attributed the rise in productivity to better management, and to a wave of business investment that has allowed firms to take advantage of major technological advances, particularly in computing and information processing. The Government is no exception.

Last month, David Walker, Comptroller General for the General Accounting Office (GAO), testified before the Senate Government Affairs Committee on "Managing Human Capital in the 21st Century." He stated, and I quote:

"One of the principal strategies that agencies have used to deliver services with fewer staff has been an increased reliance on information technology. However, the agencies' ability to make the most of this strategy could be jeopardized by the competitive disadvantage they report facing in hiring and retraining skilled information technology staff."

He went on to say that if the government does not improve its human resource systems, in this regard, it will earn GAO's high risk designation in 2001. The Federal Times, a federal employees newspaper, recently reported that federal agencies are facing skills gaps, particularly in the area of technology, and are facing the potential loss of 30 percent of their employees within five years.

Which the advent of the Information Age, the need for technologically skilled people is escalating. Meanwhile, the number of skilled American high technology workers has declined. This comes at a time when efforts are underway to create an e-Government. E-Government is the widespread application of information and communications technology to deliver government services—fostering digital government.

Filing your income taxes on-line is just the beginning. In e-Government, citizens can log onto one Internet site, easily find the government services they are looking for, and use that site to conduct online transactions; businesses can fill out one Internet form for all their local, state and federal environmental regulatory compliance requirements and government officials can make all purchases and payments electronically, saving millions of dollars. To support e-Government, you must have an e-workforce.

In response to an increasingly competitive job market, federal agencies will need tools and flexibilities to attract, hire, and retain technologically savvy talent. The work that federal

agencies do requires a workforce that is sophisticated in new technologies, flexible, and open to continuous learning. The present federal workforce is aging. The baby boomers, with their valuable skills and experience, are drawing nearer to retirement and will be replaced by new employees who have different employment options and different career expectations from the generation that preceded them.

These new employees place a great premium on opportunities to learn, a work life personal life balance, independence and creativity, and flexible work arrangements. The relative security offered by federal jobs is no longer an important factor for many Generation X'ers who expect to change jobs frequently to learn new skills, earn a higher salary, and make a variety of contributions.

Continuing education and training is critical in today's marketplace, where job skills are changing rapidly and global competition demands world-class and ever-improving productivity. The federal Government must equip its employees with the skills and knowledge required of a high performance workforce. The Federal Workforce Digital Access Act allows the Government to take steps to do just that.

The Federal Workforce Digital Access Act (FWDA) provides that permanent employees in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the federal Government, who complete one year of employment, will be eligible to receive a computer, and Internet service at home at no charge. The benefit provides that federal agencies make use of, primarily, Internet Based Training (IBT) and on-site training to enhance the technological skills of their employees. The benefit provided for under the FWDA is called the "digital access benefit." The employee has the option of declining the digital access benefit package or choosing Internet service only.

In order to promote greater technological proficiency within the Government's workforce, the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will work together to establish and operate the digital access benefit program. GSA will be responsible for negotiating the digital access benefit contract. OPM will be responsible for general oversight of the program. To evaluate the program's operation, agencies will submit a report to the Office of Management and Budget on cost efficiencies, organizational performance, increased productivity, and training opportunities realized from the implementation of the Act. The report, which must be submitted to Congress in the fourth year of the program's operation, will help Congress assess whether the program should be reauthorized.

Agencies will be appropriated the funds to execute the Act and will deposit those funds in the Employees' Digital Access Fund. The Fund is available for all payments for goods and services under the Act, including GSA's and OPM's administrative costs.

FWDA is an imperative for those Federal employees across the country who work in mail rooms or who serve in the field as law enforcement officers, who have limited contact with a computer. It is also an imperative for those employees who daily underutilize computers by using them for simple word processing and e-mail functions. Providing federal employees with computers at home will expose employees to computer technology on a

daily basis and IBT will broaden their knowledge and application of new technologies.

Internet or web-based delivery of educational content, supplemented by numerous online tools, is an inexpensive, flexible and convenient way to empower Federal employees to become technologically proficient. IBT provides a hands-on approach to technology education. It permits employees to access content from inside and outside brick and mortar training facilities, to learn at their own pace, view video and other visual explanation of technology, and allows them to test themselves online to assess comprehension and retention. IBT takes the fear and intimidation out of learning new and emerging technologies. The result is a technologically savvy and creative employee that can not only support e-Government, but can help to create and develop it.

The FWDA gives the Federal government and its future and current workforce, the tools it needs to better serve the citizenry and be a leader in a knowledge-based economy.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE KEITH J. DAVIS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Keith J. Davis, a longtime friend, who passed away on January 23, 2000. He was 77. Mr. Davis was a Veteran as well as an upstanding member of the community.

Mr. Davis was born on August 31, 1923 in Salt Lake City, Utah. He graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in engineering. Mr. Davis joined the United States Army in 1942 and retired in 1978 with the rank of Colonel.

Throughout his life Mr. Davis held many positions in his community. He was a member of the Mariposa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6042. He was also a member of the Elks Lodge, a member of the Operating Engineers Union, and a past president of the Mariposa County Republicans Central Committee. He was a private pilot and an avid hunter, as well.

Mr. Davis is survived by his daughters, Kathleen Saz of Citrus Heights and Kristi Smith of Sacramento; son James Subisaretta of Texas; sisters Miriam Hurley of Davis and Dorothy Hendrickson of Oregon; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Keith J. Davis for his dedication to his community and his service to this country. His family members, and those who knew him, will remember Mr. Davis for his integrity, honesty, and hard work. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending my condolences to the Davis family.

TRIBUTE TO GROVER ROBINSON III AND SANDRA LOWREY ROBINSON

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties

and the State of Florida have been blessed with two people who have dedicated their careers to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of life. These fine people have distinguished themselves as community leaders and the models of honesty and integrity in public service. The couple that I speak about today is Grover Robinson III and Sandra Lowrey Robinson.

Most of the residents of Northwest Florida remember and admire Grover for his years of public service, during which he served as the District 3 Representative in the Florida House. However, what I admire most about Grover is that he always went above and beyond the call of duty to help others. At a time when our nation calls out for principled leadership from public officials, it is fitting that today we honor a true gentleman who always went the extra mile to represent the under-represented and to promote excellence within the community, the State of Florida, and the nation. During his distinguished career. Grover never forgot how important the little guy is to the American way of life. It is little wonder that Grover Robinson III is known as one of the most popular elected officials in Escambia County history.

When he ended his political career in 1986, he joined his wife, Sandra, in putting new life into community and church life, serving the people of Northwest Florida with compassion and loving care.

Grover was active in the Pensacola Jaycees, the March of Dimes, the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, the United Way, and most especially Christ Episcopal Church.

His wife, Sandra Lowrey Robinson, was made from the same cloth as Grover. She was active in the Northwest Florida community and a member of the Pensacola Junior College Foundation Board, and Baptist Hospital Foundation Board, the Junior League of Pensacola, and Episcopal Church.

Mr. Speaker, the lives of these two people were cut tragically short earlier this year. But as we celebrate the accomplishments and the lives of Grover and Sandra, we can take pride in knowing they have influenced so many people in a positive way. As a fellow elected official and as a friend, I appreciate the importance of dedication and devotion to public office and the community. Their legacy will be a constant reminder that together, two people can make an extraordinary difference in the lives of many.

BACK TO HEALTH WEEK

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, today is the first day of "Back to Health Week," a national campaign created to increase awareness of back pain as well as possible causes and prevention. Sponsored by the North American Spine Society, this week is designed to educate Americans about their spine and how they can prevent common back pain.

The facts of back pain speak for themselves. Did you know that at some point in their lives, more than 80% of American adults experience back pain? Or, that 1 out of 14 adults will visit a physician this year due to back or neck pain and that back pain is the

second most common reason people visit a physician? These statistics demonstrate how important it is to raise awareness about this health problem that affects so many Americans.

One Famous American who suffers from back pain is two-time Cy Young Award winner and Major League Baseball pitcher Randy Johnson. After Johnson won the Cy Young in 1995, he was sidelined because of back problems for most of the 1996 season. Johnson captured his second Cy Young last year after surgery to correct a herniated disk and months of physical therapy.

Another highlight of "Back to Health Week" is an event to distribute information about back pain. "Back to Health Day" will be held Thursday April 13th in the Capitol. "Back to Health Day" will provide an array of educational materials, including guidelines to a healthy back, exercises to strengthen your back, and how to prevent back pain. In addition, representatives from the North American Spine Society will be on hand to discuss commonly asked questions about back pain, causes, and prevention. I encourage my colleagues to join us for "Back to Health Day" as we learn the most effective ways to prevent and alleviate back pain.

I commend the North American Spine Society for organizing "Back to Health Week" and for their commitment to ensuring Americans learn to keep their backs healthy.

"THE QUILTS OF TEARS"—HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS AND THEIR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE SUFFERED FROM AGENT ORANGE

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the loss and suffering of Vietnam veterans and their loved ones due to the use of Agent Orange is one of the sad legacies of the Vietnam War that continues to haunt our nation. Because of our nation's use of herbicides during the war, tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans have died or live daily with the scars of disease. As any veteran will tell you, the scars of war are not just physical, but also emotional. Too many veterans and their loved ones live each day with the continuing pain of dealing with the loss and the illnesses caused by Agent Orange.

Next week, the "quilts of tears" will arrive in Washington, DC. This is an important event because the quilts tell many of the stories that need to be told about the devastation this tragedy has exacted on too many lives.

Recently, I received a letter from Ms. Jennie R. LeFevre, an Agent Orange widow, who eloquently describes her own experiences as well as the legacy left of broken soldiers and broken families. I believe it captures the essence of the Agent Orange tragedy as well as the costs that our nation continues to pay for a war that ended almost twenty-five years ago.

The quilts will arrive on the Mall on April 17 and will be available for viewing near the Vietnam Memorial. They will also be on display on Memorial Day on the banks of the Reflecting Pool. I urge my colleagues to visit this moving

and unforgettable memorial. The letter from Ms. LeFevre follows:

THE QUILTS OF TEARS

Agent Orange has been interwoven into the fabric of the lives of many Vietnam Veterans and their families. To tell their story, the "Quilts of Tears" project was created. It is to show the world the suffering and pain that the Agent Orange Victims and their families have endured. Each block in the "Quilts of Tears" reflect their struggles with life and death issues of Agent Orange. Agent Orange has left invisible scars on the hearts and minds of these victims and their families.

I have recently heard these words about Vietnam Veterans. The words are, "All gave some, but some gave all". Such is the case of the thousands of who have already lost their lives to the great tragedy Agent Orange, for they were killed in Vietnam and didn't know it. They were killed by the silent and invisible bullet, Agent Orange. Their names do not appear on the black granite Wall in Washington, DC, the "Quilts of Tears" are their Wall.

The "Quilts of Tears" was founded by Jennie R. LeFevre of Shady Side, MD, Founder and President of the Agent Orange Victims and Widows Support Network. The quilts are a Tribute, Memorial and Honor to the Vietnam Agent Orange Victims, both living and dead. Each block represents a victim, and they show the victim's unit in Nam, years served in Nam and the nature of the victim's health problems relating to Agent Orange. At present, there are ten quilts, each measuring 80 by 100 inches, each quilt contains 20 blocks. At displays, the quilts are hung on walls or spread on the ground with walking space between each one to allow viewing from any angle. "The Quilt of Tears" project is mentioned throughout the Internet on many of the Vietnam Veterans websites and e-mail forums and indeed the "Quilts of Tears" has a website of its own as well.

Mothers, sisters, and other family members have adorned the blocks with their loved one's picture, unit patches, military emblems, medals, awards, etc., etc. The quilts were displayed for the first time on the Mall in Washington, DC several years ago. They have since traveled to a quilt show in NJ, several Vietnam Veteran's Reunions in St. Louis, MO, and were also displayed at the Vietnam Veteran Reunion in Kokomo, Ind. They were on display a year ago Veterans Day in the Rotunda of the Utah State Capitol. The quilts are called the "Quilts of Tears" because many tears have been shed for these victims. "The Quilts of Tears" already have letters of acknowledgment and endorsement from both the Agent Orange Coordinating Council and Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., headquarters in Washington, DC.

I am an Agent Orange widow myself, my late husband, a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam War, died with cancer in ten parts of his body. Unfortunately, the VA states the cancer he had was not related to his exposure to Agent Orange so there I am not compensated. I believe Agent Orange did cause his death. I am a member of the Agent Orange Coordinating Council, chaired by the late Admiral Zumwalt and have been on the Council for seven years. I made a block for Admiral's son with the words inscribed "A Great Warrior Son" which Admiral Zumwalt requested to be put on his son's block. The block is now a part of the Quilts of Tears.

"The Quilts of Tears" are the Wall for the Agent Orange Victims. Their stories need to be mentioned for all of the suffering and pain they have endured in love and honor for their country, the quilts do just that. One has only to look at the quilts to see for themselves what has happened to these vic-

tims. After the display in Kokomo, I received a letter from a veteran who stated the quilts were the most moving piece of art he had seen since the Wall in Washington, DC. A veteran with Agent Orange problems saw the display in Washington, he said he had no one to make a block for him, I told him that I would do it for him. Later he sent me his Purpose Heart to put on the block. One of his prized possessions, he insists that it be placed on his block.

These quilts are very dear to the hearts of the Vietnam Veterans, the Agent Orange Victims, and their families. Over Memorial Day weekend last year, a big burly veteran looked at the quilts beside the Reflecting pool, walked a short distance away, fell to his knees and burst into tears. When I went to him and hugged him, he asked "Am I next?". The next display of the quilts will be on Monday April 17, 10:00 a.m. at the "In Memory" ceremony near the Wall, weather permitting, and they will be on the banks of the Reflecting Pool over memorial Day weekend. I invite you and the general public to come and view them.

Recently, I was at an Agent Orange meeting and another Agent Orange widow took a pin off her blouse and put it on my sweater. The pin was a black heart edged in gold, a jagged streak was across the heart to represent a broken heart and in the center of the heart was an orange teardrop. Yes, our hearts are broken for the Agent Orange Victims.

The late Admiral Elmo Zumwalt Jr. was a real friend and advocate for the Agent Orange Victims and their families. May his memory and devotion to the Agent Orange issue live on in our hearts forever. Those of us who are a part of the Agent Orange struggle say "We will never allow the Agent Orange Victims to be Forgotten".

Most Sincerely,

JENNIE R. LEFEVRE,
Agent Orange Widow.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. IRWIN JACOBS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend and constituent, Dr. Irwin Jacobs. America is well aware that Dr. Jacobs is the founder and CEO of Qualcomm, home of the CDMA wireless telecommunications standard. In addition to his work with Qualcomm, however, Dr. Jacobs is very active in San Diego's technology community.

Dr. Jacobs was named scientist of the year by the San Diego Chapter of Achievement Reward for College Scientists. Ms. Toni Nickell, the president of the San Diego chapter, said that Dr. Jacobs was given this award "because of his great contributions to technology". Specifically, Dr. Jacobs, as the CEO of Qualcomm, has been conducting research that would expand the use of cellular phones and make them the personal computers of tomorrow.

Irwin Jacobs deserves our congratulations for a job well done. Thanks in no small part to him, San Diego County is the global headquarters for CDMA wireless telecommunications technology.

I commend my colleagues to read this attached article from the San Diego Union Tribune of April 6, 2000 describing this most recent honor for Dr. Jacobs.

[From the San Diego Union-Tribune, Apr. 6, 2000]

QUALCOMM CHIEF NAMED SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR BY WOMEN'S GROUP
(By David E. Graham)

Technology is emerging now that will blur the distinctions between a cellular phone and a desktop computer, Irwin Jacobs, the CEO of Qualcomm, said last night at an awards banquet in his honor.

The leader of the San Diego wireless telecommunications company was named scientist of the year by the San Diego chapter of Achievement Reward for College Scientists. The women's group raises money for scholarships for university students studying science.

While celebrating the need for talented students to fuel innovation, Jacobs said his company is interested in expanding the capabilities of digital cellular phones. "That device is able to do many, many things for us," Jacobs said.

The company's code-division-multiple-access technology is a standard technology for transferring information to the phones. Soon, however, cellular phones will be able to tell users that location in a city or within a building, using a global-positioning technology. Other changes likely will include the ability to connect to the Internet and download and store great amounts of information—and even download and play back music.

Holding a cellular phone, he told the audience: "I believe for many people it will be their computer."

When someone needed a larger keyboard for writing and a screen for large display of information, the phone could be dropped into a device at a hotel or airport, for example, where work could be done.

The information could be used from within the phone set or against plugged into another larger display at another site, he said.

Many consider Jacobs a voice not to be ignored. Buoyed by the CDMA technology used in portable phones and by other business moves, Qualcomm has been a darling of Wall Street, its stock having soared last year.

Jacobs said he also is interested in the distribution of cinematic film to theaters digitally rather than on traditional film.

Jacobs was chosen for the Achievement Reward for College Scientists award "because of his great contributions to technology," said Toni Nickell, president of the group's San Diego chapter.

The chapter provided \$425,000 in scholarships last fall to 49 graduate and undergraduate students at UCSD, SDSU and The Scripps Research Institute.

Since the chapter was organized in 1985, it has given more than \$2.4 million in scholarships to 375 students.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY CAN AFFORD A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT AND MORE RESEARCH

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the pharmaceutical industry alleges that government intervention will lead to cost containment and price controls which will stifle research and development of new drugs. In fact, they are not spending enough on R&D.

According to today's Wall Street Journal survey on executive compensation, the aver-

age CEO of a pharmaceutical company received \$14.9 million in salary, bonus, and stock options in 1999.

Rather than maximizing the R&D of new therapies and cures for diseases, they are spending it on pay for their executives. Today's Wall Street Journal article shows what the pharmaceutical industry's real priorities are.

The top five highest compensated CEOs of pharmaceutical companies surveyed were: (1) Charles A. Heimbold, Jr., \$44 million, Bristol-Myers Squibb; (2) Richard Jay Kogan, \$36.7 million, Schering-Plough; (3) Ralph S. Larsen, \$34.9 million, Johnson & Johnson; (4) Sidney Taurel, \$33.3 million, Eli Lilly; and (5) Fred Hassan, \$15 million, Pharmacia & Upjohn.

The income of these 5 men is roughly half the cost of discovering a blockbuster drug that could cure millions of people.

Mr. Speaker, we shouldn't let this industry tell us they can't afford to participate in a Medicare drug benefit and continue research.

HONORING GILBERT SERVIN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Gilbert Servin, the outgoing President of the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (C.C.H.C.C.) is the largest Hispanic business organization in the Central Valley.

Servin, a founding Board member of the C.C.H.C.C., was the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President for one year. Along with his achievements as President of the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Servin was also elected to serve for two years as treasurer for the State Hispanic Chamber.

Gilbert Servin graduated from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona in March 1976. For the next fifteen years he was employed by the Clinicas de Salud Del Pueblo, Inc., in Brawley, California, as a Business Manager and Assistant Executive Director. In 1980 Gilbert Servin accepted the opportunity of serving as Business Manager for United Health Centers of San Joaquin Valley, Inc., a considerably larger health center.

Gilbert Servin's experience and expertise, obtained while employed by the United Health Centers and the Clinicas de Salud, propelled him to become an independent consultant in healthcare financing and management in March of 1983. In addition, Gilbert Servin, CEO for CAGSI International (previously Gilbert Servin Associates), and his highly experienced staff provide professional services in the preparation of financial feasibility studies. Currently, Gilbert Servin has focused his efforts in expanding its services to assist local governments and community groups in financing projects. These projects will promote economic development, with an emphasis on rural areas.

Mr. Speaker, I want to honor Gilbert Servin as the outgoing President of the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Gilbert Servin many more years of continued success.

HELP FOR THE NATION'S PREMIER TEACHING HOSPITALS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today with Senator PATRICK MOYNIHAN, and a number of my House and Senate colleagues in introducing legislation to stop further Medicare cuts in the indirect medical education (IME) program.

IME payments are extra payments made to teaching hospitals for the fact that they are training the next generation of doctors, and that the cost of training a young doctor—like any apprenticeship or new person on the job—is more expensive than just dealing with experienced, older workers. The young person requires mentoring, orders more tests, and makes mistakes unless closely supervised. It is natural that a group of young residents in a hospital will reduce a hospital's efficiency and increase its costs. Medicare should help pay for these extra "indirect" costs, if we want—as we surely do—future generations of competent, highly skilled doctors.

The Balanced Budget Act took the position that the extra adjustment we pay a hospital per resident should be reduced from 7.7% in FY 1997 to 5.5% in FY 2001. This provision was estimated to save about \$6 billion over 5 years and \$16 billion over ten—in addition to about another \$50 billion in hospital cuts in other portions of the BBA. In the Balanced Budget Refinement Act which was enacted last November, we recognized that these cuts were too much, and froze the fiscal year 2000 rate at 6.5%, reduced it to 6.25% in 2001 and then dropped it to 5.5% thereafter.

Mr. Speaker, last fall's delay and spread out of the cuts is helpful—but these cuts are still too much. The nation's teaching hospitals, which do so much to serve the uninsured and poor, and which are the cradle of new clinical research and technical innovation, are hemorrhaging red ink.

Our bill stops further scheduled cuts in the IME, freezing the adjustment factor at 6.5% rather than letting it fall to 5.5%, and saving teaching hospitals about billions of dollars that would otherwise be taken from them.

I hope this legislation will receive consideration this year, before the cuts resume, and these premier medical institutions are faced with cuts, layoffs, and reduced service that will literally cost us lives in the years to come.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE U.S. SUBMARINE FORCE

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I rise today to congratulate the U.S. Navy Submarine Force on the occasion of its 100th anniversary of service to America.

We have a rich maritime heritage in southeastern Connecticut and a long legacy of outstanding craftsmen as well as patriots. When the Navy purchased the *Holland* from a relatively unknown shipyard on April 11, 1900, it

set in motion a legacy unequalled in our nation's history. Commanded by Lt. Harry H. Caldwell, the *Holland* traveled through yet uncharted depths, setting the standard for all who followed. For shipbuilders and sailors, having set the technological clock in motion, the Submarine Force has never looked back. The Submarine Force has met challenge after challenge head on—first identifying them, then dissecting them, and finally overcoming them.

In April 1775, the first Minute Men confronted the British regulars to begin the American Revolution. One hundred and 25 years later, the early patriots—Washington, Adams, Hancock, Revere, and Hale—were joined by the likes of Nimitz, O'Kane, Dealey, Cromwell, Fluckey, and Gilmore. While Nathan Hale's defiant proclamation "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country!" was immortalized as unselfish patriotism, so was that of Commander Howard Gilmore, who commanded, "Take her down!" Helping to turn the tide in the Pacific, United States submarines sank 5½ million tons of Japanese naval and merchant shipping—55 percent of Japanese shipping destroyed—at a loss of 52 submarines and more than 3,500 valiant men. Adm. Chester A. Nimitz, commander of the United States Navy in the Pacific during the Second World War, said: "It is to the everlasting honor and glory of our submarine personnel that they never failed us in our days of great peril."

During the cold war, the "Forty-One for Freedom" *Polaris/Poseidon* and succeeding Trident submarines ensured that our nation would never be the target of nuclear aggression. Daring intelligence missions provided a clear picture of the capabilities and the goals of the Soviets and other nations which threatened our national interests. As Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen said, "the peaceful end to 45 years of confrontation is the modern legacy of the Submarine Force." Following in the footsteps of the Minute Men, our modern day submariners are ready at a moment's call and spend every moment in constant vigilance.

But even in peace time, our submariners were not free from the dangers of the sea. Along with the many sacrifices during wartime, there were other tragic losses, such as the *S-4*, the *Thresher* and *Scorpion*.

The insignia of the Submarine Force is a submarine flanked by two dolphins. Dolphins or porpoises are the traditional attendants to Poseidon, Greek God of the Sea and patron deity of sailors. They are symbolic of a calm sea and are called the "sailor's friend." Every individual who sports this insignia may truly be recognized for their significant contributions to a tranquil sea of peace in which they valiantly fought and sacrificed so much.

Supporting the greatness of their achievements are the ships in which they sail. John Holland, a schoolteacher born in Ireland, designed the Navy's first submarine. Isaac Rice merged the Electro-Dynamic Company with the Holland Torpedo Boat Company in 1899, to form the Electric Boat Company of Groton, CT. Electric Boat has continued to be in the forefront of design and construction over the past century.

During World War I and the years immediately following, Electric Boat built 85 submarines for the U.S. Navy. It produced another 74 submarines during World War II. Working under the watchful eye of Adm.

Hyman G. Rickover, who provided the major impetus behind the development of nuclear-powered submarines and surface ships, EB built the world's first nuclear-powered submarine—the U.S.S. *Nautilus* (SSN-571). EB followed less than a decade later with the Navy's first fleet ballistic-missile submarine—the U.S.S. *George Washington* (SSBN-598). Improving on that accomplishment it designed and developed the mammoth 560-foot Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine capable of carrying a total of 24 Trident missiles. The company constructed the U.S.S. *Seawolf* (SSN-21) and the U.S.S. *Connecticut* (SSN-22)—the two fastest, quietest, most heavily armed submarines in the world. Today, Electric Boat is designing and building the first of the New Attack Submarines, now known as the Virginia-class after the first ship in the line. It will team with Newport News Shipbuilding to produce the remainder.

On behalf of the citizens of the Second Congressional District, our State of Connecticut and the Nation, I congratulate the exceptional performance of the Submarine Force and extend our deepest appreciation to our submariners and their families for a century of service to America.

THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE DIGITAL ACCESS ACT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the Federal Workforce Digital Access Act. A section-by-section analysis follows:

Section 1 provides that the title of this legislation is the "Federal Workforce Digital Access Act."

Section 2 amends title 5, United States Code, to include digital access, for the purpose of residential use, a computer and Internet service as a benefit option for employees in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of Government.

Provides that a permanent employee who completes a probationary period, or who has been employed not less than 1 year, will be eligible to receive a computer and Internet service at home at no charge. The employee has the option of declining the digital access package or choosing Internet service only.

In order to promote greater technological proficiency within the Government's workforce, the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) shall, in addition to duties and responsibilities assigned to each of them by the President, establish and operate the digital access benefit program.

The digital access benefit must allow the employee to perform office automation and e-learning functions. Internet-based and on-site training in the use of the computers and software applications, shall be included in the package. Upgrades to the digital access benefit will be made at the employee's request and expense.

Section 2 also provides that residential Internet service must link the employee to Government sites and resources, and support communication between Government agencies and the employee.

GSA may contract with any qualified person to carry out this section. The contracts shall include: the time and manner in which

ownership of the digital access package shall be transferred to the employee; options for the technological refreshment of the benefit package; restrictions on commercial advertising to subsidize benefits; measures to prevent unauthorized tracking of computer use and to protect the user's privacy; measures to prevent unauthorized sale or release of names or other identifying information; options for the renewal or extension of benefits; provisions to make benefits accessible to persons with disabilities, such as appropriate modifications or accessories; measures to permit the donation of used equipment to schools or community-based organizations; and measures to terminate, when the employee leaves the government, access to Government databases, sites, and other functions not extended to non-employees.

OPM shall establish guidelines and specifications for the program. OPM shall also: provide technical assistance to GSA or any other agency, on Internet-based training for employees, communication of information to and from employees, procedures for election of benefits, and general oversight and coordination functions to ensure the efficient delivery of the program.

Under this section, OPM shall establish provisions for any employee abroad to whom it may be impracticable to provide this benefit; and in the case of an employee who has previously received or declines benefits, how that employee will be eligible for benefits based on subsequent employment.

The GSA and OPM shall consult with each other to execute their duties and responsibilities under this section. Each employing agency shall keep records and furnish information to GSA and OPM to carry out their duties and responsibilities.

Such sums as may be necessary will be appropriated annually to each agency, including OPM and GSA, both as employing and administering agencies, to carry out this Act. The costs associated with furnishing this benefit will be payable by the employee's employing agency to GSA as specified by applicable requirements.

The amounts paid by the agency shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the Employees' Digital Access Fund. The fund is available for all payments to persons providing goods and services under this section, and to pay the respective administrative expenses of GSA and OPM within the annual limitations specified by Congress.

Section 3 amends chapter 79 of title 5 to state that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) shall submit to the President and Congress a report on the operation of the program based on the first 3 years of its operation. The report shall address the following aspects of this program: any cost savings, efficiencies, improved individual or collective organizational performance; increased productivity; greater work flexibilities; enhancement of Government recruitment and retention efforts; reduced printing and mailing costs, improved communications with respect to individuals in rural or remote locations; new Internet-based training opportunities; best practices of particular agencies; the extent that family members utilize the computer; and the extent to which it helps to bridge the digital divide. Each agency shall submit to OMB such information as the Office requires to prepare for the report.

Section 4 provides that any contract under this Act shall be subject to such amounts provided for in advance in appropriations Acts.

Section 5 provides that the benefits provided under this Act will be furnished to those employees who made elections during the 48 month period beginning 1 year after the legislation is in enacted.

H.R. 1070, THE BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER TREATMENT ACT

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I am in support of H.R. 1070, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act. This legislation will give States the ability to provide a reliable method of treatment for uninsured and underinsured women battling breast or cervical cancer.

The program currently provides screening for cancer, but it provides no treatment options for these women. So if they are diagnosed with cancer, they have no option to be cured, which is a harsh reality. Giving States the option of providing Medicaid coverage for women will help save thousands of lives.

I urge the Speaker to bring this critically important legislation to the House floor for a vote by Mother's Day, May 14. The bill has 289 bipartisan cosponsors, well over the required number to pass a bill on the Suspension Calendar. In addition, the funding for this bill was also included in the House passed budget resolution.

Mr. Speaker, let's bring H.R. 1070 to the House floor before Mother's Day, in time to give our mothers, our sisters, our daughters the most important gift of all, the gift of life.

HONORING LT. DENNIS HOLMES,
MILPITAS POLICE DEPARTMENT**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lt. Dennis Holmes upon his retirement from the Milpitas Police Department after nearly 33 years of exemplary service to law enforcement.

Lt. Holmes joined the police force in Milpitas in 1967. He was promoted to sergeant in March 1974 and rose to the rank of lieutenant in September 1980.

During his early years as a police officer, Lt. Holmes was the first officer to be selected to serve as a field-training officer. As a supervisor, he helped develop structured localized field-training programs that he managed for nearly 15 years. He sat on the advisory board of the regional police academy and was a strong advocate for specialty and professional training for all departmental employees.

Lt. Holmes served in almost all of the available sections of the Milpitas Police Department. He started in Patrol, and then transferred into Traffic Enforcement and Investigation. He was later selected to head up the Traffic Section. As a sergeant he supervised in Patrol, was transferred into Generalist Investigations, and was then selected to supervise a proactive enforcement.

As supervisor of the proactive team, drug related arrests more than doubled and the residential burglary rate plummeted. He also introduced an objective employee performance appraisal system that was later adopted city-wide. This system has been in place with few modifications for over 20 years.

As investigative lieutenant, he implemented and formalized case management procedures,

which brought accountability to the investigation function. In addition, he implemented an automated case tracking system and instituted a subjective case-screening model.

Lt. Holmes served as president of the Milpitas Police Officer's Association for 4 years. He was lead negotiator for two employee relations contracts, and served on two additional negotiation teams. He was instrumental in obtaining the first fully confidential police psychological counseling benefit for Milpitas police employees.

I have highlighted some of Lt. Holmes' many accomplishments and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding public servant. He has been an innovator and a change agent in law enforcement. His unselfish dedication to the Milpitas community is appreciated and will be long remembered.

THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 15th anniversary of the Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation.

In the early 1980's, a group of community residents became concerned about the lack of healthcare services in southern Illinois. At that time, there were very few physicians in the area. Residents of the region suffered from a lack of adequate healthcare services. Infant mortality rates and rates of other health related concerns were on the rise. Most physicians in the region expressed their reluctance to participate in federal programs to assist the poor. Several communities in the area were also federally designated as under served and a health care professional shortage was also recognized.

In 1983, this concerned group of citizens formed a not-for-profit organization to promote health care concerns. The original charter members of the corporation included Harvey Jones Jr., Francis Touchette, Bob Bergman, Callie Mobley, Don Sminchak, Virginia "Betty" Knuckles, Kathleen Touchette, Dr. Mays Maxwell and Rev. Father Jerry Wirth. I was also proud to also be part of that original committee. The Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation opened its first center in one side of the public health department building at 6000 Bond Avenue in Centreville, Illinois on January 7, 1985.

With assistance of an initial Federal grant, the center began its operations in the Centreville facility, providing health care services to the surrounding communities in the area. The foundation's services expanded in the 90's with facilities opening in East St. Louis, Washington Park and Brooklyn, Illinois. In 1913, the foundation partnered with Touchette Regional Hospital in Centreville and with the East Side Health District to expand its reach further into the area. I was happy to assist the center procure various grants to improve services to reduce infant mortality rates in the area and in 1997 the foundation opened a facility in Alton, Illinois. School based clinics also operate in East St. Louis and Cahokia, Illinois.

In recognition for its work to reduce the amount of low-birth weight babies, the Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation and Touchette Regional Hospital was one of the first winners of the "Models that Work" program, as sponsored by the National Committee For Quality Healthcare. Other awards and recognition for the system include the American Hospital Association and the Baxter Allegiance Foundation. The Baxter Award recognized the system's work with the various foundation communities. The foundation was also a finalist in the Premier Cares Award sponsored by Premier Healthcare.

Just last year, the foundation further expanded its services by opening a second site in Madison County in Bethalto, Illinois. Private grants have also been awarded to the Southern Illinois Foundation from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to allow them to address Medicaid Managed Care issues and provide funds for planning and study for healthcare issues.

Locally, the foundation has also been presented the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award from the Kimmel Leadership Center. Dr. Bob Klutts is the chief executive officer and has been the executive with the foundation since 1988.

Operations in all of the Foundation Health center sites are now well established. The foundation system has grown from an initial 8,678 patient visits in 1988 to currently over 85,000 patient visits. In addition to the clinic sites they operate in several communities, they also operate three Quick Care sites with one site devoted to the needs of mother and child care and also a site directed to the needs of adults. It is one of the strongest Healthcare networks operating in Illinois today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the anniversary and service of the Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, last evening I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall votes 111-114.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 111, "yes" on rollcall vote 112, "yes" on rollcall vote 113 and "no" on rollcall vote 114.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTH FORK
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the North Fork Chamber of Commerce for its outstanding contributions to the community.

During the last year, the North Fork Chamber of Commerce has accomplished a great deal. They have increased their membership to 64 members. The Chamber began quarterly town hall meetings with Supervisor Gary Gilbert and Sheriff John Anderson, holding three

meetings in 1999. The Chamber has also joined SUPERCHEX (Superior California Chamber Exec's) to network with neighboring Chambers of Commerce. In collaboration with neighboring Chambers, the North Fork Chamber began advance planning, one year in advance, of chamber projects.

The North Fork Chamber started a weekly "North Fork Chamber Chat" column in the Sierra Star, a local newspaper. The Chamber also resumed monthly newsletters and monthly mixers for its members.

The North Fork Chamber secured \$52,500 in grants and matching funds to add new sidewalks, mini-parks, and tourist signs on Northfork's Main Street.

The Chamber began a part-time paid staff, courtesy of the USFS SCSEP program, which also provided mileage and classes on Micro-soft programs and project management. Along with their many achievements, the Chamber also acquired a new office, courtesy of CDC, at the Mill Site Office Building, furnished and staffed by Jim Flanagan.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the North Fork Chamber of Commerce for its service to the community. I urge colleagues to join me in wishing the North Fork Chamber of Commerce many more years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO THE WATCHFUL
SHEPHERD AND JOSEPH FEMIANI

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, today, during National Child Abuse Prevention Month I praise the organizations which work tirelessly to end our children's suffering. I am proud to say that one such organization and its originator in my district are part of the crusade to make all children safe from harm. I am speaking of The Watchful Shepherd and Joseph Femiani.

Every day, 78 babies die, 2162 babies are born into poverty and 3,453 babies are born to unwed parents. Added to the likelihood that one in two children will live in a single parent family at some point in childhood, one in eight is born to a teenage mother and one in 60 sees their parents divorce in any year, it is no wonder that our children live in peril.

While Congress works to reverse these trends, The Watchful Shepherd protects children already suffering at the hands of relatives and family friends. Piloted in Southwestern Pennsylvania hospitals in 1993 and 1996, The Watchful Shepherd program unites the resources of Children and Youth Services agencies, police departments health care professionals and community residents in a unique effort to improve the protection of children at risk for abuse.

Since its successful adoption by Washington County Children and Youth Services, other communities such as Tom's River, New Jersey; Dover, Delaware; and Chesapeake, Virginia have employed the program with great success for families currently enrolled in Watchful Shepherd. Surprisingly, most families voluntarily agree to the program, which consists of a panic button worn on the child and a telephone unit which are monitored by hospital, police or trained volunteer personnel.

Many law enforcement agencies take Watchful Shepherd calls so seriously that they have classified the alarms as a level one priority. To date, there have been no false alarms and the system is constantly improving to serve children and their families together.

All great ideas have a creator. The chief champion of The Watchful Shepherd program is Joseph Femiani, whose idea has become a noble crusade. Borne out of personal experience, The Watchful Shepherd has no greater promoter. Mr. Femiani, a successful Washington County business owner, husband and father, could have savored the good life he had created for himself after a painful childhood, but he chose to make life safer for children everywhere.

Joe Femiani's tireless promotion of child abuse prevention and The Watchful Shepherd program has led to a feature in Time, an interview with National Public Radio and a segment on NBC's Dateline in addition to numerous grassroots campaigns to get the message out about his lifesaving program. All of this effort is not in vain. Mr. Femiani continues to receive national and international interest in The Watchful Shepherd program and works endlessly to organize financial support for those communities seeking to adopt the program.

Many marvel at Joe's stamina and commitment to his cause, as was the case in an interview with the Pittsburgh Catholic. "Whenever Joseph Femiani questions whether his efforts makes a difference, he reaches for a card he carries in his wallet which bears the names of children who have been murdered." That—it seems—has made all the difference.

IN HONOR OF THE WESTINGHOUSE
HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend the Westinghouse High School, and in particular the men's senior basketball team. Westinghouse High School located in the 7th Congressional District of Illinois, in the heart of the Westside, has a long tradition of academic and athletic excellence. The school has graduated several professional basketball players, including Mark Aguirre and former College Player of the Year and NBA All-Star Hersey Hawkins.

The dream of winning a state championship inspired the Westinghouse Warriors to diligently practice and perform throughout a grueling 33 game season. This year, with a season record of 31-2, the team clinched the city of Chicago championship. Their success led them to Peoria, Illinois to compete for the Class AA state title, their ultimate goal. Their hard work and determination had rewarded them with their first major achievement, the city title. However, upon the completion of the very competitive state championship game the Westinghouse Warriors came short of the victory.

In spite of their loss, I commend this hard-working and dedicated team. This team has epitomized hard work and persistence. In addition to their feats on the basketball court, team members have maintained their dedication to academics, they are truly student-ath-

letes, students first, then athletes—and champions in both.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the Westinghouse High School men's basketball team for their outstanding performance and dedication. The team, along with its head coach Mr. Chris Head, have worked hard to achieve their accomplishments. They should be honored by all of America.

NEW CROP INSURANCE OFFERS
FARMERS MORE PROTECTION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the April 3, 2000, Norfolk Daily News. The editorial expresses support for a new form of crop insurance which allows farmers to protect themselves against both natural disasters and low prices. This Member is pleased that legislation passed last year by the House makes many improvements in the current program, including providing additional assistance for producers to purchase insurance that provides protection from price or income loss, as well as production loss. This Member encourages expeditious action on resolving the differences between the risk management bills passed by the House and Senate.

[From the Norfolk Daily News, Apr. 3, 2000]
CROP INSURANCE AN IMPROVEMENT

WITH NEW INSURANCE TYPE, FARMERS CAN
FINALLY CONTROL PART OF THEIR OPERATIONS

With the weather and market price swings completely out of their control, an increasing number of farmers are embracing one of the few things that can give them at least some control over their income.

It comes in the form of crop insurance but not the type that most people think of. For years, crop insurance was a way to insure against crop disasters caused by weather debacles.

The problem was that it often was expensive, didn't provide complete coverage and many farmers shunned it, choosing instead to hope that Mother Nature would cooperate and, if that wasn't the case, that the federal government would come through with emergency assistance.

That kind of crop insurance still is available, but a newer type—one that insures against price dips and weather-related problems—is fast becoming the preferred option.

That's partly because the federal government has chosen to provide \$400 million in additional subsidies, meaning the premiums for crop insurance have been reduced by about 25 percent. A lower price for better coverage is the kind of deal anyone needs to take a close look at.

The other factor is the kind of insurance available. While more expensive than the traditional type that insures against weather-related problems, the new revenue coverage offers farmers more peace of mind in that it guarantees an income level regardless of what happens with the weather.

It also provides more marketing flexibility for participating farmers and even could provide some supplemental income during a bumper crop year—assuming market prices are low as a result.

If that sounds too good to be true, there's more. Although government subsidies have

increased for crop insurance, it is predicted that if enough farmers take advantage of the insurance options available to them, there will be significantly less chance of the government having to provide emergency bailouts because of droughts or other conditions. Those usually are more expensive to taxpayers than the subsidies.

Farming always has been one of the highest risk occupations in terms of financial results.

If this new type of crop insurance can help reduce that risk, while also reducing emergency expenditures by the federal government, then virtually everyone should benefit.

THE NATIONAL MEDIA TREATS
THE SOUTH DIFFERENTLY

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House the following article from the Lexington County Chronicle, Lexington, South Carolina.

[From the Lexington County Chronicle, Mar. 9, 2000]

WHERE HAVE YOU GONE, DAN RATHER?

(By Jerry Bellune)

Before you call me a racist, you should know that I cut my reporting teeth covering the civil rights movement of the early 1960s. It was a beat few white reporters wanted. And at one time, I was the only reporter in Charlotte, N.C., the demonstrators trusted.

When we went north in 1964, we found racism rampant there, too. One Yankee landlord refused to rent to us because, to her northern ears, our southern accents sounded African-American.

Jump ahead from the 1960s to the Year 2000. Southern schools have been desegregated. Discrimination is illegal. African-Americans have established more than a foothold in business and the middle class. In the arts and sports, they have become a dominant force.

Yet the national media seems ignorant of—or worse, indifferent to—the Deep South's dramatic social changes. They can't seem to balance changes in attitude with the other big Southern story—the Sun Belt's economic explosion.

This came home to me last week in two tragic stories. In Pennsylvania, a black man went on a rampage, killing three white people and wounding two others. In Michigan, the 6-year-old son of a jail bird took a gun to school and "got even" by shooting a white classmate to death.

Both stories were one-day sensations on TV and the local daily's front page. After that, both stories slipped deep into the inside pages.

That made me wonder how the two stories would have been handled had the races of the killers and their victims been reversed.

What might Dan Rather have had to say about a white man going on a rampage, singling out black victims. Or a white boy shooting a black classmate to death? Would the Revs. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson have descended on Michigan and Pennsylvania to lead street marches against the perpetrators of these "racist" murders?

If they are for civil rights for everybody, where are they now? And where are the TV cameras?

If either of these crimes had occurred in the South, would they have been reported as

examples of the climate of violence and racism in this backward section of our great nation?

HONORING DR. THOMAS M.
MCFADDEN

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Dr. Thomas McFadden, this year's recipient of the Community Association of the Peninsula's (CAP) Agnes R. Moss Volunteer Award.

The Agnes R. Moss Award is presented annually by the CAP Board of Trustees to the person who has been most instrumental in assisting the association to fulfill its goals. Dr. McFadden is being honored for his expertise, talent, and leadership in enhancing CAP programs.

The mission of CAP is to bring cohesiveness to all residents of the Peninsula and to respond to unmet community needs. CAP programs include the Norris Theatre for the Performing Arts, the Spirit of the Peninsula Telethon, Study Skills Workshops, the Multicultural Committee, and the Peninsula Cultural Organization.

Dr. McFadden's contributions to CAP and its programs are extensive. He has been a member of the CAP Board of Trustees since 1993 and previously served as its president for two one-year terms. In addition to his service to CAP, Dr. McFadden has been an active member of the community serving on several Peninsula advisory boards including the Palos Verdes Chamber of Commerce and the Skirball Institute.

I congratulate Dr. McFadden on receiving this award. He is a valuable member of this Peninsula community. His contributions are much appreciated.

HONORING MEMBERS OF ARMED
FORCES AND FEDERAL CIVILIAN
EMPLOYEES WHO SERVED NA-
TION DURING VIETNAM ERA AND
FAMILIES OF THOSE INDIVID-
UALS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES
OR REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR
OR WERE INJURED DURING
THAT ERA

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2000

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 228.

This bill recognizes and honors the sacrifice of our Vietnam-era veterans, their families, and those who are still unaccounted for and remain missing.

It is important for our nation to never forget the service of these military personnel.

Over 3.5 million U.S. military personnel served in the Republic of Vietnam and Southeast Asia, and millions more served around the world during the Vietnam era.

As a Vietnam Veteran, I am proud of the service of these men and women.

I saw first hand their incredible commitment and unwavering dedication to our national defense and American ideals.

After a quarter of a century since the end of the Vietnam War, it is important for all Americans to reflect on the incredible sacrifices made by these veterans who stood up to communism in Southeast Asia and around the world.

Our Vietnam-era veterans are heroes for their incredible courage and bravery both here in the United States and while deployed overseas.

They fought for freedom during a time when public support for their efforts was divided.

They returned to a nation that unfortunately did not welcome them back with the gratitude they deserved.

This was after they had withstood some of the most vicious and difficult combat conditions imaginable.

The effects of these circumstances on the lives of our Vietnam-era veterans and their families can never be fully measured.

Therefore, let us never forget the honorable service of our Vietnam-era veterans, and the heavy price paid by their friends and families.

Their sacrifice paved the way for the freedom and security we enjoy today, and no American should take for granted their willingness to serve in support of our national security and to turn back the tide of totalitarianism.

This resolution serves as a strong reminder of our gratitude to our Vietnam-era Veterans and to our soldiers currently deployed around the world.

It sends a message that we will never forget the memory of those who paid the ultimate price for the cause of freedom, and maintains our commitment to those who remain unaccounted for and are still missing.

Let this bill strengthen our resolve on behalf of our Vietnam-era veterans and their families, and serve as an expression of our appreciation and gratitude.

As someone who serves on the House Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees, I salute our Vietnam-era Veterans and am proud to co-sponsor this legislation.

HONORING THE TOWNSHIP OF
LOWER MERION IN MONT-
GOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYL-
VANIA

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. HOEFFEL. Today I congratulate the township of Lower Merion in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on its 100th anniversary. On March 5, 1900 Lower Merion formed what has become a model township government in Montgomery County.

Lower Merion's roots extend to 1682 when Welsh Quakers were granted a tract of land by William Penn just outside Philadelphia. In 1713, Lower Merion established an independent Township with about 52 landholders and tenants. The 1850s brought rapid change to Lower Merion with the advent of the railroad and marked the birth of the area known today as the "Main Line." Philadelphians soon began settling in the township and commuting to Philadelphia. In 1900, the Township was incorporated as a Township of the First Class.

The citizens of the township of Lower Merion have many achievements of which to be proud. They have a deep sense of civic pride and involvement. In fact, the Township maintains a "Community Resources Leadership Bank" of citizens interested in participating in Township Boards or Commissions. This innovation and vision distinguishes Lower Merion and it remains one of the most progressive townships in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Township officials in Lower Merion are deeply committed to the environment. Through open space conservation and environmental protection, the Lower Merion Township continually works to improve the quality of life for its residents. Lower Merion officials have demonstrated a strong commitment to their schools and community, and the township has one of the highest ranking school systems in Pennsylvania.

I am proud to represent such an extraordinary municipality. This anniversary should serve as a tribute to hard work and dedication for all who have made the Lower Merion Township the place it is.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the City of Santa Barbara. This past Sunday, I was honored to join the citizens of Santa Barbara in celebrating the rich history and legacy of our community.

Santa Barbara is a vibrantly diverse city that draws its heritage from the Chumash, Spanish, Mexican, American and European peoples. Although the incorporation of the city was in 1850, there are other milestones that preceded this date. The community was named in 1602 by Sebastian Vizcaino, a Spanish employer, who came to the area on Saint Barbara's day. In 1782, the King of Spain directed that a presidio be constructed in Santa Barbara and in 1786, the Mission was founded. Both the Presidio and the Mission hold much cultural significance to the citizens of Santa Barbara today and serve as an important reminder of our shared history. In 1850, a charter was adopted by a vote of the citizens and established Santa Barbara as one of the five California charter cities. As a charter city, the citizens of Santa Barbara enjoy "home rule" and as a result, the city is a model of how a community can preserve and sustain a high quality of life for its people.

Today, Santa Barbara boasts strong public and private schools, the nationally recognized University of California, Santa Barbara, Westmont College and Santa Barbara City College, as well as thriving small businesses, high-tech and tourism industries. But above all, as Santa Barbarans, we pride ourselves on the beauty of our environment and the quaint charm of our community. The importance of clean water, clean air and open spaces has long been recognized as a key to our community's success and we remain committed to protecting the unparalleled beauty that Santa Barbara possesses today.

Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to represent Santa Barbara in Congress and I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the many achievements of the citizens of Santa Barbara and the contributions that the city has made to America. We wish the community of Santa Barbara 150 more years of success and prosperity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, due to what may have been a technical difficulty, I was not recorded on rollcall vote 114. Had I been recorded, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE SOUTHERLAND HEAD START PROGRAM ON THEIR 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the Southerland Head Start program on their 35th Anniversary. For thirty-five years this school has been serving children in need and making sure that they have the resources necessary for a successful educational future.

In Beaumont there were originally two Head Start Centers, one at Dunbar and the other at South Park. Mavis Bryant was the director at Dunbar from 1965–1984, and Claire Collier was the director at South Park from 1966–1984. In 1984, the districts merged and the center became known as Southerland Head Start, where Claire Collier served as director until her retirement in 1994. Two principals/directors have followed Claire Collier, Charles Vanderburg served from 1994–1999, and Gloria Harrison is currently serving.

Southerland serves the community well, and there are currently 460 students enrolled in the program. Southerland's motto is "Touching Children . . . Reaching Families," and they truly live up to that motto. They reach out to children, improving their self esteem, health, and physical development. Children at Southerland learn and grow in an environment that promotes positive experiences and an understanding of the world around them.

I believe that we must provide an opportunity for every child in America to fulfill her or his potential through participation in an enriching and challenging learning environment starting at birth, and programs such as Southerland Head Start help us achieve that goal. I would like to thank Dr. Carrol Thomas, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mae E. Jones-Clark, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Gloria Harrison, Head Start Director/Principal, and all of the other people who are serving the school with unparalleled dedication.

Mr. Speaker, Southerland has served the children of Beaumont for thirty-five years, and I congratulate them as they celebrate this milestone of achievement.

LET'S CRAFT A FAIR DEAL FOR OUR VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I testified before the VA, HUD Appropriations Subcommittee. In that testimony which follows, I emphasized our duty to provide adequate funds for the vital programs that serve our Nation's veterans.

I am pleased that the administration's budget for the year 2001 recognizes that the men and women who have served in uniform deserve an adequate budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs [VA], and I believe that the efforts of many members of the House VA Committee and the efforts of our veterans' service organizations, specifically in formulating the Independent Budget, have been instrumental in producing a much better budget proposal than last year. I want to acknowledge these efforts.

The \$1.4 billion increase in the health care budget will assure our aging and disabled veterans who need medical care—especially long-term care, emergency care and specialized services—that their needs are a high priority. However, I join my colleagues and the authors of this year's Independent Budget in objecting to the proposal that \$350 million of new resources for medical care authorized by the recently passed Veterans Millennium Act be deposited to the Treasury. Funds collected from veterans for the provision of veterans' health care should be used to enhance the health care for veterans—not as a substitute for appropriated dollars.

I also want to emphasize my continuing concern that the VA is not adequately meeting the benefit and health care needs of veterans who served in the Gulf war and who now suffer from various diagnosed and undiagnosed disabilities. It has been almost 10 years since the men and women of our armed services were sent to the gulf! The veterans of the Gulf war are sick with illnesses whose causes and cures remain a mystery. We must not relax our efforts to fund necessary and appropriate research. I join the authors of the Independent Budget in supporting an increase in funding for VA medical research, and specifically request that the medical research budget be increased by \$65 million as recommended in the Independent Budget and that at least \$30 million of that increase be directed to research involving the health of Gulf war veterans.

As our veterans population ages, the need for long-term care increases. One means of providing access to such care is through the funding of State Veterans Homes. A new home will be opening in April in my congressional district, and already there is a waiting list. I want other areas to have the same opportunity as the veterans in the San Diego region will have with the opening of this new home. Therefore, I am opposed to the proposed decrease in funding for State Homes and urge this committee to provide adequate funding for this critical program.

I am also pleased that this administration has recognized what Members of Congress have known for years. Additional personnel are needed if the VA is to promptly and accurately adjudicate claims for compensation and

pension benefits. This budget will help to provide a well-trained corps of adjudicators to replace those who are nearing retirement age. I want to emphasize that the continued loss of experienced adjudicators over the past 7 years together with an increased workload in the number of issues which must be decided in each claim have led to serious problems of quality and timeliness. The increased staffing in this budget is essential to stem the tide of deterioration in claims processing.

As a former college professor, I recognize the value of a quality education for our Nation's veterans. I am disappointed that no increase for the G.I. bill is provided in the administration's budget. The G.I. bill currently provides far less than is needed to obtain an education at a public institution, and I support raising the basic education benefit. I have joined with The Partnership for Veterans' Education, a coalition representing a number of associations advocating on behalf of veterans, in calling, as a first step, for an increase in the basic monthly stipend from \$535 to \$975 a month.

Veterans comprise about one-third of our Nation's homeless population, but only 3 percent of HUD funding for the homeless is directed to specific programs for homeless veterans. I strongly urge this committee to heed the testimony of Ms. Heather French, Miss America 2000, and allocate \$750,000 from the HUD fiscal year 2001 appropriation to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans to provide technical assistance to homeless providers. This assistance is critically needed to help veteran specific homeless programs receive a fair share of Federal funding for our Nation's homeless veterans.

I also urge the committee to fund the Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program [HVRP] at its authorized level of \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2001. These programs are effective in placing homeless veterans in taxpaying jobs. They work and should be funded.

The administration's budget proposal recommends paying full disability benefits to Filipino World War II veterans who reside in the United States. Currently, these brave veterans who were drafted into service by President Roosevelt receive only half the amount received by their counterparts—U.S. veterans with whom they fought side by side to defeat our mutual enemy. I support this increase as an important step toward equity for Filipino World War II veterans.

However, more is needed. Because Congress, in 1946, rescinded the health care benefits for most of these veterans, Congressman GILMAN and I have introduced legislation, H.R. 1594, to provide access to VA medical facilities—both in the United States and in the Philippines—for Filipino World War II veterans. Health care is a crucial need for these men who are now in their 70s and 80s! \$30 million is all that is required to provide health care access to Filipino veterans, with the same priority status as veterans currently using the VA. I request that this amount be added to the fiscal year 2001 budget.

As we honor our veterans during their lives, so must we honor their remembrance in death. The administration's increase in funding for the National Cemetery System will improve the appearance of our cemeteries by a long-overdue and much needed renovation of grounds, gravesites, and grave-markers. I

urge this committee to fund the National Cemetery Administration and the State Cemetery Grants at the levels recommended by the House Veterans Affairs' Committee.

Again, may I say that the proposal before you represents a fine starting point. I hope that my suggestions will be useful as the members of this committee work toward a budget that gives our Nation's veterans a fair deal.

TRIBUTE TO GRAND MASTER
JHOON GOO RHEE

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize a great American on the occasion of his recent selection by the National Immigrant Forum, in conjunction with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, as one of 200 most famous American immigrants of all time: Grand Master Jhoon Goo Rhee.

Master Rhee, who shares the honor with such American icons as Albert Einstein, Hyman Rickover and Knute Rockne, is the sole immigrant of Korean ancestry to make the list. Well known as one of the world's foremost authorities on the martial arts and recognized as the father of Tae Kwon Do in the United States, Grand Master Rhee has established himself as more than just a famous instructor. But his road to success and achieving the American dream wasn't easy, nor would he have wanted it that way.

When Jhoon Rhee came to the United States in 1956, he spoke little English and had less money—\$46 to be exact. Still, he enrolled at Southwest Texas State Teachers College in San Marcos determined to create a better life for himself. Although at first it took him a half-hour to read one page of text, he became increasingly proficient in English through discipline and perseverance, traits that for decades he has so eloquently translated from the martial arts for people from all walks of life.

Those traits also are the core of his action philosophy, a philosophy grounded in the principles of the martial arts, but applicable to everyone. It calls for people to build confidence through knowledge in the mind, honesty in the heart and strength in the body, and then to lead by example.

Leading by example is exactly what Master Rhee does. Despite his 68 years, each day as part of his daily stretching and meditation regimen, he does 1,000 push-ups and 1,000 sit-ups. Not even the fittest 20 year-old can match those feats. But the discipline, determination and perseverance involved are life lessons that far transcend martial arts and athleticism. He has enabled people everywhere to realize their potential and apply themselves successfully to whatever it is they set themselves to do. It's the philosophy Master Rhee embraced so long ago and which has stood the test of time—the same philosophy which took him from someone who barely could speak the language of his new country, to one of the world's most sought-after motivational speakers.

There is no dream too large for Grand Master Rhee, but I'm sure even he has difficulty comprehending how many millions of people

around the world owe their positive, constructive ways of living to his wholesome influences.

Many of our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, know first hand Master Rhee's call to realize the aspects of life larger than self. We know this because he founded the U.S. Congressional Tae Kwon Do Club and has taught more than 250 current or former Members of Congress not only the art of Tae Kwon Do, but also the art of living a healthier and happier life. We know the affection he engenders to all who make his acquaintance, whether through athletics, business or when hearing his motivational presentation.

Master Rhee's success is wide ranging. Aside from his accomplishments in Tae Kwon Do and in training world-class athletes, he has starred in feature films, authored a number of books, served as a goodwill ambassador and started a hugely successful business venture. He also is held in the highest regard as an innovator and teacher.

But perhaps where he excels most is in an area that is missing so dearly in today's world—the role of husband, father and citizen. Jhoon Rhee departs himself with the utmost respect and dignity for those with whom he deals and with society in general. For more than 50 years, he has embraced the role model aspect of a life that comes with international renown, a role taken for granted by so many and perfected by so few. He gladly accepts the responsibility of presenting himself and his way of life as an emblem to be worn proudly.

This is not just my assessment. His contributions to buttress America's culture with pride and decorum are echoed by many distinguished citizens in and out of government. Among his biggest fans are boxing legend Muhammad Ali, Parade magazine Publisher Walter Anderson and motivational speaker Tony Robbins. Jack Valenti of the motion Picture Association of America has said, "Master Rhee defies the assumed rush of years. He is an ageless patriot, whose brand of unbreakable loyalty is seldom seen. . . ."

Our esteemed colleague IKE SKELTON says, "Master Rhee is an American treasure." Our esteemed former colleague Bob Livingston says it quite simply: "Master Rhee is one of the greatest Americans I know."

At an age when even the most industrious of people tend to enjoy the leisure of their later years, Master Rhee at age 68 continues with remarkable energy to exert his positive influence on people of all ages throughout the country and the globe. He has recently launched a new global project, the JhoonRhee.com Web site, where he continues to promote the martial arts, fitness, the healing arts and a way of life whereby, in his words, "Everybody is happy with every breath of life."

On March 17, 1992, President George Bush named Master Rhee one of his Daily Points of Light. President Bush said, "The true measure of any individual is found in the way he or she treats others—and the person who regards others with love, respect and charity holds a priceless treasure in his heart . . . any definition of a successful life must include others. Your efforts provide a shining example of this standard."

Master Rhee's devotion to the principles of America's Founding Fathers is unsurpassed. He instills in his countrymen the Founders' vision and demonstrates the power of that vision to people throughout the world to show

them the path to freedom, peace and prosperity. He understands that everyone on this planet has the right to be happy. But to achieve that happiness, individuals must accept the foundation of perfect human character that entails exercising true freedom approved by one's conscience, and never to practice false freedom licensed by selfishness.

Master Rhee is a proud American who cherishes the words freedom, free enterprise, democracy and heritage. He lives the American Dream. Indeed, he exemplifies it. He inspires all, and with a special enthusiasm toward the young, to live lives of honor and integrity. The eloquence and conviction of his message to live noble lives of grand purpose penetrates the most hardened hearts and cynical souls.

His accomplishments are legion. A 10th Degree Black Belt, he introduced the martial arts to Russia in the early 1990s, where now there are 65 studios that bear his name. He is the author of five books on Tae Kwon Do, a member of the Black Belt Hall of Fame and the recipient of the National Association of Professional Martial Artists' Lifetime Achievement Award.

He was named by Black Belt Magazine as one of the top two living martial artists of the 20th Century and also as "Martial Arts Man of the Century" by the Washington, D.C., Touch-down Club. He has been featured on the cover of Parade, collaborated on several projects with Bruce Lee and had the lead role in the films. When Tae Kwon Do Strikes and The Silent Master. Additionally, he created and choreographed the martial arts ballet—the basis for today's popular "musical forms" competition—and invented and implemented the safety equipment used in major open tournaments, including the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

I would like to summarize some of Master Rhee's accomplishments, a truly impressive list of famous firsts. He was the—

First master to teach Tae Kwon Do in America: Master Rhee introduced Tae Kwon Do to America in 1956.

First master to work out to music: Master Rhee created the Martial Arts Ballet and gave birth to the Exercise to Music craze.

First master to invent safety equipment: Master Rhee invented martial arts safety equipment after one of his students was injured in a competition. The introduction of safety equipment enabled martial arts studios to get insurance. Because of that, parents began to send their kids to martial arts instructors, and the martial arts industry was born.

First master to promote martial arts in the U.S. through television advertising.

First master to use the color belt system: At one time, martial arts awarded only white, brown or black belts. Master Rhee introduced the color belt award system now used worldwide.

First master who also is a concert musician: Master Rhee was the featured musician with the Washington Symphony Orchestra. He played classical music on the harmonica.

First master to require black belt scholastic excellence: For more than 30 years, Master Rhee has required his students to maintain a "B" average or better to qualify for a black belt.

First master to train Members of Congress in martial arts: Master Rhee founded the U.S. Congressional Tae Kwon Do Club, where he has taught Members of Congress without interruption since 1965.

First American to open martial arts studios in the Soviet Union: Master Rhee first traveled to Moscow in 1991 to teach Tae Kwon Do and now has 65 Jhoon Rhee Do studios throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States. Learning English is a requirement for a black belt.

First to teach martial arts in America's public schools: Master Rhee launched his Joy of Discipline program of martial arts and character education in America's public schools in the early 1980s.

First Tae Kwon Do master to star in his own movies: Master Rhee starred with Angela Mao in When Tae Kwon Do Strikes. As Grand Master Lee, he is the underground leader of a group of patriots in Japanese occupied Korea.

First martial artist to train a world heavyweight boxing champion: Master Rhee taught the legendary Bruce Lee his kicking techniques, and Bruce Lee taught him how to punch. Master Rhee then taught Muhammad Ali what Ali later called his powerful "Accu-punch." Ali used it in 1976 to knock out Bruce Denn in Munich and also in the Joe Frazier heavyweight title bout.

First martial artist to be named Man of the Century: And now, Master Rhee is the first and only native Korean to be named as one of America's top 200 immigrants of all time. Mr. Speaker, the National Immigrant Forum made a wise choice. He is a man of character and the prototype role model for the new century. I can think of few others so worthy of such a designation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 10, 2000 if I had been present, I would have voted "nay" on the Spratt Motion to Instruct Conferees on H. Con. Res. 290 instead of "yea" as indicated in my explanation.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MANUEL CHACON

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the recent passing of Martha Manuel Chacon, and elder and tribal leader of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, who helped the tribe maintain its pride and traditions and simultaneously setting it on a course of future self-reliance. Mrs. Chacon passed away on March 28 at the age of 89.

Martha Manuel Chacon was born in a two-room adobe house without floors and was raised on the San Manuel Reservation in Highland, California. She was the granddaughter of Santos Manuel, the Serrano Indian leader who was responsible for holding the tribe together during difficult times in 1866, and for whom the reservation was named.

After attending Highland Elementary School and St. Boniface Catholic School on the

Morongo Indian Reservation, Martha Manuel worked in any job she could find as a young adult, commuting weekly to Los Angeles when she couldn't find them locally.

She became a tribal leader and regularly traveled to the state capital in Sacramento as a spokesman for the San Manuel Band. Tribal members give her credit for bringing electricity to the reservation in the last 1950s and running water to tribal homes in the 1960s. Her strong devotion to her Serrano ancestry, culture and heritage helped the San Manuel Band improve its quality of life and set out on the path to self-reliance.

Martha Manuel Chacon is survived by her husband of nearly 60 years, Raoul Chacon, six children, 18 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and four great great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, words do not begin to convey the love and admiration with which Martha Manuel Chacon was held by her family, friends, and supporters. Her life journey stands as a remarkable testament to leadership, courage, strength and honesty and her memory will continue to inspire countless people. It is only appropriate that the House pay tribute to this courageous woman today.

THE NEW HOUSE OF WORSHIP FOR THE JEWISH FELLOWSHIP OF HEMLOCK FARMS

HON. DON SHERWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform my colleagues of the dedication of a new house of worship for The Jewish Fellowship of Hemlock Farms which will be celebrated with an open house on Sunday, May 28, 2000, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Hemlock Farms is a private four-season recreational community in the heart of the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. Its 4,500 acres include state forests, lakes, deer, bears, tennis courts, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a club house with a fitness center and auditorium, a private country club with an 18-hole golf course, 72 miles of paved roads and more than 2,700 homes. About a third of the population are year-round residents. The others who spend their summers or weekends in Hemlock Farms come from the metropolitan areas of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and other areas of Pennsylvania. They include a growing number of Jewish residents.

In 1971, a small group of Jewish residents met to form The Jewish Fellowship of Hemlock Farms. Representing the heart of the Jewish community in the Poconos, the Fellowship completed the religious presence of the three major faiths in Hemlock Farms. The Fellowship flourished, and it has taken an active role as a member of the Interfaith Council. For the first 7 years, services were held in members' homes and community buildings.

Rapidly increasing membership made possible the construction of its first permanent home in 1980—designed to seat 120. By 1992, the membership had grown to more than 400. The happy result is a new Jewish house of worship and community center designed to seat more than 500. It is under the full-time leadership of Rabbi David Spritzer. It is significant that an increasing number of

Jewish families residing in other areas of the Poconos outside of Hemlock Farms are joining the Fellowship.

The Fellowship conducts religious services on Friday nights, Saturday mornings, and on the traditional religious holidays throughout the year. There are also many celebrations of Jewish life-cycle events such as weddings and Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. The Hebrew School and other activities of the Fellowship enrich Jewish cultural life. Through lectures, discussion groups, media presentations, socials, and auxiliary volunteer groups of men and women serve the needs of the Fellowship and the extended community. In doing so, the Fellowship enhances the identity of the Jewish people in the midst of diverse populations.

The Pocono Mountains region and Pike County in particular constitute the fastest growing sectors of Pennsylvania today. This includes, of course, the increasing number of Jewish residents. This change could not have happened during the first half of the twentieth century because of the existence of social, economic, and educational discrimination. According to historical reports in *The Jews of Wilkes-Barre* (Levin, Marjorie: Ed.), early nineteenth century Jewish establishment in the area took the form of mercantile service to both the coal industry and commerce along the local waterways. Jews were kept out of utility and banking industries until the 1950's and 1960's.

In 1955, because of the efforts of Pennsylvania Attorney General Herbert Cohen, Pocono Mountain hotels and resorts were compelled to comply with state law with the admissions of guests or have their liquor licenses revoked. Educational institutions, at the same time, publicly stated they would no longer condone discrimination regarding admissions. Since then, people of all ethnic origins have been increasingly welcome in the area.

At the dedication ceremony on May 28, 2000, the two Torah Scrolls, presently in the old building, will be passed to the new building from member to member lining the path connecting them. One Torah Scroll that was presented to the Jewish Fellowship several years ago had been written for and dedicated to an Eastern European community that no longer exists. It wandered with the generation of the Holocaust and survived like the Jewish people.

At the presentation ceremony, the president of the Fellowship declared:

Today we will give a new home to this homeless survivor of the Holocaust. This Torah was to have been part of the collection of Hitler's Museum of an Extinct Race, a dream that happily did not come to fruition. Rather, it should be a reminder of the indestructibility of the Jewish people.

Marjorie Leven and Paul Zbiek in *The Jews of Wilkes-Barre* state:

It is certainly true that many of today's Jewish professionals and business leaders do not need the economic and psychological security of a tightly-knit Jewish society to the same degree as their forebears. It is also true that maintenance of a unified Jewish community is more difficult in today's increasingly mobile and secularized society. Local Jewish institutions, through their programming, try to reinforce Jewish identity and help ensure Jewish continuity.

On an individual and family level, the future for area Jews appears to be positive. On a communal level, Jewish institutions must meet the difficult challenge of assuring their relevancy to Jews while maintaining tradition and competing with general community activities for Jewish attention.

Members of Jewish Fellowship believe that the new building will facilitate the ability to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the Jewish Fellowship of Hemlock Farms, Pennsylvania, and wishing them every happiness in their new home.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4228—CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF NUCLEAR TRANSFERS TO THE NORTH KOREA ACT OF 2000

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced H.R. 4228, the Congressional Oversight of Nuclear Transfers to North Korea Act of 2000. I am pleased to be joined in offering this bipartisan legislation by the distinguished ranking Democratic member of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade, and Consumer Protection of the Committee on Commerce, Mr. MARKEY, and by the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of our Committee on International Relations, Mr. BEREUTER, and by the distinguished chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee, Mr. COX.

This bill is designed to ensure that any transfers of United States nuclear equipment or technology to North Korea pursuant to the Agreed Framework of 1994 are carefully reviewed and fully supported by the United States Congress before they take place.

For all practical purposes, this bill already has passed the House of Representatives. On July 21st of last year, Congressman MARKEY and I offered an amendment to the Foreign Relations Authorization Act requiring the President to certify to Congress that North Korea has fulfilled all of its obligations under the Agreed Framework before a nuclear cooperation agreement between the United States and North Korea can enter into effect. Without such a nuclear cooperation agreement, key nuclear components cannot be transferred to North Korea from the United States as contemplated in the Agreed Framework. Our amendment further required that Congress enact a joint resolution concurring in the President's certification before such a nuclear cooperation agreement can enter into effect. That amendment was approved with strong bipartisan support. The final vote was 305 in favor to 120 against.

We later negotiated with the administration over our amendment in the conference committee on the Foreign Relations Authorization Act. We reached agreement with the administration over the language of the certification, but the administration refused to agree that Congress should have a role in evaluating

North Korea's compliance with the Agreed Framework by means of a requirement that Congress enact a joint resolution concurring in the President's certification. Our certification requirement was enacted into law late last year as the North Korea Threat Reduction Act of 2000.

The bill we are introducing today amends the North Korea Threat Reduction Act to require that Congress concur in any certification submitted by the President pursuant to that act before a nuclear cooperation agreement between the United States and North Korea can enter into effect. To ensure that the Congress will carefully review such a certification, our bill includes expedited procedures for consideration in both the House and Senate of a joint resolution concurring in the President's certification.

TRIBUTE TO SARA MARTINEZ TUCKER

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Sara Martinez Tucker for her outstanding leadership. Sara is the president and CEO of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund [HSF], the nation's leading Hispanic scholarship granting organization. In 1999, Sara secured a \$50 million grant from the Lily Foundation, which was the largest direct donation for Hispanic higher education ever. Under Sara's leadership, HSF has instituted community college transfer and high school senior scholarship programs.

Sara is a native of Laredo, Texas. She graduated from my alma mater, the University of Texas in Austin, with a bachelor's degree in journalism. She returned to get her master's of business administration graduating with high honors. She is currently a member of UT's Chancellor's Council, the College of Natural Sciences Foundation Advisory Council, and the College of Communication Foundation Advisory Council.

Sara is also the chair of the Golden Gate University Board of Trustees. At a national level, she sits on the board for the steering committee of the Council for Aid to Education and the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation's National Selection Committee. For the third consecutive year, Mrs. Tucker was honored as one of Hispanic Business Magazine's 100 Most Influential Hispanics. In 1998, she received HISPANIC Magazine's Heritage Achievement Award for Education.

Before HSF, Mrs. Tucker was a key executive with AT&T. In 1990, she became the first Hispanic female to reach AT&T's executive level. Sara served as the national vice president for AT&T's Global Business Communications Systems in her last assignment with AT&T.

I would like to congratulate Sara on these significant achievements, and I would also like to thank her for the great contribution she has made to increase educational opportunity.