

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LEES-McRAE COLLEGE CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, today, September 26, 2000 marks the one-hundredth anniversary of Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina. This is a significant day, not just for the college, but for the entire region and, indeed, for the country. Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Lees-McRae has its roots in the desire of the Reverend Edgar Tufts, its founder, to bring literacy to the area. The history of Lees-McRae is a century of service to the educational and spiritual needs of the region. The college's commitment to being an integral part of the larger community is summed up in its motto, "In the mountains, of the mountain, for the mountains."

Because of its hundred-year commitment to values-centered education, and a century of success in preparing young people for lives of leadership and service, Lees-McRae College has made a significant contribution to the Nation. Its graduates are in all walks of life, putting into practice the values and lessons they learned at Lees-McRae.

Lees-McRae College is an institution of which the entire United States can be proud. We honor its centennial as it celebrates the vision and accomplishments of its founder, the Reverend Edgar Tufts. With pride and gratitude we wish the college a second century of success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY JEAN LETENDRE

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mary Jean LeTendre, Director of Compensatory Programs at the U.S. Department of Education. I recently learned that Mary Jean plans to retire in January 2001. Her departure will be a great loss for the Department of Education and for those programs that have benefited from her guidance during her years of service.

For the past 15 years, Mary Jean has been the director of the \$8.5 billion Title I program. Managing this program is an enormous task for anyone, but Mary Jean has worked against overwhelming odds to ensure the program actually does help close the achievement gap that currently exists in our nation's schools. She has been particularly instrumental in ensuring that early childhood services are provided to disadvantaged at-risk youngsters in an effort to make sure they are "reading ready" when they reach first grade. When this happens, many of these children excel, enjoy learning, and do not fall behind.

Mary Jean's most important concern was first and always helping disadvantaged children get a piece of the American dream. She has also been a true advocate for some of our country's most at-risk children, including homeless children and those in facilities for neglected and delinquent children and youth.

But, Mr. Speaker, Mary Jean's greatest accomplishments have been in the area of family literacy. In 1988, Congress enacted the Even Start Family Literacy Program, based on legislation I introduced in the House of Representatives.

My greatest concern was that Even Start would not work if it was not properly administered and someone was not there ensuring that program requirements were met at the local level. But I should not have worried. Mary Jean was there every step of the way to make sure that each and every program included all of the core components: adult education, age appropriate education for participating children, parent and child together time, and assistance to help parents become their child's first and most important teacher.

As a result, Even Start has helped thousands of families to end cycles of illiteracy and become productive members of society. With Mary Jean's hard work and guidance, my dream of a literate society may yet become a reality. Her legacy will be the numerous children and families who have benefited from her efforts to ensure that participants receive a high quality education.

Mr. Speaker, I have never met a more dedicated and knowledgeable career government official than Mary Jean LeTendre. Our nation's children have benefited greatly under her care. She will truly be missed.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a faithful and dedicated public servant, the distinguished senior Senator from New York, Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN. Senator MOYNIHAN has served the people of New York in the United States Senate for nearly a quarter century. However, his long list of achievements in public service began over 50 years ago.

In those 50 plus years, Senator MOYNIHAN has been both soldier and ambassador, author and teacher, and legislator and diplomat. Very few Americans serve their country and their fellow citizens with the range of knowledge and experience Senator MOYNIHAN has demonstrated. We in Congress are privileged to call him our colleague.

Among Senator MOYNIHAN's most important roles has been that of advocate for peace in Northern Ireland. Drawing on his extensive for-

eign policy experience as both ambassador to India and United States Representative to the United Nations, Senator MOYNIHAN called for a peaceful resolution of tensions in Northern Ireland and helped guide the negotiations that have today resulted in decreased bloodshed, decreased violence, and greater understanding there.

Senator MOYNIHAN has also earned the distinction of being the only American in history to serve in the Executive Branch in four successive administrations, both Republican and Democrat. He has dedicated his service not to partisanship, but to people; not to party, but to peace. The people of New York recognize him for fighting tirelessly for their rights, including better education and better healthcare. His colleagues recognize him for fighting for his principles.

I join my colleagues in thanking Senator MOYNIHAN for his valuable service. We will not soon forget the example he set.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to join with my colleagues from New York last Tuesday in honoring one of the greatest Senators this nation has known, PAT MOYNIHAN. I welcome the opportunity to add my voice to the chorus singing in praise of the Senator and his equally amazing wife, Liz.

PAT, you have enlightened millions as an author, educated thousands as a professor, impressed hundreds of diplomats as a statesman, awed your colleagues as a legislator, counseled four Presidents as a scholar, raised three children as a father, and enjoyed 44 years as husband to Liz. What an extraordinary life.

Thank you for your tireless work to protect the environment, to improve our infrastructure, to make welfare work for the people, to save Social Security for future generations, and to promote peace and democracy throughout the world. You did all of this while managing to evade the crippling grasp of partisanship by using the strength and power of ideas.

Thank you on behalf of the residents of the Capital Region, the people of the State of New York, the citizens of America, and the community of nations.

Enjoy your retirement. It is well deserved. And as all good friends say at particularly grueling moments of departure, "Promise you'll keep in touch." PAT, it's not just that the nation wants to hear from you—it needs to hear from you.

• 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.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO NAME THE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, IN HONOR OF CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT PFC. WILLIAM K. NAKAMURA

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation to name the United States Courthouse in Seattle, Washington, as the "William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse" in honor of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Pfc. William K. Nakamura.

William K. Nakamura was born and raised in an area of Seattle that used to be known as "Japantown." In 1942, while attending the University of Washington, William K. Nakamura, his family, and 110,000 other Japanese Americans were forcibly relocated to federal internment camps. While living at the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho, Nakamura and his brothers chose to prove their patriotism by enlisting in the United States Army. William K. Nakamura was assigned to the serve with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The courageous service of this unit during World War II made it one of the most decorated in the history of our nation's military.

William K. Nakamura distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action on July 4, 1944, near Castellina, Italy. As Pfc. Nakamura's platoon approached Castellina, it came under heavy enemy fire. Acting on his own initiative, Pfc. Nakamura crawled within 15 yards of the enemy's machine gun nest and used four hand grenades to neutralize the enemy fire which allowed his platoon to continue its advance. Pfc. Nakamura's company was later ordered to withdraw from the crest of a hill. Rather than retreat with his platoon, Pfc. Nakamura took a position to cover the platoon's withdrawal. As his platoon moved toward safety they suddenly became pinned down by machine gun fire. Pfc. Nakamura crawled toward the enemy's position and accurately fired upon the machine gunners, allowing his platoon time to withdraw to safety. It was during this heroic stand that Pfc. Nakamura lost his life to enemy sniper fire.

Pfc. Nakamura's commanding officer nominated him for the Medal of Honor but the racial climate of the time prevented him, as well as other soldiers of color, from receiving the nation's highest honor. In the spring of this year, 56 years after he made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, William Kenzo Nakamura was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Designating the United States Courthouse in Seattle in Pfc. Nakamura's name is a fitting way to acknowledge the memory of a true American hero, who for so many years was denied the honor he so justly deserved. Mr. Speaker, the legislation I introduce today is broadly supported by veterans' service organizations and elected officials in the Pacific Northwest. I urge speedy passage of this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST VETERANS DAY OF THE 21ST CENTURY

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, today I express the sense that special recognition should be given to the observance of Veterans Day on November 11, 2000, the first Veterans Day of the 21st Century. As we enter this new millennium, it is important to preserve the memory of our Nation's veterans and to teach the next generations of their sacrifices. Our veterans are responsible for securing and preserving the freedom that all Americans now enjoy.

This first Veterans Day of the 21st Century offers all Americans a special chance to recognize the contributions of our veterans in defending freedom and democracy. It is also an appropriate occasion to make a much greater effort to educate our country's children on the contributions of veterans in defending the freedoms the Nation enjoys so that the memory of those contributions will be preserved throughout the 21st Century. I believe children throughout the Nation would benefit from education that places greater emphasis on the Armed Services' role in shaping the history of the United States.

It is extremely important for us to remember the more than 700,000 brave Americans who sacrificed their lives while serving this nation so that America's children may continue to live in a country founded on the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy. Veterans Day also affords us the opportunity to thank the more than 25,000,000 veterans currently living in the United States. It is important for them to know that our country is grateful for their service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the first Veterans Day of the 21st Century. Also, join me in thanking the veterans who sacrificed so much to protect our way of life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MRS. CLARE M. ALBOM

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Mrs. Clare M. Albom upon her retirement as Director of the Senior Center in Vernon, Connecticut. Serving more than 18 years as Director, Mrs. Albom has proven to be a tremendous asset for seniors in Vernon.

Mrs. Albom is a highly regarded member of the community. Since accepting the position as consultant for the Vernon Senior Center 18 years ago, Mrs. Albom has helped build it into one of the top centers for senior citizens in the State of Connecticut. During her tenure, Mrs. Albom supervised a comprehensive physical renovation project to further improve the Center. Mrs. Albom is also responsible for creating a unique and effective organizational structure for the Center with help from part-time staff, volunteers and senior citizens. Mrs. Albom

worked to establish important programs to help senior citizens in Vernon with a wide range of issues, including assistance with the ConnPace prescription drug program, Medicare, income taxes, rental assistance and recreation arrangements.

In her time away from the center, Mrs. Albom contributes a weekly column for senior citizens in the Saturday edition of the Journal Inquirer. Mrs. Albom is also a former teacher in the Vernon school system and a devoted wife and mother. Mrs. Albom's biggest influence on the Vernon community has been her solid commitment to the Town as a whole and, more specifically, to the Senior Center to which she has dedicated the past 18 years of her life and, even today, finds difficult to leave.

Mr. Speaker, I join residents from Vernon in commending Mrs. Clare M. Albom on her superb tenure at the Vernon Senior Center. She is a kind, selfless, special person and an example for all.

VIEWPOINTS OF WALKER F. RUCKER

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Walker F. Rucker of Greensboro, North Carolina, is a veteran of the Second World War, a lay historian, and a man unafraid to speak his mind. Along with 38 other veterans from the Greensboro area, Mr. Rucker wishes to have his thoughts on the conduct of the President recorded for posterity.

Mr. Rucker has written and spoken eloquently of the sacrifices which his generation has made on behalf of our Republic. In light of their contributions, and those of preceding generations, these men are disturbed by the President's conduct during his two terms in office, which they believe manifests a basic disrespect for the values which they hold in such high regard. They are especially appalled by the events in the White House and elsewhere that led to the President's impeachment; and further object to his fund-raising tactics, his motivations for shaping certain foreign policy scenarios, his posture toward and treatment of our military, and a seeming disinterest in the imperative to adhere to the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, I have paraphrased Mr. Rucker's views at this point. Anyone who knows him can fully appreciate his passion for a cause, his command of the King's English, and his sense of history. Accordingly, I thought it also appropriate to quote from a petition which he has circulated on this subject. Mr. Rucker notes that historical precedents teach us that external forces do not fell great Republics such as ours; they implode from within. To invoke Mr. Rucker verbatim:

"The Tree of Liberty has never been toppled by an external whirlwind. Rather, in the past it has perished because a vine which grows in its shadow and under its protection eventually smothers it. In nature this is the work of the strangler fig; in Government, this is the work of Corrupt Political Adventurers. Republics are a tenuous form of Government. Their demise does not come about by a single seismic political event, but rather is initiated by an unchallenged violation of its Founding Precepts. Thus the first successful violation of a State's Tenants of

Faith begins the inevitable Decline and Fall of that State. Thus: (1) "Democratic Athens did not fail because of the annihilation of its fleet in 404 B.C. by Sparta. Rather a generation earlier Alcibiades, when summoned to appear in Athens to explain the Syracuse Debacle, deserted first to Sparta and later to Persia. (2) "Republican Rome fell, not because Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon, but because a score of years earlier Sulla violated the Roman Constitution by leading seven renegade legions into the defenseless city. (3) "The First Republic of France succumbed to Bonapartism because a decade earlier the "Incorruptible" Assembly was replaced by the Corrupt Directorate.

"Some 162 years ago, a 28-year-old frontiersman who became our 16th President foresaw such a challenge to our nation's foundation and told us how to respond:

At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it? Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant to step the ocean and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies in Europe, Asia, and Africa combined, with all the treasures of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Bonaparte for a commander could not by force take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years. At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reaches us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men we must live through all time or die by suicide. The question recurs, "How shall we fortify against it?" The answer is simple. Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well wisher of this posterity, swear by the blood of the (American) Revolution never to violate the least particular, the laws of the country, and never tolerate their violation by others.—(Abraham Lincoln, The Perpetuation of Our Political Institution, Springfield Lyceum, January 27, 1838.)"

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rucker and his colleagues believe that the President should resign prior to January 3, 2001, in deference to their beliefs and reading of American history. I believe that this is an old war that distracted the Congress from its business and the nation from its tranquility. Given the President's transgressions, however, it had to be fought, and as a result the President became the second man to be impeached by the House of Representatives. I do not wish to fight this war again, but I have enough respect for Walker Rucker and like-minded men to submit their views on this unfortunate subject in our nation's history for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. PAULINE F.
SMITH

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my very special constituents, Mrs. Pauline F. Smith, of Allentown, Georgia as she prepares to celebrate her 78th birthday. It gives me great pleasure to not only wish her a happy birthday, but also to commend her for her outstanding service to her community and country.

Mrs. Smith, a life long Georgian, was born on October 2, 1922 in Tate, Georgia. Although

Mrs. Smith's life accomplishments are too vast and rich to fully recount here, highlights demonstrate that Mrs. Smith has enriched and touched the lives of many through her commitment to, and love for, her family, community, and country.

Mrs. Smith was married in 1944 to Mr. Lonnie Smith Jr. and moved to Allentown, Georgia where they raised two children, Sandra and Denise. Beyond her role as loving wife and mother, however, Mrs. Smith has played and continues to play a significant role in her community and in her church, the Allentown Methodist Church.

Mrs. Smith's record of public service is also remarkable, both for its length and quality. In various capacities, from her work in the selective service office to her many years of service at Robins Air Force Base, Mrs. Smith selflessly served her country for 33 years, 3 months, and 3 days.

Therefore, in recognition of her tremendous service and in honor of her birthday, I am happy, Mr. Speaker, to rise today and join Mrs. Smith's family and friends in wishing her a very happy 78th birthday, and in wishing her many more happy and healthy birthdays ahead.

DEATH OF SETH FOTI

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Diplomatic Courier Service, U.S. Department of State, lost one of its own on August 23, 2000. Mr. Seth Foti, age 31, lost his life while serving his nation in the line of duty in the Persian Gulf. Seth was one of 143 passengers aboard the Gulf Air flight that crashed in Bahrain on August 23rd. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Foti family. Seth is survived by his wife Anisha, his father Dominic Foti, his mother Deyann Davis, and step-father Maxwell Davis.

The U.S. Diplomatic Couriers face hardship on a daily basis. Not everyone is qualified for such a highly-sought-after position in public service. Just a few of the challenges with which couriers contend, include constant travel, traversing several time zones, long hours, solitary travel and flight delays. U.S. Diplomatic Couriers are integral in the work of the Foreign Service. These men and women deliver documents and materials that are vital to U.S. interest and foreign policy goals. It can be dangerous.

The tragic loss of Mr. Foti, the sixth courier killed in the service's 82 year history, reminds us all of the bravery and commitment associated with our Diplomatic Couriers.

Seth was one of the new breed of couriers who recently joined the Diplomatic Courier Service in April 1999. He was a young, bright, energetic man who was willing to accept the dangers associated with a career in the U.S. Diplomatic Courier Service. Seth's supervisor, Mike Meeker, stated the following, "Seth Foti was such a dedicated colleague, professional in every respect. His professionalism was unmatched. He knew how to negotiate his way through the most difficult of airports. Always cheerful, charismatic and well respected by his fellow couriers and those who served with him

at our embassy in Bahrain. He loved his parents and step-dad and was so excited about his recent marriage to Anisha."

As Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, I want to extend my sincere condolences to the Foti family and the U.S. Diplomatic Courier Service family. Seth was a true public servant of the people who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. I thank him. The extensive amount of travel is an inherent risk and danger associated with the demanding job of a U.S. Diplomatic Courier. I salute the bravery and commitment that these fine men and woman demonstrate on a daily basis for the U.S. Department of State and the American people.

FREDERICK L. DEWBERRY, JR.
POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2000

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Postal Service, I am pleased to join my Government Reform Committee colleague, Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT (R-IL) in the consideration of H.R. 4451, H.R. 4451, which designates a United States Post Office after "Frederick L. Dewberry, Jr.", was introduced by my good friend and committee colleague, Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS (D-MD), on May 15, 2000.

Mr. Frederick L. Dewberry, Jr. was born and raised in Baltimore City. He is a graduate of Loyola College and received a law degree from the University of Baltimore. A dedicated and distinguished World War II veteran, Lieutenant Dewberry served in the U.S. Navy, working as a sonar operator on submarines. Returning to Maryland, Mr. Dewberry held the very important post of Chairman of the Baltimore County Council from 1964 to 1966. From 1979 to 1984, Frederick Dewberry was the Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation. He passed 10 years ago, on July 9, 1990.

Mr. Speaker, I urge swift adoption of this measure and commend my colleague, Congressman CUMMINGS for seeking to honor Frederick L. Dewberry—a veteran and true public servant.

REGARDING THE BENEFICIARY IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues on the Commerce Committee in introducing the Beneficiary Improvement and Protection Act of 2000. I want to commend Chairmen BLILEY and BILIRAKIS, as well as Ranking Democratic Members DINGELL and BROWN for putting together a Commerce Committee initiative to repair some of the damage wrought by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. I commend them because Members

of the Commerce Committee were shut out of this process last year and the year before while our Medicare and Medicaid providers were hemorrhaging and Medicare beneficiaries across the country were suffering. The legislation we are introducing today addresses some of the most critical problems with the Balanced Budget Act, but this \$21 billion package, like last year's \$16 billion package, is woefully inadequate.

I want to thank Chairman BLILEY and Rep. DINGELL for working with me to include a provision of great importance to me, a clarification of the homebound definition for the purpose of permitting people afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease to leave the home in order to receive adult day care. This is an important amendment that will make a real difference in the lives of Alzheimer's patients and their family caregivers. However, we need to do even more to help all people who are homebound. It's not only homebound Alzheimer's patients in need of adult day care. In addition, I believe all Medicare beneficiaries who are classified as homebound should be able to get out of their homes to attend religious services or once-in-a-lifetime events like the wedding of a granddaughter or the graduation of a grandson.

Mr. Speaker, three years ago, Congress passed the so-called "Balanced Budget Act" claiming it would cut \$115 billion from Medicare and \$12 billion from Medicaid. Mr. Speaker, that \$115 billion figure has become the Energizer Bunny of Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates, it keeps growing and growing and growing. CBOs most recent estimate from July 2000 shows that Medicare cuts now total \$230 billion. Medicare spending increased by just 1.5% in FY98, it actually went down 1% in FY99, and it remained flat in FY2000, increasing by just 1.5%.

And by some mystery Mr. Speaker, just as the amount cut from the Medicare program keeps growing, so too does the Budget surplus. The people in my district have watched in horror as local institutions—community hospitals and home health agencies—have closed their doors for good—a scene I'm sure has played out in many congressional district around the country.

Hospitals in Massachusetts will lose \$1.7 billion because of the BBA. My hometown hospital, the Malden Hospital is now an outpatient surgical center, a far cry from the fall-service hospital of my youth. The nearby Boston Regional Medical Center in Stoneham has closed. The Symmes Hospital in Arlington is closing. Others in my district are on life support. Home health agencies throughout my state have been decimated and devastated. Nursing homes are hurting as well.

Mr. Speaker, in this era of unprecedented surplus, we should be restoring \$40-50 billion over the next five years and \$80-100 billion over the next ten to the Medicare and Medicaid programs. It would be a refund of the amount we overcharged seniors in the BBA. Congress put a \$115 billion price tag on BBA, but when seniors came to the register, they were charged over \$200 billion — and we owe them a refund. I don't think that's too much to ask for our seniors, for the men and women who built this country. The surplus we enjoy today has been generated in large part by these Medicare cuts that have harmed seniors. I believe we should give this senior surplus back to the seniors, back to the programs that pay for their health care.

I am pleased that the Commerce Committee has produced a bill that deals with some of the most critical aspects of the BBA cuts. However, I am hopeful that as we move forward in the few remaining weeks of this session, that we will increase the price tag for this giveback package—\$21 billion is not going to get the job done.

CONGRATULATING MONTGOMERY COUNTY VETERANS OF THE NORMANDY INVASION

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate the Montgomery County, Maryland veterans who participated in the Invasion of Normandy during World War II. Many of the veterans who took part in that courageous assault have never before been recognized for their valor. This evening, I will be handing out medals at American Legion Post #268 in Wheaton, Maryland that symbolize our district and our country's thanks for their heroism on the beaches of Normandy.

Over 56 years ago, the greatest seaborne invasion the world had ever seen commenced on June 6, 1944. The German army had established a strong line of defense, and Allied forces took heavy losses but their determination and valor enabled these soldiers to persevere under the most harrowing conditions. For the next 87 days, soldiers from Montgomery County, Maryland joined forces with our allies to expel the Nazi occupiers and liberate Europe.

Their supreme efforts ultimately destroyed Nazi Germany and paved the way for democracy and freedom to spread throughout Europe and the world. Their success did not come without a price. Over 9,300 men including 33 pairs of brothers and a father and son lost their lives in the Normandy invasion. These soldiers never knew what their service meant to America and the rest of the world. They never saw America become the prosperous country that has championed the notions of liberty, democracy, and equality. They never had the opportunity to see a world that has departed from the factionalism and distrust that marred the 20th century's first fifty years. But their service is not forgotten. The medal that I am presenting today is a reminder that the people who you fought for remember your sacrifice and the sacrifice of those that did not return from Europe.

The citizens of Normandy had this medal struck to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the invasion. The Medal of the Jubilee of Liberty was originally presented to the veterans that were able to return for the 1994 ceremony. Many of the soldiers who fought there were unable to attend, and so the people of Normandy allowed these medals to be given out in an appropriate ceremony. Today, we honor the Montgomery County veterans that were instrumental in securing our freedom. Their actions not only made America the leader of the free world but demonstrated the fortitude of democratic nations in surmounting evil and tyranny and establishing peace throughout the world.

Those being recognized this evening are Nicholas Caime, Mortimer Caplin, George

Copley, Norman Creel, Louis Davids, Donald Foor, David Goldberg, Albert Gruber, John D. Fitzgerald, John Hardy, Peter Hayes, Roy Hickman, Robert Higgins, Cornelius Holden, Paul Lamb, Elroy Lovett, Thomas McDermitt, Howard J. Moore, William Perryman, Alvin Reiner, Philip Shepsle, Ira Shoemaker, John Smith, Peter Violante, and Norbert Young.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I was detained in my district due to inclement weather yesterday and was not able to vote on rollcall No. 487. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on this vote.

VETERANS' FAMILY FARM PRESERVATION ACT

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on September 25, 2000, I introduced H.R. 5271, the "Veterans' Family Farm Preservation Act", to make it possible for more wartime veterans and their survivors to qualify for pension benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) without being forced to sell their family farms and ranches. This legislation will also benefit low-income veterans who seek to obtain health care from VA.

The productivity of America's family farms is undisputed. Family farms and ranches feed our Nation. Family members and unpaid workers account for 70% of farm labor in the United States. While America's family farmers and ranchers are unmatched in their productivity, they have little or no control over many factors which determine the economic results of their labor.

Veterans who have gone in harm's way and placed their lives on the line by serving our nation in the Armed Forces should not be asked to relinquish their family farm in order to qualify for veterans' benefits. Unfortunately, that is what is occurring today. The Veterans' Family Farm Preservation Act addresses this problem.

Pension benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are payable to wartime veterans who are totally and permanently disabled due to a non-service connected medical condition. A small, but important number of these disabled wartime veterans own family farms or ranches, which provide the livelihood for their families. Most family farms in the United States are very small. Over 75% of family farms have less than \$50,000 in gross annual sales. After deductions for costs of operating the farm or ranch, the net income of the family farmer is much lower. Farmers receive an average of 20 cents for every dollar of produce sold. In 1995, the average net farm income for very small farms was \$510. The average net family income for small farms with gross sales between \$50,000 and \$250,000 averaged \$14,335. Clearly most family farmers have modest annual income.

In determining eligibility for pension benefits, VA is required to consider not only the family income, but also the family's "net worth." Currently, unless VA determines that the land can be sold at "no substantial sacrifice", the value of farm and ranch land is included in determining net worth. Some veteran farmers are "land rich." While having little or no liquid assets, the value of their land makes their "net worth" appear larger on paper.

On May 25, 2000, Senator GRASSLEY and I wrote to VA's Under Secretary for Benefits, Joseph Thompson, requesting that he recognize the unique nature of a family farm and take immediate steps to address the need for a fair evaluation of the eligibility of our Nation's family farmers for veteran's pension benefits. On June 27, 2000, Mr. Thompson replied indicating that VA viewed a family farm in the same light as interest-producing bank deposits or securities.

Family farms are important not only for the food and fiber they produce, but also for the values they represent. Family farms should not be considered as simply substitutes for liquid bank accounts or other liquid assets.

In good years, family farms and ranches provide an adequate income. In bad times, adverse crop conditions or illness, the income and liquid resources of family farmers and ranchers are quickly depleted. Wartime veterans have made a substantial sacrifice on behalf of our Nation by serving in the Armed Forces. We should not ask them to sacrifice their family farms in order to receive the assistance they have earned by their wartime service.

I believe that an operating family farm can never be liquidated without substantial sacrifice on the part of the veteran. It is never reasonable to require a veteran to sell his or her means of future livelihood in order to obtain pension benefits or VA health care. If the farm is sold, the assets which in future years can be expected to generate income for the veteran and the veteran's dependents, are permanently lost.

The Veterans' Family Farm Preservation Act would exempt farm and ranch land owned by the veteran and the veteran's dependents from being counted in determining net worth. The bill would also exclude land used for similar agricultural purposes, such as timberland, Christmas tree farms, or horticultural purposes.

During the past century, the number of family farms in our country has declined dramatically. When a veteran is required to sell his or her farm in order to receive necessary VA assistance, another family farm may be lost forever. No veteran should be called on to make this additional sacrifice. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5271, the Veterans' Family Farm Preservation Act. America's family farmers and ranchers deserve no less.

Mr. Speaker, I request the response which the Honorable Joseph Thompson, Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs, sent to me and Senator GRASSLEY concerning VA's valuation of farm lands be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this point.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,
VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, June 27, 2000.

Hon. LANE EVANS,
Ranking Democratic Member, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN EVANS: This is in response to your letter of May 25, 2000, concerning the issue of net worth as it applies to the non service-connected pension program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

In order to qualify for our pension program, a veteran is required to be permanently and totally disabled. Generally, there are relatively few instances where an individual who is operating a working farm meets the basic requirements for pension eligibility. Although there is no such disability requirement for surviving spouse claimants, it is our belief that an individual operating a farm or other business with assets that could be converted to substantial amounts of cash should not qualify for pension. We view the operator of a business in the same light as an individual owning rental property or an owner of interest-producing bank deposits or securities.

VA pension, similar to Supplemental Security Income (SSI), is intended to provide an income supplement for needy individuals and not to allow beneficiaries to build up substantial assets. Although countable income limitations for VA pension are in the same range as those for SSI, our net worth guideline of \$50,000 for the preparation of an administrative decision is more generous than SSI's \$2,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for a couple.

As you pointed out, our procedural manual, M21-1, indicates that a determination of excessive net worth is a question of fact for resolution after the consideration of the facts and circumstances in each case. The \$50,000 guideline is not to be interpreted as a strict, mechanical limitation. We will issue clarifying guidance on that point.

We are also conducting an analysis of our recent net worth determinations. Based on these results we will decide whether additional changes to our rules and procedures are appropriate. At that time, we will also consider whether the \$50,000 guideline should be increased. You will be apprised of our results.

In April 2000, representatives from the Veterans Health Administration and the Veterans Benefits Administration met with Senator Grassley, members of his staff, farmers and their representatives in Des Moines, Iowa. We understood their concerns and informed them about our efforts to address their concerns.

Our reports show that between December 1997 and December 1999, an average of 213 beneficiaries had their pension benefits terminated for excessive net worth. In FY 1999, there were 131 terminations for excessive net worth. Unfortunately, no data are available on the number of claimants who are disallowed for excessive net worth, or the number of administrative decisions made annually on the issue of net worth or the type of assets involved.

I hope this information is helpful to you. I am providing Senator Grassley a similar response.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH THOMPSON.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to flight delays, I was again unavoidably detained in North Carolina and unable to cast a vote on rollcall vote No. 487. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 487.

IN HONOR OF DR. MURRAY ITZKOWITZ, AFTER 31 YEARS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BRIDGE INC.

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Murray Itzkowitz, of The Bridge Inc., who after 31 years as Executive Director is now the Executive Director Emeritus in charge of research and new program development.

For more than 45 years, The Bridge Inc. has worked with mentally disabled adults as a nonprofit mental health, rehabilitation, and housing agency. The Bridge is a key provider of housing and support services for the chronically mentally ill within New York City. Its Mental Health Clinic provides individual, group, and family psychotherapy with specialties in, among others, bereavement and divorce counseling, substance abuse counseling, and offers treatment to victims of crime.

The Bridge offers health care services provided by a part-time primary care physical and nurse practitioner team and a full-time licensed practical nurse. This service provides comprehensive services such as physicals and follow-up visitations.

Another cornerstone of The Bridge Inc, is its residence assistance program. The Bridge operates more than 300 beds in various settings, such as 24-hour supervised residences and independent apartments. In fact in December 1998, The Bridge Inc, was granted a \$1.7 million grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to finance 18 individual apartment units in the South Bronx and Harlem.

Finally, I must mention the vocational and educational programs offered by The Bridge. Among these programs include work training, on-site employment, and job-placement services. The education program includes basic literacy instruction, GED preparation, and college preparatory work.

Through his selfless leadership of this fine organization, Dr. Murray Itzkowitz has demonstrated his desire for a physical and mentally healthy, better educated, and properly housed citizenry of New York City. Exceptional individuals like Dr. Itzkowitz, help improve the quality of life for many of our most needy citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have a deeply intelligent and compassionate man like Dr. Murray Itzkowitz working within my district and

I am confident that, as the new Executive Director Emeritus in charge of research and development, Dr. Itzkowitz will continue his rigorous pursuit of the public well being.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, because of unanticipated delays in my flight from Jackson, Mississippi, on Monday, September 25, 2000, I was unable to cast a recorded vote on Roll-call 487.

On Rollcall 487, I would have voted "yea" on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 399, recognizing the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DENOUNCES ARREST OF WITNESS TO POLICE KIDNAPPING OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST JASWANT SINGH KHALRA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, police tyranny in Punjab has reared its ugly head again. Rajiv Singh has been arrested in Amritsar on false charges of robbery and murder. At the time of his arrest, Mr. Randhawa was attempting to hand a petition to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary of the United Kingdom, in front of the holiest shrine of Sikhism, the Golden Temple, which was invaded and desecrated by the Indian military in June 1984. The petition asked for intervention of the British government in the matter of human rights in Punjab.

Mr. Randhawa was arrested once before on false charges. He has been a target of police harassment since he saw the Punjab police kidnap Mr. Khalra, who was General Secretary of the Human Rights Wing (SAD). Mr. Khalra was subsequently murdered in police custody and no one has ever been charged or otherwise held responsible in the Khalra case. In that light, there is reason to believe that Mr. Randhawa's life and his safety may be in danger.

September 6 was the fifth anniversary of the Khalra kidnapping. Mr. Khalra conducted an investigation which proved that the Indian government had kidnapped, tortured, and murdered thousands of Sikhs, then declared their bodies "unidentified" and cremated them. No one has been held accountable for these atrocities either.

This is merely the latest action by the police against anyone who speaks up for human rights in Punjab, Khalistan. It is clear from this action that General Narinder Singh, a human-rights leader in Punjab, was right when he said that "Punjab is a police state."

Amnesty International has issued a press release and an Urgent Action bulletin denouncing the lawless actions of the police. I will be introducing them at the end of my

statement, and I urge my colleagues to read these chilling documents.

Mr. Speaker, the Indian Prime Minister is visiting the United States to meet with the President and address Congress. Our government must press Prime Minister Vajpayee on the Randhawa case, on human-rights violations, on self-determination, on the release of political prisoners, on nuclear proliferation, and on the Indian government's efforts to construct a security alliance "to stop the U.S.," as the Indian Express reported last year. If the responses are not satisfactory, then we must take action to ensure freedom in South Asia. This Congress should put itself on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagalim, and everywhere that the people are seeking freedom. We must maintain our sanctions on India and cut off its aid. And we should declare India a terrorist state.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the Amnesty International press release and Urgent Action bulletin that I mentioned before into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From Amnesty International, Sept. 6, 2000]

URGENT ACTION

A key witness in the trial of police officers accused of abducting a human rights activist has been arrested by Punjab police. Amnesty International fears this is an attempt to prevent him testifying, and is extremely concerned for his safety in police custody.

Rajiv Singh was arrested as he attempted to hand a petition to UK Home Secretary Jack Straw in Amritsar, Punjab, on 5 September. The petition reportedly called on the UK government to persuade the Indian authorities to take action over human rights violations in Punjab.

He was held overnight and brought before a magistrate the next day and reportedly charged with the murder of two people who were killed in a bank robbery in Amritsar. He was remanded in police custody until 8 September.

This is the third time that Rajiv Singh has been arrested by Punjab police and charged with serious offences. Earlier this year the Punjab Human Rights Commission ruled that police had "concocted" previous charges to persuade him not to testify against them. He had been accused in July 1998 of setting up an organization to fight for a separate Sikh state of Khalistan, called Tigers of Sikh Land. The Commission recommended that the police officers involved should face criminal charges and that there should be further investigations. Rajiv Singh was awarded compensation for being illegally detained.

Today is the fifth anniversary of the "disappearance" of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, who unearthed evidence that Punjab police had illegally cremated the bodies of hundreds of people who had been arrested and then "disappeared". A number of Punjab police are now on trial for his abduction, and Rajiv Singh is a key eyewitness in the case.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language: expressing grave concern about the arrest and detention of Rajiv Singh on 5 September in Amritsar; expressing concern that since the Punjab police have unlawfully detained and charged Rajiv Singh before, to try to prevent him from testifying in the case of Jaswant Singh Khalra, the current charges against him may be false, and that he is at grave risk of further harassment or torture in police custody; calling for an immediate review of the charges against him by a judicial

body; and calling for commitments from the authorities in Punjab to ensure that he will not be ill-treated in custody.

APPEALS TO:

Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, Chief Minister of Punjab, Office of the Chief Minister, Chandigarh, Punjab, India.

Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

Fax: +91 172 740936

Telegrams: Chief Minister, Punjab, India

Mr. S. Sarabjit Singh, Director General of Police, Office of the Director General, Police Headquarters, Punjab, India.

Salutation: Dear Director General

Telegrams: Director General of Police, Punjab, India

COPIES TO:

Mr. L.K. Advani, Minister of Home Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi 110 001, India.

Salutation: Dear Minister

Fax +91 11 301 5750

and to diplomatic representatives of India accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 October 2000.

(Amnesty International Press Release Sept. 7, 2000)

INDIA: ARREST OF WITNESS POINTS TO CONTINUING POLICE HARASSMENT

A key eyewitness to the "disappearance" of a human rights activist has been arrested in Amritsar, India. Rajiv Singh Randhawa was attempting to hand a petition to UK Home Secretary Jack Straw in front of the Golden Temple when the arrest took place on 5 September. Amnesty International today expressed serious concern for his safety while in police custody.

The petition called on the UK government to intervene with the Indian government on the matter of human rights violations in Punjab.

Rajiv Singh Randhawa has since been charged with robbery and murder as well as offences under the Arms Act in connection with a robbery at a bank in Amritsar in which two people were killed. The magistrate remanded him to police custody until 8 September. Amnesty International has appealed to the authorities in Punjab for assurances that he will not be subjected to torture or ill-treatment while in police custody.

"This case highlights the continuing lawlessness of sections of the police in Punjab. Amnesty International is seriously concerned that these charges against Rajiv Singh Randhawa, like other charges brought in the past, are merely a means of harassing and intimidating him," the organization said.

Rajiv Singh Randhawa is a key eyewitness in the case of the "disappearance" of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra. Yesterday, 6 September, was the fifth anniversary of the "disappearance" of Khalra who unearthed evidence that hundreds of bodies of individuals who had "disappeared" after arrest in the 1980s and early 1990s had been illegally cremated by Punjab police. Amnesty International has learned that a hearing in the case was scheduled for 21 September at which evidence, including that of Rajiv Singh, was due to be recorded.

This is the third time that Rajiv Singh Randhawa has been arrested by Punjab police and charged with serious offences. On the last occasion, he was accused of setting up an organization to fight for a separate Sikh state of Khalistan, the Tigers of Sikh land. In July this year the Punjab Human Rights Commission ruled that those charges against Rajiv Singh were "concocted" by police as a means of dissuading him from giving evidence against police in the Khalra

case. The Commission recommended that criminal cases be registered against the police officers and further investigations carried out. Rajiv Singh was awarded compensation for his illegal detention.

Amnesty International believes that the failure by the state to systematically investigate a pattern of grave human rights violations in Punjab during the 1980s and early 1990s has led to a climate of impunity within the police force and continuing illegal actions of police in this state. Attempts by human rights organizations in the state to seek justice for victims of human rights violations have been met with harassment, intimidation and official obstruction to redress.

"The silencing of Rajiv Singh Randhawa in front of a foreign dignitary shows how desperate sections of the Punjab police are to suppress evidence in this case. We call on the international community to intervene in this case," Amnesty International said.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' OVERTIME PAY LIMITATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2000"

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is needed to help address the challenges posed in responding to emergencies and disasters, in particular, the wildfires that besieged our Western States. The effects of our brave Federal wildland firefighters and other disaster relief personnel are being undercut by personnel administration problems relating to compensation for overtime work. The overtime pay rate for employees covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) is equal to one and one-half times their regular hourly rate of pay. For FLSA-exempt Federal employees, however, the overtime rate may not exceed one and one-half times the GS-10 step 1 rate.

This legislation would address this problem in two ways. First, it assures that no Federal employee receives less than his or her normal rate of pay for overtime work. Second, it recognizes the special demands and difficult circumstances involving emergencies that threaten life or property by increasing the hourly overtime pay rate limitation from GS-10, step 1, to GS 12, step 1, for FLSA-exempt employees who perform overtime work in connection with such an emergency. The higher rates of overtime pay resulting from these changes will effectively address the daunting challenges faced by our Federal land management agencies in containing extremely large, and dangerous wildfires. This legislation builds upon and includes changes proposed in H.R. 1770, the "Federal Employees' Overtime Pay Limitation Amendments Act of 1999," which I introduced last session to correct longstanding FLSA-exempt overtime pay problems for Federal employees generally.

Please join me by cosponsoring this legislation for federal managers and supervisors, emergency personnel, and their families.

Text of bill follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Federal Employees' Overtime Pay Limitation Amendments Act of 2000."

SEC. 2. (a) Title 5, United States Code is amended—

(1) in section 5542(a)—

(A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) For an employee whose basic pay is at a rate which exceeds the minimum rate of basic pay for GS-10 (including any applicable locality-based comparability payment under section 5304 or similar provision of law and any applicable special rate of pay under section 5305 or similar provision of law), the overtime hourly rate of pay is an amendment equal to the greater of—

"(A) one and one-half times the minimum hourly rate of basic pay for GS-10 (including any applicable locality-based comparability payment under section 5304 or similar provision of law and any applicable special rate of pay under section 5305 or similar provision of law); or

"(B) the hourly rate of basic pay of the employee (including any applicable locality-based comparability payment under section 5304 or similar provision of law and any applicable special rate of pay under section 5305 or similar provision of law),

and all that amount is premium pay."; and

(B) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

"(4) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), for any pay period during which an employee is engaged in work in connection with an emergency (including a wildfire emergency) that involves a direct threat to life or property, including work performed in the aftermath of such an emergency, the overtime hourly rate of pay is an amount equal to one and one-half times the hourly rate of basic pay of the employee, except that such overtime hourly rate of pay may not exceed the greater of—

"(A) one and one-half times the minimum hourly rate of basic pay for GS-12 (including any applicable locality-based comparability payment under section 5304 or similar provision of law but excluding any applicable special rate of pay under section 5305 or similar provision of law); or

"(B) the hourly rate of basic pay of the employee (including any applicable locality-based comparability payment under section 5304 or similar provision of law and any applicable special rate of pay under section 5305 or similar provision of law),

and all that amount is premium pay. A determination as to the existence and duration of such an emergency and its aftermath, and whether work is connected to it, shall be made at the discretion of the head of the agency (or his or her designee) in consultation with the director of the Office of Management and Budget."; and

(2) in section 5547—

(A) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) An employee may be paid premium pay under sections 5542, 5545 (a), (b), and (c), 5545a, and 5546 (a) and (b) only to the extent that the payment does not cause the aggregate of basic pay and such premium pay for any pay period for such employee to exceed the greater of—

"(1) the maximum rate of basic pay payable for GS-15 (including any applicable locality-based comparability payment under section 5304 or similar provision of law and any applicable special rate of pay under section 5305 or similar provision of law); or

"(2) the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule.";

(B) by amending subsection (b)(1) to read:

"(1) Subject to regulations prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management, the first sentence of subsection (a) shall not apply to an employee who is paid premium pay by reason of work in connection with an emergency as specified under section 5542(a)(4).";

(C) by amending subsection (b)(2) to read as follows:

"(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), no employee referred to in such paragraph may be paid premium pay under the provisions of law cited in the first sentence of subsection (a) if, or to the extent that, the aggregate of the basic pay and premium pay under those provisions for such employee would, in any calendar year, exceed the greater of—

"(A) the maximum rate of basic pay payable for GS-15 in effect at the end of such calendar year (including any applicable locality-based comparability payment under section 5304 or similar provision of law and any applicable special rate of pay under section 5305 or similar provision of law); or

"(B) the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule in effect at the end of such calendar year.";

(D) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) The Office of Personnel Management may prescribe regulations governing the applicability of subsection (b) to employees who are in receipt of annual premium pay for standby duty or administratively uncontrollable overtime work under section 5545(c) or availability pay for criminal investigators under section 5545a."; and

(E) by adding at the end:

"(d) This section shall not apply to any employee of the Federal Aviation Administration or the Department of Defense who is paid premium pay under section 5546a.".

(b) The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after 120 days following the date of enactment of this Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

The first section provides the bill's short title, the "Federal Employees' Overtime Pay Limitation Amendments Act of 2000."

Section 2 amends sections 5542 and 5547 of title 5, United States Code.

Subsection (a)(1) amends 5 U.S.C. 5542 to provide that an employee whose rate of basic pay exceeds the minimum rate of basic pay for GS-10 (including any applicable locality-based comparability payment under section 5304 or similar provision of law, and any applicable special rate of pay under section 5305 or similar provision of law) will have an overtime hourly rate of pay in an amount equal to the greater of (1) one and one-half times the minimum hourly rate of basic pay for GS-10 (including locality pay and special rates), or (2) the employee's hourly rate of basic pay (including locality pay and special rates). All pay under this provision would be premium pay.

Subsection (a)(1) also amends 5 U.S.C. 5542 to provide that during a pay period in which an employee is engaged in work in connection with an emergency that involves a direct threat to life or property, including work performed in the aftermath of such an emergency, the employee will have an overtime hourly rate of pay in an amount equal to one and one-half times the hourly rate of basic pay of the employee, except that such overtime hourly rate of pay may not exceed the greater of (1) one and one-half times the minimum hourly rate of basic pay for GS-12 (including locality pay but excluding special rates) or (2) the hourly rate of basic pay of the employee (including locality pay and

special rates). The head of the agency, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, is authorized to determine the existence and duration of such an emergency and its aftermath, and whether work is connected to it.

Subsection (a)(2) amends 5 U.S.C. 5547 to provide that an employee may be paid premium pay only to the extent that the payment does not cause the employee's aggregate rate of pay for any pay period to exceed the greater of (1) the maximum rate of basic pay payable for GS-15 (including locality pay and special rates) or (2) the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule. Under current law, two separate premium pay limitations cover most General Schedule (GS) employees. A GS law enforcement officer under 5 U.S.C. 5547(c) may be paid premium pay up to the lesser of 150 percent of the minimum rate of basic pay payable for GS-15 or the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule. In contrast, the premium pay limitation applicable to other GS employees (currently found at 5 U.S.C. 5547(a)) is the maximum rate payable for GS-15 (including locality pay and special rates). This amendment would create a uniform biweekly premium pay limitation. The calendar year premium pay limitation at 5 U.S.C. 5547(b) (for work in connection with an emergency which involves a direct threat to life or property) is similarly amended as well as expanded to cover work in the aftermath of an emergency involving a threat to life or property. Provision is also made for Office of Personnel Management regulations to harmonize the application of overtime provisions with other forms of premium pay.

Subsection (b) would set the effective date of the amendments made by subsection (a). The amendments would take effect in pay periods beginning on and after the 120th day following the date of enactment.

HONORING STEPHEN PETERSBURG

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I take this moment to congratulate Stephen Petersburg of Rangely, Colorado, on receiving the National Resource Management Award from the National Park Service. I would like to take this moment to thank Stephen for his diligent work to ensure that Dinosaur National Monument's resources are managed efficiently and effectively. At the same time, I would like to congratulate him on this distinguished award. Stephen's educational background laid the groundwork for what would become a truly accomplished career with the National Park Service, that has spanned almost three decades.

Stephen received his undergraduate degree in Forestry and a graduate degree in Wildlife Biology from Iowa State University. This education prepared him for his career in the National Park Service, which began in 1971 as a Park Ranger at Wind Cave National Park. After working for a little over two years at Wind Cave, Stephen shifted his professional talents to Dinosaur National Monument, where he began his illustrious tenure in 1973.

Stephen is considered a leader in fire management and training and is nationally known for his expertise. This past summer he worked with great care to protect our nation's forests, working on fire-fighting efforts in Colorado,

New Mexico and on the Clear Creek Fire in Idaho.

Beyond his work at Dinosaur National Monument, Stephen's desire to help his community is clearly a personal priority. Stephen is an active member of the Kiwanis and serves on the Board of Directors of the Rangely District Hospital. He is also a Deacon in his local church.

Stephen, you have earned the admiration of your friends, peers, neighbors and Nation. On behalf of the State of Colorado and the US Congress, I congratulate you on this prestigious and well-deserved award. Congratulations!

INTRODUCTION OF THE VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION PROGRAM CORRECTIVE AMENDMENTS OF 2000

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program Corrective Amendments of 2000 (NVICPCA). Over the past year, the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) has been subject to several congressional hearings. I have met on several occasions with parents, doctors, and attorneys who have been involved in the current program seeking compensation for injuries that resulted from vaccines.

Vaccine injuries are, thankfully, very rare. However, some children have adverse reactions to vaccines. In a small number of cases these are very debilitating reactions. I am a strong proponent of vaccinations. It is important that children be vaccinated against otherwise devastating diseases. Widespread vaccination has and will continue to spare our nation from the scourge of disease. Our nation benefits from widespread vaccination. Those of us who are healthy are the beneficiaries of national vaccination efforts. As such, I believe very strongly that we as a nation have an obligation to meet the needs of those children who suffer adverse reactions.

I also believe that our federal public health officials should do more to ensure that we are doing all that we can to reduce the number of children who do have adverse reactions. I will continue to aggressively pursue this effort with the leaders of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

I was pleased when the Congress and President Reagan established the VICP back in the 1980s. This program was established to ensure that our nation continues to have a strong vaccination program while compensating those families where a child suffers a serious adverse reaction. When this program was approved, there was a real concern that due to lawsuits brought against vaccine manufacturers, some manufacturers would stop making their vaccines available leaving the American public without important vaccines.

The Vaccine Injury Compensation Program Corrective Amendments of 2000 would make a number of substantive and administrative changes to the VICP, in an attempt to restore this program to the user friendly, non-adver-

sarial, remedial, compensation program that it should be and was intended to be. The bill amends the VICP provisions in the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act).

The bill clarifies that this program is to be a remedial, compensation program, which is consistent with the original intent expressed by Congress in the House Report accompanying the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986. The program has become too litigious and adversarial in the eyes of many.

The bill also makes changes to the provisions relating to the burden of proof. Currently, the burden of proof is so high on the claimants that some children may not be receiving compensation that is due them. The intent of this program is to provide compensation for all claimants whose injuries may very well have been caused by the vaccine. Strict scientific proof is not always available. Serious side effects of vaccines are rare, and it is often difficult to prove causal relationships with the certainty that science and medicine often expect. Indeed there may be multiple factors that lead to an adverse reaction in some children and the program should recognize this. My bill will ensure that this is taken into account.

This bill will also make it easier to ensure that the costs associated with setting up a trust for the compensation award are permitted. This is important to ensure that these funds are available to provide a lifetime of care for this child. The bill also stops the practice of discounting to ensure that the value of an award for pain and suffering is fully met.

Often, the families of these children need counseling in order to help them deal with and care for a profoundly injured child and siblings. The impact of these injuries go well beyond the child who is injured. This bill will ensure that these expenses are covered.

The bill also ensures the payment of interim fees and costs. Under the current program, families and attorneys are often forced to bear these expenses for years while the claim is heard. Attorneys for the claimants are going to be paid for their fees and costs at the end of a claim, regardless of whether or not they prevail. Thus there is no logical reason why they should not be allowed to petition for interim fees and costs. This provision simply ensures a more fair process for the claimants, by ensuring that the injured child can have good representation while pursuing his or her claim. The current practice may hinder the ability of claimants to put their best case forward. This should not be the case in a program that was established to ensure provision for those children who have been injured.

Finally, the bill makes a number of changes to statutes of limitation. The program should serve the purpose of compensating those who were harmed. Thus, it is important to ensure that it is as inclusive as possible to ensure that injured parties are compensated.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "TEACHERS FOR TOMORROW" ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce Teachers for Tomorrow, a bill to address the serious teacher shortage in our nation's

schools. We have 54.4 million students in America's schools—the greatest it has ever been. But we lack the most important part of the equation—teachers! Nationwide, we will need an additional 2.2 million teachers in the next ten years. There are particular shortages in specific subject areas such as math, science, bilingual education and special education. For the first time in my district in Washington State, teaching positions have remained vacant.

We cannot afford to allow the current trend to continue where our best and brightest students ignore the teaching profession or leave it altogether. Where the median age of teachers is 42 years old, it is glaring evidence that new graduates are not entering the teaching field. There are a million teachers ready to retire in the next decade, leaving the classroom faster than new teachers are graduating from college. Even more troublesome is that only half of new teachers in urban public schools are still teaching after five years. Moreover, the new teachers who are twice as likely to leave are those with the highest scores on standardized tests. These are serious warning signs of the current teacher shortage and upcoming crisis if we do not act to recruit and retain teachers.

There are everyday heroes in classrooms throughout America. We must face the fact that our teachers are getting older and we are failing to make teaching a viable option for today's students and young professionals. We have to continue to make sure that our top graduates continue to enter the teaching profession. This legislation would do just that.

We need to empower individuals to make the decision to be a teacher. We need to make it possible for more specialty teachers and more teachers overall to enter our nation's public school system. This legislation would permit every public elementary and secondary school teacher to apply for loan forgiveness. Current law only applies to teachers that teach in certain specific areas or low-income schools. This bill would also increase the incentives to meet specific instruction needs by establishing a three-year program of direct reimbursement for those teachers. All other teachers would be eligible for a five-year program of indirect loan forgiveness. Both programs would forgive 100 percent of the incurred loan debt.

Additionally, this bill grants other incentives for new teachers. Under income tax laws, loan forgiveness would be granted tax-neutral status. This prevents the current problem where loans are treated as additional income that effectively place teachers into an inappropriately high tax bracket.

This is the only loan forgiveness legislation that provides for continuing education. Teachers need to be given the opportunity to continue their professional development. With increased expertise and training, they will be able to impart that much more knowledge into their lessons and students' learning processes.

Furthermore, our teachers deserve to see the benefit of their experience and be able to guide their classrooms and schools with local control. As leaders in the community, teachers and school administrators know how make the best decisions for their students. This legislation only provides federal loan forgiveness where graduates have incurred federal loans. It maintains the ability of local schools to make

hiring, firing and other decisions as they see fit. Local school administration is not a business the federal government should be in.

We need to support our teachers. Our teachers deserve our highest accolades for educating our nation's children. We ought to thank them for the meaningful work they do every day. Our students, the future of our country, learn under the hard work and patience of our teachers and they merit our appreciation.

I submit to my colleagues a plan to recruit and retain qualified teachers. We cannot shirk our duty to provide a high quality education to every child. I urge my colleagues to meet this challenge and support this legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITPAIN IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the township of Whitpain in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on its 300th Anniversary. During the years of 1683 and 1686, Richard Whitpain purchased approximately 4500 acres of land that attracted settlers seeking religious freedom and economic opportunities. This land of promise was established as Whitpain Township in 1701 near the center of the county.

Many important historical events took place in Whitpain. During the American Revolution, the Township played an integral role for General George Washington and the Continental Army. Whitpain is home to Dawsfield, George Washington's headquarters, and served as a battleground for skirmishes during the Battle of Germantown.

Early Whitpain Township was primarily a fanning area and later evolved to incorporate the growing industries in the vicinity. As early as 1804, there was a weaving enterprise in Centre Square and a mill on Wissahickon Creek. The Township had quickly become a flourishing community with both prosperity and promise.

As one of the oldest municipalities in Montgomery County, Whitpain Township is now home to more than 17,000 Pennsylvanians, Montgomery County Community College and several high tech firms.

I am proud to represent such an extraordinary town. This anniversary should serve as a long-standing tribute to hard work and dedication for all of those who have made Whitpain Township the wonderful place it is.

HONORING FRANK HODSOLL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to commend the Honorable Frank Hodsoll on his outstanding service to his community. Frank is stepping down as Ouray County Commissioner after three years

of service. Frank is extremely active in his community and his leadership as Commissioner will be greatly missed. As family, friends and the Ouray community thank Frank for his service, I too would like to pay tribute to this distinguished American.

Leadership and public service come naturally to Frank. Over the past several years, he has served both his community and State well in a number of different organizations. He is currently serving as Vice Chair of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Telecommunications & Technology Steering Committee, Chair of the NACo Rural Action Caucus Telecommunications Committee, and has served as Director of both the Colorado River Water Conservation District and the Center of Arts and Culture in Washington, DC.

Beyond his efforts in Ouray, Frank has had a long and illustrious career in government, both at the local and national levels. Before working to improve the community of Ouray County, he worked with a number of the nation's most prominent governmental institutions, like the Departments of State and Commerce. Frank also served as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Deputy Assistant to President Reagan and Deputy to White House Chief of Staff James Baker.

Frank, you have served your community, State and Nation admirably. On behalf of the State of Colorado and the US Congress, I thank you for your generous and valued service to the Ouray community and to these United States. Best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

GONZALES—"LEXINGTON OF TEXAS"

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, in the town of Gonzales, Texas, on October 2, 1835, the first shot for Texas Independence was fired from a cannon by colonists waving a flag which proclaimed "Come and Take It." Gonzales became known as the "Lexington of Texas."

The Little Cannon has been recognized by many as a true and proper memento of our glorious past and has appeared in no less historic sites as the Alamo and the rotunda of the Texas Capitol, and is forever enshrined in The Great Seal of Texas.

Exactly 165 years after the shot was fired, on the afternoon of October 2, 2000, the City of Gonzales will accept the "Come and Take It Cannon" from the estate of Dr. Patrick J. Wagner.

The Little Cannon will be an ever-present reminder to the citizens of Gonzales of the courage of those who stood at the "Lexington of Texas" and first cried, "Come and Take It!"

CONGRATULATING PASTOR ALVIN A. JACKSON

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Pastor Alvin A. Jackson of

Cinnaminson, New Jersey on his fiftieth anniversary as pastor of the Saint Paul Baptist Church. Dr. Jackson preached his first sermon on Sunday, January 2, 1950. Since that time he has played a critical role in the Cinnaminson community.

His spiritual guidance and open door policy has irrefutably changed the lives of many constituents in my district. Dr. Jackson was raised by his maternal grandparents in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He became a licensed preacher in 1940. Dr. Jackson also served his country in World War II in the European theater of operations. His faith in God and in country are to be applauded.

He was baptized in the family church, First African Baptist, where he could be found practicing his musical talents. Dr. Jackson's aptitude for playing musical instruments is of particular note. His talents on the piano and violin must be appreciated.

Dr. Jackson is well-known throughout the Delaware Valley. He has taken an active interest in the concerns of Cinnaminson Township in general and the East Riverton section in particular. He has served on the Human Relations Council of Cinnaminson Township and the Advisory Council of the New Jersey Water Company.

Mr. Speaker, truly, Dr. Jackson is an inspiring figure in my district and in our nation. Congratulations, Dr. Jackson, on your fiftieth anniversary. May there be many more years of service to come.

HONORING THE SOUTHEAST GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL OF THE 6TH DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a high school from the Sixth District of North Carolina that recently won the state lacrosse championship.

Southeast Guilford High School claimed the North Carolina varsity lacrosse title. This is only the second team from the school to ever win a state championship in 33 years. The Falcons had an impressive season with 16 wins and only 3 losses. We congratulate Chris Godfrey, Josh Smith, Jon Murphy, Justin Patteson, Scott Van Hoever, Lucas McCraw, James Aldridge, Mike Wiggins, Ben Doffelmoyer, Chris McVey, John Clark, David Murphy, Chris Collins, Chris Smith, Chad Thompson, Paul Winn, John Batts, Daniel Davenport, David Dunnuck, Jimmy Mullen, and Russell Peele. The team was led by Head Coach Mark Goldsmith and Assistant Coaches Clark Byrnes and Paul Allen. They were ably assisted by head manager Nikki Berger and assistant manager Alicia Reed, along with athletic trainers Eric Stubblefield and Mark White. The team was supported strongly by the school administration including Athletic Director Roy Turner, Principal Dr. Pat Spicer and Assistant Principals Amanda Gane, Randy Shaver and Ron Coleman.

Since winning the state championship in lacrosse, interest has escalated in the school, and they are expecting an influx of players this season. Many of the players are being recruited by colleges and receiving scholarships.

Perhaps a dynasty is brewing at Southeast Guilford High School.

The Sixth District of North Carolina is proud of this high school team from Guilford County for its hard work and dedication. Congratulations to the Falcons for a job well done.

HONORING CHIEF GARY KONZAK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I take this moment to celebrate the life of former Grand Junction Police Chief Gary Konzak. Gary recently passed away after complications resulting from heart surgery. Chief Konzak served the Grand Valley admirably and his leadership and commitment to public safety will be greatly missed. As family, friends, and fellow police officers say goodbye to Gary, I would like to take this time to honor this remarkable human being.

Chief Konzak began his career in law enforcement in 1968 as a cadet in LaGrange, Illinois. Gary's outstanding leadership abilities and drive to succeed propelled him to the rank of Chief in 1987. After serving as Chief for half a decade in LeGrange, he moved to Carol Stream, Illinois, where he again served as Chief of Police. He remained in Carol Stream until 1997, when he redirected his impressive law enforcement abilities toward serving the Grand Junction community.

During Chief Konzak's two and one-half years as Chief of Police, he made an impressive impact upon the law enforcement community in Grand Junction, as well as on the area as a whole. Lt. Stan Hilkey of the Mesa County Sheriff's Department, in a recent article by Zack Barnett of The Daily Sentinel, credited Chief Konzak with helping improve the healthy relationship between the Grand Junction Police Department and the Mesa County Sheriff's Department. His success in fostering this relationship was instrumental in forming the Grand Valley Joint Drug Task Force. Chief Konzak has also been credited with working to improve traffic and drug enforcement, as well as the visibility of police officers within the city of Grand Junction.

Chief Konzak served his community, State and Nation admirably. It is men like Chief Gary Konzak that ensure that the communities of this great nation are safe for all citizens, and for that I thank him.

Mr. Speaker, as a former police officer, I ask that we take this moment to honor this great American and friend of Grand Junction. He was a dedicated public servant who will truly be missed.

HONORING HATTIE LEE WHITE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hattie Lee White, a lifelong resident of Brooklyn, and to celebrate with her today her 75th birthday. I ask my colleagues assembled here today to please join me in acknowledging Mrs. White's remarkable life.

On this day, September 27th, in 1925, J.D. and Rosalie Carter were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Hattie. As a young girl, Hattie possessed excellence, greatness, the favor of God, love and honor, the law of kindness in tongue, morality and character. Hattie married Dennis White, and their union was blessed with seven beautiful children: Vernice, Jonathan, Gloria, Marilyn, Andre, Denise and Iris. These children have honored their parents with 24 grandchildren, and 23 great grandchildren.

All of the amazing blessings bestowed upon Hattie White are the result of a God-centered life, as Mrs. White is a committed member of Zion Shiloh Baptist Church. She also serves as secretary for her neighborhood block association, where she is active in the community in lobbying for issues that affect seniors. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, gardening and traveling.

Mr. Speaker, Hattie Lee White is more than worthy of receiving our birthday wishes, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me today in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2000, this Member inadvertently missed rollcall No. 495 on final passage of H.R. 4292, the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, while he was in a room where the bells did not ring announcing the vote. Had this Member been present, he would have voted "aye."

REGARDS TO REVEREND CURTIS TURNER, AND PRAYER AT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAMES

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Reverend Curtis Turner, the pastor of the New Testament Baptist Church, in Ellenwood, Georgia.

Recently, Rev. Turner led nearly 4,000 high school football fans in the Lord's Prayer, at the Paulding-East Paulding football game, which is the county's largest attended game each year.

Rev. Turner and churches throughout the country, particularly in the South, have engaged in these prayers in protest of the U.S. Supreme Court's June misguided ruling, which concludes that student-led prayers at games and other events sanctioned by public schools are unconstitutional. Rev. Turner is planning on attending and leading the Lord's Prayer at other Friday night high school football games throughout the season. Also, he is gathering one million signatures in support of House Joint Resolution 66 introduced by Congressman ERNEST ISTOOK (R-Okla.). The resolution proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States restoring religious freedom.

It is absurd to argue that allowing students voluntarily to say a brief prayer at a football game after school hours violates anyone's rights or is violative of our constitution. The First Amendment was never intended to eradicate religion from public life, and I commend the efforts of Rev. Turner for standing up for the sound values that form the foundation of our nation.

IN HONOR OF MR. HAROLD OSHRY

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Harold Oshry, an accomplished entrepreneur, respected civic leader, and generous humanitarian. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from Bowdoin College in 1940, Mr. Oshry dreamed of graduating from law school. His dream was set aside however when he joined the United States Army 9th Air Corps. Mr. Oshry served bravely in the Army from 1942–1945. In the years following his military service, Mr. Oshry returned to his native New York City and became a successful businessman and entrepreneur. He founded the Sandgate Corporation, a transportation holding company, and served on the boards of several other New York based businesses including the William Morris Agency and the Universal Auto Group.

Mr Oshry's success in business informs upon his life of community and philanthropic activity. As a leader in the New York United Jewish Associations Federation for over thirty years, Mr. Oshry has helped further the public's understanding of Jewish culture and history. Demonstrating his commitment to education, in 1976 Mr. Oshry endowed the Harry Oshry Scholarship Fund at Bowdoin College in honor of his father. Not only committed to university excellence in America, Mr. Oshry's generous contributions to education stretch across oceans. In 1993, Mr Oshry and his family endowed the Claire and Harold Oshry Chair in Aquatic Microbiology Federations at Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Israel. Continuing his service to cultural education and community outreach, Mr. Oshry currently serves as the President of the Broward County Jewish Senior Center in Tamarac, Florida.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that Mr. Oshry has achieved the education goal he had to set aside long ago when he joined the Army. On May 22, 1998, Bowdoin College honored Mr. Oshry for his lifelong commitment to excellence in education and awarded him the Degree of Doctor of Law, Honoris Causa. I am pleased to commend Mr. Harold Oshry for his service to his country, for his generous contributions to education, and his ongoing commitment to the enhancement of cultural understanding and community service.

TRIBUTE TO THE JEWISH
COMMUNITY OF UKRAINE

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to the Jewish community of Ukraine, and particularly to the Chief Rabbi Schmuel Kaminezki, on the reopening of the Golden Rose Choral Synagogue in the city of Dnepropetrovsk.

This event, which took place on September 20th, is very important, not only for Ukrainian Jews, but for Jewish people around the world. It symbolizes the hard work and dedication that has made the Jewish community in Ukraine one of the most vibrant Jewish communities among the countries comprising the former Soviet Union.

Today in Dnepropetrovsk Jewish orphanages, schools, food centers, community centers, medical centers, centers that provide care for the elderly, and centers for holocaust survivors and victims of communism, are all thriving. More importantly, more than 200 Jewish public organizations are active throughout Ukraine promoting and reviving cultural and religious customs and traditions for all Ukrainian Jews.

While this progress is significant, I want to encourage the Ukrainian government to continue working together with Jewish community leaders to resolve the remaining property restitution issues. Ukraine's record in this area and the Ukrainian government's commitments to future progress will go a long way toward promoting religious tolerance and freedom and ensuring that all Ukrainians have an opportunity to build bright and prosperous futures for themselves and their families.

CONGRATULATING JAMES A. DICK
AND THE DICK BROADCASTING
COMPANY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 29, 2000, a remarkable chapter in the history of East Tennessee will come to an end. At the close of this week, Citadel Communications Group will officially take over Dick Broadcasting Company, located in Knoxville.

Nearly 50 years ago, in December 1952, the FCC granted Mr. James A. Dick a license to build a 1,000-watt, daytime only, AM radio station, and Dick Broadcasting was born. On March 20, 1953, WIVK AM-860 signed on the air.

From its first studios on North Gay Street, WIVK's early days were filled with programs such as "The Big Jim and Little Alf Show," "Mull's Singing Congregation," "The Gospel Train," "Archie Campbell's Hillbilly Show," and the legendary "Cas Walker Live Country Music Show." Such future stars as the Everly Brothers and Dolly Parton found a home performing on WIVK's airwaves.

Later in the history of this radio station, we saw the beginning of the "Great Day Show"

with Claude "The Cat" Tomlinson, Lester Longmire, and "Old Man Schultz." This show would go on to dominate local ratings and remain virtually unchanged until Claude's retirement in 1992.

The Dick Broadcasting Family has grown from a 1,000 watt AM station to 14 FM and AM stations operating in three states. Now a FM station, WIVK's unique mix of country music, community involvement, personality, and of course, University of Tennessee sports, has made it one of the most-listened to radio stations in America from the late 70's to present day.

For over 45 years now, Dick Broadcasting has sought to provide East Tennessee with the best in music and entertainment, and the most up-to-date news and information. When a severe blizzard hit East Tennessee in 1993, WIVK was the only radio station left on the air.

In 1988, Dick Broadcasting purchased WNOX-AM 990, and donated the old WIVK-AM 860 to the University of Tennessee. The new 990 frequency had the advantage of being a 24-hour channel. WIVK-AM 990 soon started adding its own programming, and by 1992 had become its own entity as "NewsTalk 990."

Mr. Speaker, I know that I join with the citizens of the City of Knoxville in congratulating Jim Dick for his service and devotion to the people of East Tennessee. I am proud to call him a friend, and I wish him well in the years to come. I ask my fellow colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in thanking Jim Dick and Dick Broadcasting Company for their many years of service and contributions to East Tennessee. Our Nation is certainly a better place because of people like Jim Dick and his family.

REGARDING SENATE
AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 4365

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I voted against passage of the Senate amendments to H.R. 4365, the Children's Health Act. I would like to take this opportunity to explain the reason for my vote, especially in light of the fact that I voted in favor of the bill when it was first considered by the House on May 9, 2000.

H.R. 4365 reauthorizes and revises a number of children's health and drug abuse prevention and treatment programs. I am particularly pleased that the bill includes several new initiatives to combat asthma in children. The asthma epidemic has been particularly troublesome; national survey data indicate that the number of children with asthma in the nation has more than doubled in the past 15 years and the number of deaths attributed to asthma in children more than tripled between 1977 and 1995.

I also strongly support the bill's provisions to expand efforts to assist children with hearing loss and autism, the provisions providing grants to states to improve the health and safety of children in child care facilities, and the new programs intended to help prevent birth defects.

However, I did not vote in favor of H.R. 4365 because the Senate included provisions

requiring the United States Sentencing Commission to amend the federal sentencing guidelines to provide for mandatory minimum sentences for crimes related to the manufacture, importation, exportation, and trafficking of methamphetamine and ecstasy. While I of course do not condone the manufacture, use, or distribution of these two dangerous and illegal controlled substances, I also strongly believe that sentencing for federal criminal offenses should be left to the discretion of federal judges and that they should be permitted to take into account the facts and circumstances surrounding each individual case.

HONORING THE ROTH LIVING
FARM MUSEUM

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Roth Living Farm Museum which has been designated a National Historic Site by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Located in North Wales, Pennsylvania, the Roth Museum was founded in 1993 as a non-profit organization thanks to a generous donation to the Delaware Valley College by Mrs. Edythe Roth. The museum is an historic farm of 20 acres anchored by a restored 1832 farmhouse and barn to provide visitors with a unique look into the history of U.S. agriculture.

The Roth Living Farm Museum provides an educational experience to all who visit the facility. Visitors to the farm can see sheep shearing, antique farm equipment displays, early-American and farm crafts, and resident draft horses, cattle, sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits, and duck. Homegrown produce, seasonal decorations and firewood are available for sale. In addition, interactive demonstrations are created to provide visitors the opportunity of learning about 19th Century farming.

I am pleased to celebrate this significant honor with the college community and all of Montgomery County. We are fortunate to have the Roth Living Farm Museum in our community and especially honored to have it receive this important designation.

TRIBUTE TO ANDRE A. GALIBER,
SR., MD

HON. DONNA MC CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Andre Anthony Galiber, Sr., who passed away this week. Dr. Galiber was a great leader of the medical profession, particularly in the field of Radiology, an ideal family man, an outstanding citizen and a great humanitarian in my district, the community of St. Croix and the entire U.S. Virgin Islands.

Dr. Galiber earned his Medical Doctorate in 1957 and completed a diagnostic and therapeutic radiology residency in 1963. His distinctive medical career began with an internship at the Howard University's Freedmen's Hospital, here in Washington, D.C. He also served as a Captain in the U.S. Medical Corps and was

the Chief Radiologist at Fort Benjamin Harrison Army Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dr. Galiber opened his private Radiology office in 1967 and became the first full-time, board certified Radiologist, in the Virgin Islands. He was and remained the only regional Fellow of the American College of Radiology. Dr. Galiber became the Director of the Radiology Department at the Charles Harwood Hospital during the 1960's and 1970's, and became the Director of the Radiology Department when the hospital relocated to the new Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center, serving in that capacity until his "so-called" retirement in 1984.

Dr. Galiber volunteered as a consultant at the new St. Croix Hospital and provided most of the technical training and professional services during the initial ten year growth period of clinical ultrasound. He performed and interpreted the first echocardiograms on St. Croix and was the first Radiologist licensed in Computer Tomography. He was a FDA accredited mammoradiologist and had been performing mammographys since he opened his practice in 1964.

His untiring dedication to St. Croix was also directed at strengthening and advocating on behalf of the medical community. He was an active member of the Virgin Islands Medical Society for almost forty years, serving as President, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, Delegate to the American Medical Association, as well as Delegate to the National Medical Association.

Dr. Galiber also served as President of the Croix Hospital Medical staff, was an elected officer Virgin Islands Medical Institute and presented, coordinated and monitored seminars for his peers. He was also the principal supporter of advanced diagnostic imaging capabilities at the Governor Juan Luis Hospital. Recently, he drafted legislation that was proposed by the Virgin Islands Medical Institute, to encourage Virgin Islands physicians training in the United States, to become licensed in the Territory. Most notably, he was a mentor and ardent supporter of students pursuing health science careers, of which I was one.

Hurricane Hugo introduced several generations of Virgin Islanders to the devastation a hurricane could inflict. While most of the populace remained stunned in the aftermath, Dr. Galiber salvaged his radiological equipment, established electrical power and a safe habitat for essential medical operations and within nine days after the hurricane had passed, he was essentially ready to provide services to his patients.

Dr. Galiber was a charter member of the St. Croix Power Squadron. He became a trustee for most of the schools on the island of St. Croix including St. Mary's Catholic School, Country Day School, Good Hope School and St. Dunstan's Episcopal School. Dr. Galiber was also the chairperson of the St. Croix Continuing Medical Education Committee which certified all eligible programs to do post-graduate training for physicians, and a member of the Eta Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

As an entrepreneur, Dr. Galiber in 1974 became the Project Development Coordinator/Secretary Treasurer, of the first Medical Office Condominium in the Virgin Islands. He was one of seven owners of Medical offices in Island Medical Center Associates, and supervised the management of the entire complex

along with managing and practicing his own radiology office at the same time.

Dr. Galiber was an avid reader of non-fiction and a history buff of World War II, greatly admiring the deeds of Winston Churchill. For recreation he enjoyed golf, tennis, traveling, dancing, and classical music.

He and his wife were Members of Friends of Denmark, an organization that strives to maintain the links established by more than two centuries of Danish rule. He and his wife also joined the Landmark Society, which preserves and promotes the various influences in our unique architecture that has developed over the centuries, and our local cultural traditions. He was also a member of the Virgin Islands Lung Association and the St. George's Botanical Garden.

Dr. and Mrs. Galiber were also collectors of original art by local artists even collaborating in commissioning many of the items he eventually bought. He insisted on authenticity and accuracy, in the depiction of what to us now seems the simpler times of just a few decades ago. One such piece, that was the result of his direction, was selected by the Census Bureau, in its desire to have minority oriented art, as the poster for the Virgin Islands. The painting was a work-in-progress then entitled "Good Day Ladies", when first viewed by the Galibers. The new name "Mr. Collins", and other items of the painting were changed, to accurately correspond to names and events of the time.

Dr. Galiber was the recipient of many honors, including the Distinguished Physician in 1986 by the Virgin Islands Medical Society and the American Cancer Society's Honoree in 1999.

On June 9th of this year, the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center conducted a dedication ceremony of the Andre A. Galiber, Sr., FACR, Radiology and Cardiovascular Laboratory Suite. The unit was dedicated in honor of his significant contributions to diagnostic imaging. He was also recognized at that ceremony for implementing the terminal digit filing system that is still used today. Some of his peers recognized that he singlehandedly established the Radiology Departments at both the Charles Harwood and Juan Luis Hospitals and that due to him, the hospitals will soon have MRI capabilities. His legendary diagnostic skills were praised and appreciation was shown for the tireless work he performed in other areas of hospitals.

His children consider themselves to be proud "Virgin Islanders" and claim that their father taught them to contribute their service to the West Indian community and to work together as a family. He encouraged them to develop their individual talents and actively fostered their personal development. He and his namesake, Andre Junior, won golf tournaments. Two others Dante and Cecile, played tennis at the Pan American Games. Lisa, a world renown fashion model, is multilingual and has a development consulting firm in San Diego. his daughter Cecile, a Banker and licensed realtor, heads the Financial Trust Company in St. Thomas.

His wife of forty-four years, Edith Lewis Galiber, is a retired Director of Public Health Nursing in St. Croix. All four of his sons are involved in the field of medicine, one as a cardiologist, two are radiologist and the other is their business manager, and also a trained and registered Technologist in ultrasound.

Dr. Andre Galiber's death on September 24, 2000, ended an illustrious life and work, but the contributions to his community, its culture and the field of Radiology live on.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Dr. Andre A. Galiber for his dedicated service to his country, his profession and the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands. I thank his wife Edith, his seven children and fifteen grandchildren, for sharing him with us.

INTRODUCTION OF HEATHER
FRENCH HOMELESS VETERANS
ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2000, H.R.
5311

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored today to introduce the Heather French Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2000. The homeless veterans of our nation have no better friend, no better advocate than Miss America 2000. During the past year, Heather has given generously of her time, talent, energy and self to challenge this nation to meet the unmet needs of our homeless veterans. The value of her advocacy for our nation's homeless veterans this past year cannot be calculated—it is priceless. From coast to coast and border to border, Heather has taken her message of our national responsibility to provide homeless veterans the assistance they need and deserve. It is an honor for me to, in some small way, recognize what Heather French has done and what she means for our homeless veterans and our nation. The legislation I introduce today is intended to recognize and honor Heather French, but it is not a ceremonial measure.

Nearly four decades ago, President John F. Kennedy challenged our nation to send a man to the moon and return him safely to earth before the end of a decade. He said we would do it not because it was easy, but because it was hard. Our nation spent billions of dollars, some \$21.3 billion in 1969 dollars, to meet this challenge. Today, the cost would be an estimated \$110 billion. The crew of Apollo 11, Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins, will always be American heroes. The men and women who have served this nation in uniform and who are now homeless are also American heroes. They are the real survivors.

If we were capable of achieving that goal set by President Kennedy nearly 40 years ago, then we are capable of achieving this goal now—before the end of a decade eliminate homelessness among veterans. We must honor the service of our women and men who have served in uniform by providing the resources and opportunity they need to regain their future and again become productive citizens. This is our challenge. Like generations before us, we can and will succeed.

Let us never forget that every homeless veteran in America today served as a member of our Armed Forces. Today's homeless veterans were the once eager, excited and maybe a little frightened young men and women who came forward to serve our nation in uniform. In real terms, they defended our nation. They were our national defense. They came forward by the tens of thousands to serve our country.

It is time for our country to come forward to fully provide the services they now need.

The Heather French Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2000 is comprehensive legislation. It contains both innovative and proven programs. It provides, for example; expanding successful grant programs, extending the authority of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide dental care, and authorizing individual grants to veterans at risk for homelessness. Mr. Speaker, I ask that a summary explanation of the Heather French Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2000 be included in the RECORD following my statement.

Some may question the need for enacting comprehensive homeless veterans legislation. They may ask, "Don't programs to help homeless veterans already exist?" The answer is a qualified yes. VA offers a wide array of special programs and initiatives designed to help homeless veterans live as self-sufficiently and independently as possible. VA's specialized homeless veterans treatment programs have grown and developed since first authorized in 1987. In addition, other federal and community based programs exist throughout the nation to offer support and provide assistance to homeless veterans. Homeless veterans are receiving assistance and support from many programs that have demonstrated their effectiveness.

The question then remains, "Why are veterans still homeless?" The answer is simple. We have not done enough. The problem is not ineffective programs. The problem is too few programs and too many homeless veterans. If our goal is to end homelessness among veterans, we must do more. Existing programs must be continued and expanded when possible. New programs must be established.

For some, the first question will be, "How much will this cost?" The question that should be asked instead is, "What are the costs of failing to end homelessness among veterans? What are the costs of failing to provide what they need to regain their future and again become productive citizens and members of society?"

I strongly support the specialized programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs intended to meet the needs of homeless veterans. These are worthwhile, effective programs. For fiscal year 2000, the total amount expected to be spent supporting these programs is \$152.5 million dollars. This is clearly not pocket change, but neither is it enough funding. In fact, it is far from enough.

Over the course of a year, 345,000 homeless veterans will experience nearly 126 nights of homelessness. To meet the needs of nearly 126 million nights of homelessness among veterans a year, \$152.5 million really isn't very much. In fact, the total spending this year for VA's specialized programs for homeless veterans amounts to approximately \$1.25 per day, per homeless veteran. No matter how effective or efficient, \$1.25 per day, per homeless veteran can't be expected to be enough. On average, this is about \$450 per year, per homeless veteran.

The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP), of the Department of Labor, provides even less support. The purpose of HVRP is to assist homeless veterans gain employment and become or move toward self-sufficiency. Again, HVRP is a good program which has demonstrated its effectiveness. But how effective can HVRP be in eliminating

homelessness with an annual budget of \$10 million? If the homeless veteran population is 345,000, HVRP can spend, at the utmost, less than \$30 per year, per veteran, on average.

For some, eliminating homelessness among veterans is simply a question of economics. A formerly homeless veteran who becomes a computer programmer earning \$40,000 a year is a contributing member of our society who will repay many times over in taxes the assistance he or she received. It is in our national economic interest to once again use the skills and values learned in military service and to productively use new skills to benefit everyone.

For me, this is not simply a question of economics. Morally, there is no other choice that we can make. We must make use of the full arsenal of programs and tools to help homeless veterans regain their self-worth, their dignity, their pride and their self-sufficiency. We can end homelessness among veterans if we have the will to do so. As the richest nation on earth, we can afford to do no less.

President Reagan once asked, "If not us, who? If not now, when?" I ask these same questions today. We cannot afford to wait any longer. More importantly, America's homeless veterans cannot afford to wait any longer.

If we simply maintain the status quo, over the next decade there will be more than one billion nights of homelessness among veterans. Let me repeat that—more than one billion nights of homelessness among veterans over the next decade if we simply maintain our current efforts. If our economy should falter, even slightly, that number of homeless veterans would undoubtedly increase dramatically.

The most recent assessment of the Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups (CHALENG) was issued in May 2000 by the Department of Veterans Affairs. That assessment reported that there were an estimated 344,983 homeless veterans during 1999, an increase of 34 percent above the 1998 estimate of 256,872 homeless veterans.

Veterans continue to constitute a significant and disproportionately greater percentage of homeless men than their non-veteran peers. Twenty-three percent of the homeless male population are veterans while thirteen percent of the general male population are veterans.

The CHALENG assessment issued in May 2000, by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), also reported there is a need now for more than 110,000 additional beds to meet current needs of homeless veterans. Those additional beds will not be enough, however. Food, clothing, social services, medical services, job training and readiness programs and so much more will also be needed. It can be done and we must do it.

This same assessment of the needs of homeless veterans issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reported VA and community partnerships during 1999 were responsible for establishing 4,943 total beds for homeless veterans which included emergency, transitional and permanent beds. If 5,000 additional beds are provided annually to meet the needs of homeless veterans, more than two decades will be required to meet the current need for additional beds to serve homeless veterans. According to an informal cost estimate provided by VA, \$1 billion will be required to establish the new beds now needed by homeless veterans.

The Congressional Budget Office forecast a federal budget surplus totaling \$268 billion for fiscal year 2001 and a budget surplus of over \$4.5 trillion over the next ten years. We are the most powerful and richest nation on earth. Economically, we can afford to end homelessness among veterans. Morally, we must. Morally, there is no other choice that we can make. We must make use of the full arsenal of programs and tools to help homeless veterans regain their self-worth, their dignity, their pride and their self-sufficiency.

I am pleased the Heather French Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2000 has already received support from the Veterans Organizations Homeless Council. The members of the Veterans Organizations Homeless Council represent ten major national veteran service organizations. These organizations are The American Legion, AMVETS, Blinded Veterans Association, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Non Commissioned Officers Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Vietnam Veterans of America. The Veterans Organizations Homeless Council "strongly supports the comprehensive recommendations advanced by Congressman LANE EVANS, Illinois, in a legislative proposal that will offer a strategic program to break the vicious cycle of veterans homelessness in cities and towns across this Nation."

In addition, I am also very pleased this legislation has won the support of Miss America 2000. Heather French has carried a torch of compassion which has shown light on the plight of America's homeless veterans. She has given voice to homeless veterans who have been voiceless and visibility to homeless veterans who have been invisible to society in general. Her efforts have raised the awareness of the American people regarding the struggles and circumstances of the thousands of homeless men and women who have served our nation in uniform.

By her words and deeds Miss America 2000 has demonstrated her steadfast commitment to leaving no homeless veteran behind. From the halls of Congress, to homeless shelters, and to communities across America, Heather French has inspired us to a single goal—ending homelessness among America's veterans. As Miss America 2000, Heather French has well represented the Miss America Organization—the largest provider of scholarship assistance, exclusively for women, in the world. As an advocate for our homeless veterans, Heather French has maintained The Miss America Organization tradition of many decades of empowering American women to achieve their personal and professional goals, while providing a forum in which to express their opinions, talents, and intelligence. Her year of service as Miss America will end next month, but her commitment will not. She will continue to speak for those who are voiceless, seek shelter for those who have none, and remind us of our obligation to those who have served.

Heather French has said, "homeless veterans want to be able to regain personal pride by taking personal responsibility to remove the barriers that have prevented their transition to productive citizenship." "I applaud this legislation that focuses on a comprehensive package of proposals that will lead to ending homelessness among our nation's veterans so they can once again be proud citizens."

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) has also endorsed this legislation. NCHV executive director Linda Boone has said "this bill will become the platform to address homeless veterans' issues in the 107th Congress and we look forward to a continued active relationship between Ms. French and Mr. EVANS towards the goal of ending homelessness among our nation's veterans."

I am proud to have the support of Ms. French, major veterans organizations, and community based providers of services to homeless veterans. I urge my colleagues to support and cosponsor H.R. 5311, the Heather French Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2000.

HEATHER FRENCH HOMELESS VETERANS
ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2000
SUMMARY OF H.R. 5311

1. Findings
2. National Goal to end homelessness among Veterans within a decade
3. Establish the Homeless Veterans Advisory Committee, Department of Veterans Affairs
4. Requires annual meeting for Interagency Council on Homeless
5. Evaluation of homeless programs
6. Changes in veterans equitable resource allocation methodology
7. Grant program for homeless veterans with special needs
8. Coordination of services for veterans at risk of homelessness
9. Centers of Excellence in integrated mental health services delivery
10. Expansion of authority for dental care
11. Programmatic expansions
12. Various Authorities
13. Temporary Assistance Grants
14. Emergency Homeless Grants
15. Technical Assistance Grants
16. Manufactured Housing Loans
17. Increase Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program annual authorization to \$50 million

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE ON
PEACE PROCESS IN NORTHERN
IRELAND

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support of House Resolution 547 and I commend my colleague, Congressman Neal, for bringing this important measure to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, the last 4 years have brought great change to Northern Ireland and we are all hopeful that these changes will eventually yield peace. Unfortunately, the devil is in the details. One of the most glaring of these details is the matter of policing. If there is going to be lasting peace in Northern Ireland, then there must be reform of the Royal Ulster Constabulary [RUC]—Northern Ireland's police force. The RUC is comprised of 92 percent Protestant officers and human rights organizations have historically accused this police force of brutality against Catholics in the region.

Without addressing this contentious and complex problem, it will be impossible for peace to reign in Northern Ireland. I might add

that the United States is no stranger to incidents of police brutality. In fact, we have bills pending in Congress which call for reforms of police enforcement practices. We know in the United States that if a community does not have trust in the law enforcement charged with policing them, then chaos and unrest will rule. We must be consistent in our country and when we call for peace in other countries, like Northern Ireland. That is why I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of House Resolution 547.

This resolution encourages the British Parliament to follow the recommendations of the Patten Report: To give the police force a new name, new badges and symbols free of the British or Irish states; to no longer fly the Union flag at police stations; and, to substantially increase the proportion of Catholic officers to 30 percent of the total force in 10 years.

If the parties involved in the peace agreement can accept these recommendations and implement them in a timely fashion, then I believe that they can achieve lasting peace in Northern Ireland. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support House Resolution 547.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 25th, I was unavoidably detained in my district.

On rollcall No. 487, H. Con. Res. 399, recognizing the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

STS. CYRIL AND METHDIUS
CHURCH CELEBRATES CENTEN-
NIAL

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the enduring faith of the parishioners of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Edwardsville, Pennsylvania, which will celebrate the centennial anniversary of its founding on October 22, 2000.

The parish has its roots in the immigration of people from Slovakia who began to settle in the Wyoming Valley in the late 1870s and early 1880s. They came to the area upon hearing of the abundant work in the coal mines. At that time, there were no churches specifically for people of Slovak descent, so they attended churches where most of the members' first language was English.

Around 1885, a Slovak parish, St. Stephen's Church, was founded in Plymouth and many people from the Edwardsville area traveled there on foot for services on Sundays and other holy days. However, this travel was difficult, especially in the winter months, and so the Slovak people of Edwardsville joined together and began work to build their own church.

In September 1900, Bishop Michael J. Hoban officiated at the dedication of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church on Grove Street in Edwardsville. Until the winter of 1901, the pastor of St. Stephen's Church in Plymouth also served as their pastor, when the arrival of Father John Jedlicka gave the parishioners of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church their own clergyman.

Father Jedlicka oversaw several modifications to the church structure, including the tower and much of the interior, at a cost of \$1,400, quite a sum at the time. During his tenure, the parish also purchased land on Pringle Hill for a cemetery and started a four-classroom school in the church basement.

In 1904, Father Jedlicka was replaced by a newly ordained priest, who had to leave because he could not find a place to live. The parishioners borrowed \$3,000 to build a rectory, which was completed in 1905, and Father Jedlicka returned. That building still stands today on the corner of Grove and Hurbane streets in Edwardsville.

The following year, the parish tragically lost its church building, dedicated only six years before, in a fire. The current church on Zerbey Avenue was built in 1907 to replace it.

In 1921, Father Jedlicka died and was replaced by Father Edward Bellas, who served the parish for about eight years. He in turn was replaced by Father Stephen Gurcik, who was pastor until 1943, guiding the parish during the difficult years of the Great Depression. Many events were held to raise money, notably parish picnics, and finances began to improve in the 1940s. Father Gurcik loved the outdoors and often took the altar servers camping. During his tenure, the parish also sponsored a baseball team.

Father Joseph Podskoch served as pastor from 1943 until his death in 1949. He held bingo and other events to reduce the church's still-considerable debt. He was well-known in Edwardsville and would often walk up and down the streets to meet the people.

Father Michael Harvan, who became pastor in 1949, instituted a "day's wage" collection. During his pastorate, a few parishioners made sizable donations to the parish, and many improvements to the church were made. It also became possible to pay all existing debts. While pastor at Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Father Harvan was honored by becoming a Monsignor, or Prelate of Honor to the Pope. Upon his retirement in 1985, he left the parish with a sizable amount in its savings account.

In 1985, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church was joined with St. Anthony of Padua Church in Larksville, and both shared the same pastor, Father Joseph Ziobro. Since Father Ziobro lived at St. Anthony's Rectory, the one at St. Cyril and Methodius was sold at that time. Father Ziobro worked hard to bring the two churches together as one parish family.

In 1990, Father Ziobro was transferred and Father Andrew Strish became pastor of the two churches until he was transferred in 1996. Father Bernard Evanofski then became pastor of the two churches. Upon his arrival, it was obvious that Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church was in need of a new roof and other repairs. Through a capital fund campaign and the generosity of the parishioners, all needed repairs were made, including a new roof.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Sts. Cyril and Methodius church continue to be active and strongly supportive of all parish functions as

they celebrate both the centennial of the church's founding and the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. I salute them on the occasion of this milestone anniversary, and I am pleased to call their faith and service to the attention of the House of Representatives.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG RELIEF

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, time is running out. We are coming down the home stretch of the 106th Congress. Shortly we will be returning home to our respective congressional districts to report to our constituents what we have accomplished these past 2 years. I would like to be able to say that we've done something about the sky rocketing prices of prescription drugs.

This has certainly been a priority for me. This has defiantly been a priority for Democrats. Sadly, there are some for whom this is not a priority—and just who is going to pay the price for this indifference. The answer is America's seniors. The one issue that I have heard more about from senior citizens as well as their sons and daughters, these past 2 years than any other, is the outrageous cost of prescription drugs. I can't even begin to count the number of letters I have received, the phone calls I have had and the people that have come up to me when I am at home in my district, all imploring me to pass prescription drug legislation now.

The voices of seniors must be heard—Now. I urge my colleagues in the House—lets pass a prescription drug bill before we adjourn in October of this congress. The Nation's seniors deserve more than rhetoric—they deserve action.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on the afternoon and evening of September 26, 2000 and, therefore, was unable to attend any votes held during the period. Had I been present, I would have voted in the affirmative on every recorded vote. These votes include: H.R. 1248—the Violence Against Women Act; H.R. 2572—the Apollo Exploration Award Act; H.R. 5117—the Missing Children Tax Fairness Act; H.J. Res. 109—making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001; H.R. 5175—the Small Business Liability Relief Act; and H.R. 4292—the Born Alive Infants Protection Act.

PEACE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, like all Members of this body I share the hope that Israel and

its neighbors—including the Palestinians—will negotiate a comprehensive and lasting peace.

In fact, recent news suggests that Palestinian and Israeli negotiators may soon resume their formal discussions.

Does America have a role to play in helping the two sides reach a final settlement?

Of course we do.

As President Clinton has shown us—time and again—American leadership makes the difference.

But, as any mediator will tell you, there is a difference between leading—and interfering.

The measure before us is interfering.

It will have only one effect: to polarize a complex situation even further, and undermine America's ability to help the two sides come together.

That doesn't help the Israelis.

That doesn't help the Palestinians.

And it certainly doesn't help the cause of peace.

In his recent speech before the United Nations, Prime Minister Barak said: "We are standing at the Rubicon and neither of us can cross it alone."

Mr. Speaker, I for one believe America has to be prepared to cross that Rubicon with them.

But being a partner in helping to win peace, does not give us the authority to dictate its terms.

ANTI-SEMITIC NEWSPAPER ARTICLE IN RUSSIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the fall of the Soviet Union saw the emergence of open anti-Semitism in Russia. While the government was abandoning its official policy of discrimination against Jews, anti-Semitism was being resurrected by certain political and social elements within Russian society, or "privatized," as one observer put it.

Not that anti-Semitism is a distinctly Russian phenomenon. Our own history has shown that at times of economic difficulties or societal challenge extremist figures and groups peddling anti-Semitic or other hate philosophies may arise within our midst.

Nevertheless, I was surprised and disturbed when the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews called my attention to a recent article in the Russian newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* entitled "Strategy of 'Globalization Leadership' For Russia. First Priority Indirect Strategic Actions To Ensure National Security." This article was penned by a Mr. Alexandr Ignatov, the director of a think tank under the jurisdiction of the Presidential Administration of Russia. In his lengthy opus, the author asserts that the activities of a "world government" are a key influence on globalization processes, and that a "Hasidic-paramasonic group" has usurped power within this world government. Moreover, this "Hasidic-paramasonic group" has allegedly decided that Russia should be excluded from leadership in the globalization process and be viewed exclusively as a source of raw materials for the "New World Order."

This "usurpation of power in the world government by the Hasidic-paramasonic group requires immediate correction," says Mr.

Ignatov, which should include such initiatives as establishing Orthodox and Islam as state religions and imposing a departure tax on persons of childbearing age and "trained specialists."

Mr. Speaker, what can we say? Do Mr. Putin and others in the Russian Government take seriously the advice of people who prattle on about "Hasidic-paramasonic" groups usurping power in a so-called "world government"? The Ignatov article is, at best, a vacuous ramble about the "New World Order and world government, and, at worst, a vicious piece of anti-Semitism reflecting the mind set of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. To wrap fish in it would be to insult fish.

For the record, the Russian Orthodox Church, for all its claims as the historic Christian faith in Russia, has rejected the idea of becoming the state church. Even the Soviet government backed down from the departure tax idea back in the early 1980s.

In my opinion, this article is unworthy of *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, a widely read newspaper of a generally "centrist" orientation. I don't deny their right to print whatever they want, but I find it hard to believe that the editors of *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* want their publication to resemble some of the many anti-Semitic rags that have emerged in post-Soviet Russia.

In any event, I would certainly hope that the leadership of the Russian Government disavows the article, the author and certainly the policy prescriptions suggested.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to weather delays, I was unable to participate in the following vote. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

September 25, 2000, rollcall vote 478, on recognizing the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, I would have voted "yea."

SERBIA DEMOCRATIZATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2000

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support of H.R. 1064, The Serbia Montenegro Democracy Act of 1999. In April of last year, I offered a bill containing many of the same provisions of Mr. Smith's bill with the belief that we needed to come up with some alternative strategy, in dealing with Milosevic and the situation in the Balkans.

In wake of the alleged fraud during yesterday's election, I believe it is as important now as it was last April that we begin focusing on what we are doing in the former Yugoslavia. What this bill attempts to do is look towards the future of the region, and I believe begs a

larger point of what are we doing in that part of the world.

For starters, look at the cost of our military operations in Kosovo, such as Noble Anvil, Joint Guardian, Balkan Call, Eagle Eye, Sustained Hope, Task Force Hawk thus far these programs have totaled over \$5 billion. Then add in the cost in Bosnia, roughly \$8.95 billion. Lastly, add in other missions in the Balkans and the total amount of United States taxpayers money spent in the region since 1991 comes to \$15.7 billion. I have to ask the question, where does it end?

We still have troops in Bosnia and Kosovo, despite promises to bring them home. If we have not begun to find some kind of alternative to our current strategy in Montenegro, history will repeat itself. The U.S. has already made commitment after commitment in the Balkans and a break away Montenegro would probably be no different.

So I would applaud Mr. Smith's leadership for incorporating my bill into today's legislation. I would hope that this and future administrations come up with some kind of strategy other than sending troops and bombs through the sky with the Balkans, because that seems to be our current strategy. I think that this bill is a more effective and efficient alternative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on Monday, July 25, 2000 when rollcall vote No. 487 was cast and on Tuesday, July 26, 2000 when rollcall vote No. 493 was cast. Had I been present in this Chamber at the time these votes were cast, I would have voted "yes" on each of them.

IN HONOR OF ADAM VENESKI, PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S FIREHOUSE OF WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague NYDIA VELAZQUEZ, to pay special tribute to Adam Veneski, the President of The People's Firehouse and a pillar of the Northern Brooklyn community, who recently passed away.

Mr. Veneski, who in early 1975 was a well-liked neighborhood grocer in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, suddenly became a passionate political activist after his neighborhood firehouse, Engine 212, was closed as a result of the Mayor Abe Beame's financial cutbacks. Disillusioned by the excessive number of firehouse closings and concerned for the safety of his neighbors, Mr. Veneski organized a campaign against the city government aimed at changing the Mayor's mind. Mr. Veneski, using every resource he had, however limited, strove towards achieving a single, meaningful goal—to save Engine 212.

Conceiving one of New York City's most memorable acts of civil disobedience, Mr. Veneski encouraged neighbors to sleep in the firehouse on round-the-clock shifts for nearly eighteen months while holding the fire truck hostage as a direct message to the city to keep North Brooklyn's firehouse open. When the Mayor ordered his opposition removed, a deputy fire chief said, "We're not going to remove them, it's the people's firehouse." The name has stuck around since—and so has Adam Veneski.

Mr. Veneski's goal was not only achieved through his public protests, but it was also realized as a result of his relentless research into facts that exhibited the necessity of preserving Engine 212. Mr. Veneski became an expert on fire-related injuries in his neighborhood, pointing out that eight fire-related deaths had occurred during the eighteen months Engine 212 was closed. As a result of the valiant efforts of Mr. Veneski and his neighbors, Engine 212, now known as the People's Firehouse, was reopened and the alarming increase in fire deaths in Williamsburg strongly reduced.

Mr. Veneski, fresh from his triumphal success as a community activist and invigorated by his role in helping the community, continued to serve his North Brooklyn neighborhood. After Engine 212 was reopened as a fully operational fire station, Mr. Veneski and his united neighbors formed a community assistance program, the People's Firehouse, Inc. (PFI). PFI provides legal outreach and mediation services, language education specialists, and housing development assistance to the residents of North Brooklyn. The People's Firehouse is celebrating its twenty-fifth year of public service this year and owes it success to a kind and personable grocer from Williamsburg Brooklyn—Adam Veneski.

From simple beginnings and with few resources, Mr. Veneski pioneered a movement that not only assisted in the improvement of the lives of those in his community, but through the preservation of the People's Firehouse and his dogged determination, saved many of those lives as well. North Brooklyn lost a tenacious advocate with the death of Adam Veneski. He will be sorely missed.

HONORING GEORGE H. WELDON, SR.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate a long-time constituent of the 15th Congressional District of New York and certainly a very dear friend, George H. Weldon, Sr.

On September 28, 2000, George Weldon will receive the Tenth Annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Phoenix Award from the Abyssinian Development Corporation which is a comprehensive community development and human services organization serving the Harlem community.

George Weldon is one of Harlem's leading businessmen. He has operated the George H. Weldon Funeral Home, Inc., a well-respected family owned funeral business located in Harlem, for over forty years.

A committed civic and business leader, Mr. Weldon is currently a member of various boards including Empire State Funeral Directors Association, Metropolitan Funeral Directors Association, Harlem Junior Tennis League, and Vice President of LaGuardia Memorial House. He also serves as the Secretary of the Board of the Business Resource and Investment Service Center (BRISC) of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone.

Active in the Harlem Business Alliance since 1987, he later served two terms as President. It was during those terms, that he led the organization into the forefront of economic development in Harlem and throughout New York City.

In 1995, I appointed George Weldon to the Uptown Partnership where he currently serves as its Chairman. The Partnership was convened to bring together the diverse business communities in the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone. He also serves on the Mayor's Harlem Task Force for Conflict Resolution.

A native of Harlem, Mr. Weldon served in the U.S. Army and is an Honorable Discharged veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict. Upon leaving the Army, he attended the American Academy of Mortuary Science College where he graduated as a Licensed Funeral Director.

George Weldon has received numerous awards and citations for his service and commitment to the community including the Education Alumni Group of City College of New York (Business Educator of the Year), the Metropolitan Civic League (Martin Luther King, Jr. Award), and the New York Urban League (Building Brick Award).

Mr. Weldon is married and is the father of two children, both of whom have followed in his footsteps as Funeral Directors. He is also the grandfather of five.

In his own words: "Let's not only leave our children a legacy of love, but a legacy of economic empowerment."

THE INTRODUCTION OF "THE MEDICARE, MEDICAID AND SCHIP BALANCED BUDGET REFINEMENT ACT OF 2000"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my friend and colleague, the Gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. FRANK, the entire Massachusetts delegation in the House, and many of my other colleagues in the House in introducing the "Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 2000."

Mr. Speaker, in this era of unprecedented surplus, we must ask the question, "Who's surplus is it?" The answer is, "it's the seniors' surplus." The legislation we are introducing today is closely modeled after legislation (S. 3077) recently introduced in the Senate, and will provide \$40 to \$50 billion over five years in additional Medicare and Medicaid payments to health care providers adversely affected by the cuts in the 1997 law, including hospitals, home health agencies, managed care plans, and nursing homes.

In 1997, seniors in our country were told that the price tag for Balanced Budget Act was going to be \$115 billion. Even then, the Gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and I thought that price was too high, and that was one of the principal reasons we voted against the bill. But today, we find ourselves in a situation where the actual cost of the BBA is turning out to be over \$200 billion. In addition to the cost of the BBA doubling, Medicare spending is down sharply, increasing by just 1.5 percent in FY98, decreasing by 1.0 percent in FY99, and increasing just 1.5 percent in FY2000—well below the predicted growth rates for the program.

Mr. Speaker, we owe our seniors a refund. That's not too much to ask for the men and women who built this country. The 1997 Medicare cuts have harmed seniors, and I believe we should give this senior surplus back to the seniors to pay for their health care programs.

Congress is working on a package of Medicare givebacks this year to deal with the most critical aspects of the BBA cuts, a package that will cost about \$21 billion. However, I am hopeful that as we move forward in the few remaining weeks of this session, that we will increase the price tag for this package. \$21 billion is not going to be enough to get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, the following is a summary of the legislation, outlining specific areas of relief, such as community and teaching hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health care facilities, and Medicare HMOs, which I submit into the RECORD.

THE MEDICARE, MEDICAID AND SCHIP BALANCED BUDGET REFINEMENT ACT OF 2000

We believe strong that Congress, in light of the projected budget surplus for the next five years, should provide substantial relief to health care providers hurt by the 1997 Balanced Budget Act. Today, we are introducing the House companion bill to S. 3077, the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 2000.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE KEY PROVISIONS OF THE LEGISLATION:

Hospitals: Significant portions of the BBA spending reductions have impacted hospitals. According to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), "Hospitals' financial status deteriorated significantly in 1998 and 1999," the years following enactment of BBA. BBRA-2000 would address the most pressing problems facing hospitals by:

Fully restoring, for fiscal years '01 and '02, inpatient market basket payments to keep up with increases in hospital costs, an improvement that will help all hospitals.

Preventing implementation of further reductions in (IME) payment rates for vital teaching hospitals—which are on the cutting edge of medical research and provide essential care to a large proportion of indigent patients. Support for medical training and research at independent children's hospitals is also included in the Democratic proposal.

Targeting additional relief to rural hospitals (Critical Access Hospitals, Medicare Dependent Hospitals, and Sole Community Hospitals) and making it easier for them to qualify for disproportionate share payments under Medicare.

Providing additional support for hospitals with a disproportionate share of indigent patients, including elimination of scheduled reductions in Medicare and Medicaid disproportionate share (DSH) payments, and extending Medicaid to legal immigrant children and pregnant women, as well as providing State Children's health Insurance Program (SCHIP) coverage to these children.

Establishing a grant program to assist hospitals in their transition to a more data intensive care-delivery model.

Providing Puerto Rico hospitals with a more favorable payment rate (specifically, the inpatient operating blend rate) as MedPAC data suggests is warranted.

Home Health. The BBA hit home health agencies particularly hard. Home health spending dropped 45 percent between 1997 and 1999, while the number of home health agencies declined by more than 2000 over that period. MedPAC has cautioned against implementing next year the scheduled 15 percent reduction in payments. BBRA-2000 would:

Repeal the scheduled 15 percent cut in the home health payments, remove medical supplies in the home health prospective payment system (PPS), provide a 10-percent upward adjustment in rural home health payments to address the special needs of rural home health agencies in the transition to PPS. Security costs for high crime areas are also covered in this legislation.

Provides \$500 million to care for "outlier", or the sickest and most costly, patients.

Clarifies the "homebound" definition allowing Medicare beneficiaries to attend adult day care, religious services or important family events while continuing to receive home health benefits.

Allows home health agencies to list tele-medical services on their cost reports and orders HCFA to study whether these services should be reimbursable under Medicare.

Provide full update payments (inflation) for medical equipment, oxygen, and other suppliers.

Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs). The BBA was expected to reduce payments to skilled nursing facilities by about \$9.5 billion. The actual reduction in payments to SNFs over the period is estimated to be significantly larger. BBRA-2000 would:

Allow nursing home payments to keep up with increases in costs through a full market basket update for SNFs for FY 2001 and FY 2002, and market basket plus two percent for additional payments.

Further delay caps on the amount of physical/speech therapy and occupational therapy a patient can receive while the Secretary completes a scheduled study on this issue.

Rural. Rural providers typically serve a larger proportion of Medicare beneficiaries and are more adversely affected by reductions in Medicare payments. In addition to the rural relief measures noted above (under "hospitals"), BBRA-2000 addresses the unique situation faced in rural areas through a number of measures, including: a permanent "hold-harmless" exemption for small rural hospitals from the Medicare Outpatient PPS; assistance for rural home health agencies; a capital loan fund to improve infrastructure of small rural facilities; assistance to develop technology related to new prospective payment systems; bonus payments for providers who serve independent hospitals; ensuring rural facilities can continue to offer quality lab services to beneficiaries; and specific provisions to assist Rural Health Clinics.

Hospice. Payments to hospices have not kept up with the cost of providing care because of the cost of prescription drugs, the therapies now in end-of-life care, as well as decreasing lengths of stay. Hospice base rates have not been increased since 1989. BBRA-2000 would provide significant additional funding for hospice services to account for their increasing costs, including full market basket updates for fiscal years '01 and '02 and a 10-percent upward adjustment in the underlying hospice rates.

Medicare+Choice. This legislation would ensure that appropriate payments are made

to Medicare+Choice (M+C) plans. Expenditures by Medicare for its fee-for-service providers included in BBRA-2000 indirectly benefit M+C plans to a significant extent. Moreover, the legislation includes an increase in the M+C growth percentage for fiscal years '01 and '02, permitting plans to move to the 50:50 blended payment one year earlier, and allowing plans which have decided to withdraw to reconsider by November 2000.

Physicians. Congress understands the pressures that physicians face to deliver high-quality care while still complying with payment and other regulatory obligations. BBRA-2000 provides for comprehensive studies of issues important to physicians, including: the practice expense component of the Resource-Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) physician payment system, post-payment audits, and regulatory burdens. BBRA-2000 would provide relief to physicians in training, whose debt can often be crushing, by lowering the threshold for loan deferment from \$72,000 to \$48,000.

Beneficiary Improvements. House Democrats continue to believe that passage of a universal, affordable, voluntary, and meaningful Medicare prescription drug benefit is the highest priority for beneficiaries. In addition, BBRA-2000 would directly assist beneficiaries in the following ways:

Coinsurance: BBRA-2000 would lower beneficiary coinsurance to achieve a true 20 percent beneficiary copayment for all hospital outpatient services within 20 years.

Preventive Benefits: The bill would provide for significant advances in preventive medicine for Medicare beneficiaries, including waiver of deductibles and cost-sharing, glau-

coma screening, counseling for smoking cessation, and nutrition therapy.

Immunosuppressive Drugs: The bill would remove current restrictions on payment for immunosuppressive drugs for organ transplant patients.

ALS: The bill would waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare disability coverage for individuals diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

M+C Transition: For beneficiaries who have lost Medicare+Choice plans in their area, BBRA-2000 includes provisions that would strengthen fee-for-service Medicare and assist beneficiaries in the period immediately following loss of service.

Return-to-home: The bill would allow beneficiaries to return to the same nursing home or other appropriate site-of-care after a hospital stay.

Part B penalty: The bill would limit the penalty for late enrollment in Medicare Part B.

Vision Services: The bill would allow beneficiaries to access vision rehabilitation services provided by Orientation and Mobility Specialists, Low Vision Therapists, and Rehabilitation Teachers.

Other Provisions. BBRA-2000 would address other high priority issues, including: improved payment for dialysis in fee-for-service and M+C to assure access to quality care for end stage renal disease (ESRD) patients; increased market basket updates for ambulance providers in fiscal years '01 and '02; an immediate opt-in to the new ambulance fee schedule for affected providers; and enhanced training opportunities for geriatricians and clinical psychologists. BBRA-2000 also The

Act in addition includes important modifications to the Community Nursing Organization (CNO) demonstration project, and additional funding for the Ricky Ray Hemophilia program.

Medicaid and SCHIP. The growing number of uninsured individuals and declining enrollment in the Medicaid program are issues that also must be addressed. To improve access to health care for the uninsured and ensure that services available through the Medicaid and SCHIP programs are reaching those eligible for assistance, BBRA-2000 includes the following provisions:

Improve eligibility and enrollment processes in SCHIP and Medicaid.

Extend and improve the Transitional Medical Assistance program for people who leave welfare for work.

Improve access to Medicare cost-sharing assistance for low-income beneficiaries.

Give states grants to develop home and community based services for beneficiaries who would otherwise be in nursing homes.

Create a new prospective payment system (PPS) for Community Health Centers to ensure they remain a strong, viable component of our health care safety net.

Extend Medicaid coverage of breast and cervical cancer treatment to women diagnosed through the federally-funded early detection program.

Permit nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists to bill independently under State Medicaid plans, regardless of whether or not a physician or other health care provider is supervising.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 28, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 3

9:30 a.m.
 Environment and Public Works
 To hold oversight hearings on the use of comparative risk assesment in setting

priorities and on the Science Advisory Board's Residual Risk Report. SD-406

Judiciary
 Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
 To continue oversight hearings on the Wen Ho Lee case. SD-226

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 To hold hearings to examine the impact of high fuel cost on low-income families. SD-430

Judiciary
 Youth Violence Subcommittee
 To hold oversight hearings to examine Office of Justice programs, focusing on drug courts. Room to be announced

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To hold hearings on internet privacy issues. SR-253

10 a.m.
 Intelligence
 Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters. SH-219

OCTOBER 4

9:30 a.m.
 Small Business
 To hold hearings on U.S. Forest Service issues relating to small business. SR-428A

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 To hold hearings to examine health care coverage issues. SD-430

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To hold oversight hearings on seaport security. SR-253

10:30 a.m.
 Intelligence
 To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters. SH-219

OCTOBER 5

9:30 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine the status of Gulf War illnesses. SD-124

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To hold hearings on tobacco related issues. SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources
 Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine the electricity challenges facing the Northwest. SD-366