

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, in 1963 Congress designated February as American Heart Month; and today is Valentine's Day, a day not only about flowers and candy, but also about love and family. It is fitting that we recognize and congratulate the efforts of the American Heart Association and other organizations to reduce the enormous burdens, physical, emotional and economic, that heart disease places on American families.

The fact is that an American dies from cardiovascular disease every 33 seconds killing 1 million Americans annually, about 41 percent of all deaths in the United States. Every American, young or old, male or female, is at risk.

Madam Speaker, today I encourage every American to learn the signs of cardiac arrest and the causes of cardiac disease. Together we can reduce the burden of cardiac disease and its imposition on our families so that everyone can celebrate not only this day as Valentine's Day but many more in the future.

#### CHARACTER EDUCATION

(Mr. CLEMENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEMENT. Madam Speaker, later today I will be introducing with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) the Character Learning and Student Success Act. Society is growing increasingly concerned about the steady decline of our Nation's core ethical values, especially in our children.

There exists in Tennessee and across the country successful character education programs that have improved school climate, reduced disruptive behavior and resulted in higher performing schools. However, no organization exists that can track these success stories, help schools identify their particular needs, and implement effective character education programs. That is why we are introducing the CLASS Act. This bill would establish a national center for character education that would provide the most up-to-date information about effective character education programs and aid schools in developing their own programs.

Character education is becoming a national priority in the education reform debate. We want all of our children to be responsible, upstanding members of society. I believe that this legislation will help schools create environments where such values are fostered.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this bill.

#### RECOGNIZING AMERICAN HEART MONTH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, today is Valentine's Day; and as we take the time to shower our loved ones with chocolates, flowers and poems, I ask that we share the most important gift of all, the gift of life. Heart disease kills nearly 1 million Americans every year and is responsible for over 40 percent of the deaths in our country. Every 33 seconds, an American dies from cardiovascular disease.

This February marks American Heart Month; and unfortunately, too many Americans are not prepared to deal with cardiac emergencies. But by becoming familiar with these serious symptoms, it can mean the difference between life and death. Symptoms such as uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of the chest lasting for more than a few minutes, pain spreading to the shoulders, arms or neck, and chest discomfort with light-headedness, faintness, sweating nausea, or shortness of breath.

Madam Speaker, this Valentine's Day I ask my colleagues to raise awareness on these matters of the heart. It is just one way in which we can eliminate our Nation's number one killer.

#### MONICA, MARC RICH AND A PHONY FINE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. First there was Monica. While Congress investigated cigars and pantyhose, China was spying and buying America. Now it is Marc Rich. True, Rich does not deserve a pardon. But once again two big pardons in the form of plea bargains have been overlooked, namely, John Huang and James Riady, two crooks that illegally funneled cash to the Democrat National Committee and to investigate them now would be double jeopardy. Beam me up.

What are we coming to, Congress? This was not only slick, this is sick; and America may someday die because of it.

I yield back a phony \$8 million fine for James Riady that will be paid for by Chinese Communists who are taking \$100 billion a year in trade surplus out of America's economy.

#### COMMENDING FOREIGN SERVICE WORKERS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the numerous foreign service officers working in our embassies around the world and at the State Department. I have had the pleasure of working with many of these people here in Washington and at our embassies abroad. The tremendous

dedication these men and women bring to their work representing our Nation abroad and our principles is an inspiration and an encouragement to all of us. Their work with NGOs is especially appreciated.

The Ambassadors in Thailand, Egypt, Pakistan, and Indonesia, Ambassadors Hecklinger, Kurtzer, Milam, and Gelbard, have lent their expertise and assistance on various issues and projects. In addition, the work of Jeffrey Rock, Lowry Taylor, David Donahue, Sheldon Rapoport, Susan Keogh, John Bradshaw, Susan Sutton, Angie Bryant, and others has been invaluable.

Madam Speaker, I commend these individuals for their important and tireless work on behalf of our Nation and the principles on which our Nation stands.

#### NATIONAL CENTER FOR SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH ACT

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, today the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) and I will reintroduce the National Center for Social Work Research Act which would establish a center within the National Institutes of Health. As a former social worker, I believe that this center would be a tremendous resource not only to Congress and policymakers but also to service providers throughout this country. Social workers are in a unique position to offer insight and recommendations on how to address both individual and community societal problems. They are on the front line working with individuals on a day-to-day basis on issues ranging from access to health care, mental health, child abuse, and family reconciliation.

The establishment of the National Center for Social Work Research would provide us with interdisciplinary, family-centered, and community-based social work research that is needed and designed to help us not only in terms of policy but also in terms of service for our service providers. I ask my colleagues to support this effort, the National Center for Social Work Research.

#### INTRODUCTION OF CHARACTER LEARNING AND STUDENT SUCCESS (CLASS) ACT

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, Americans are concerned about the decline in our Nation's values, particularly among our children. Parents should be the primary developers of character, but educators play an increasingly important role. Many school districts have included character education in their curriculum. Others have not but would like to do so. Schools