

through the full House, and through final passage. This legislation has meant more to economic growth and job development in Oklahoma than any efforts in recent history. Without Leslie Belcher Sowell's efforts, it would have been nearly impossible for me to see this legislation passed into law. Her last action in our office was making a phone call trying to get this process extended until 2009.

Leslie has always shared my goal of improving the economic conditions in rural Oklahoma, which is why she has been such a perfect fit for my staff. Leslie has been dedicated and committed to my efforts whether I was Democrat, Independent, or Republican.

I have had the privilege of watching Leslie grow in her career, seeing her marry the love of her life, taking on her most challenging and rewarding job ever—becoming a mother. Leslie is a dear friend, and I thank her for her service to the Third District, the State of Oklahoma, and the United States of America.

Leslie: I will miss you, and the Third District will miss you. May God bless you and your family. I tip my hat to you, and thank you for your loyal friendship and a job well done.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S ENERGY
POLICY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, for months now, people in our area and all over the country have been upset with the ever-increasing cost of gasoline, and rightfully so. At a time when we are facing one of the most serious energy shortages in history I am especially interested in President Bush's plan for a national energy policy. I have strongly supported a long range energy policy for our country.

I believe the President's energy plan has many good points including a \$2 billion coal initiative and increased use of reformulated gasolines using ethanol. However, I believe his proposal can be improved upon. For example, we have the ability now, to use reformulated gasoline in a much greater capacity. In addition, Congress needs to ensure the President's new Clean Coal Power Initiative is adequately funded. Coal, which we have an abundance of in Southwestern Illinois, is an excellent alternative use of fuel. I think the President's coal initiative is a great idea that can be expanded to include incentives for new and improved clean coal technologies. We can and should use this abundant resource in an environmentally sound way. Coal usage will greatly reduce our dependence on foreign oil and avoid a band-aid approach, like drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Speaker, excluding California and Hawaii, my home state of Illinois is faced with the highest gas prices in the country. Cutting gas prices now is essential! This can be done in a variety of ways: opening marginal oil wells, producing more ethanol and ensuring oil companies are not making record breaking profits from increased gas pricing.

I have also started hearing from many farmers who want to hear more about the role ethanol will play in the President's plan. I was very disappointed to learn that Vice President CHENEY does not believe alternative fuels are

a viable option right now. CHENEY stated "Years down the road alternative fuels may become a great deal more plentiful. But we are not yet in any position to stake our economy and our own way of life on that possibility." We can and should use alternative fuels now! In 2000 alone the ethanol industry expanded production by 155 million gallons and is on course to increase by an additional 400 million gallons in 2001. Each day more than 5 million gallons of ethanol are blended into about 65 million gallons of gasoline—adding critical volume to a tight gasoline market and reducing the pressure on price. Ethanol is far less expensive than MTBE—refiners could replace \$1.50 of MTBE with 50 cents of ethanol.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress will ensure improvements are made to the President's plan that will allow for immediate relief and assure our constituents that we will not continue the upward spiral of higher gas prices or greater dependence on foreign oil year after year.

TRIBUTE TO PROVIDIAN
FINANCIAL CORPORATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely honored and proud to rise today to salute Providian Financial Corporation for its selection as this year's Quality Cup service industry award winner, as named by the Rochester Institute of Technology and USA Today.

On learning of Providian's selection, I felt a special sense of pride in knowing that this company is based in the Bay Area and that thousands of its employees live and work in my district.

Providian is an outstanding corporate citizen. In my own district, Providian partnered with the NFL Oakland Raiders to raise more than \$40,000 last year for a children's education center. The company's dedication to the community translates to its business practices as seen by this recognition of its high quality customer service.

Providian also deserves commendation serving people along every point of the economic spectrum. The company believes that providing access to credit helps people build better lives. And, it works hard to help people obtain and manage the credit they need.

To ensure quality service, Providian records every sales call. It has empowered its customer representatives to resolve complaints on the first call. It has put in place new systems to help customers protect their credit records with last-minute payments by phone and the Internet. With initiatives like these, Providian has made service its hallmark.

Remarkably, Providian has implemented these changes and recorded a steep drop in complaints at the same time it has dramatically increased the number of customers it serves.

I hope my colleagues in the House, and all Americans, will join me in saluting Providian for a job well done. I hope that all of corporate America will look at their example of being a good corporate citizen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, due to an error on my part, on May 23 I erroneously voted in the affirmative for the Cox amendment to H.R. 1, rollcall No. 143.

My intention was to have voted in the negative for the Cox amendment to H.R. 1, rollcall No. 143.

DETROIT'S 300TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Detroit and its residents on the 300th anniversary of the city's founding. As the oldest city in the Midwest, Detroit is the place where Henry Ford made the automobile affordable for all people through the implementation and perfection of mass production. I want to thank Congresswoman CAROLYN KILPATRICK for introducing H. Con. Res. 80.

The city of Detroit also provided assistance for more than 40,000 individuals eagerly awaiting freedom as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Additionally, the city of Detroit has been coined the "Arsenal of Democracy", as Motor City residents bravely gave their services to our nation, contributing tremendously to the United States' victory in World War II.

With this year marking the 300th anniversary of Detroit's founding, it has grown into the tenth most populous city in the United States. Detroit has put the world on wheels, and exerts global influence in automobile manufacturing and trade. Furthermore, Detroit is an academic and cultural epicenter, and also exhibits a rich sports tradition. Many musical greats call Detroit home, and it was in this great city where the Motown Sound was born.

I wish to extend to each resident my hearty congratulations on Detroit's 300th anniversary. Their dedication and hard work makes Detroit a city to be commended on its important contributions to the economic, social, and cultural aspects of the United States.

ANOTHER MINNESOTA MEDICAL
TECHNOLOGY SUCCESS STORY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, the front page of the Wall Street Journal yesterday announced the Food and Drug Administration's approval of a break-through medical device produced by St. Jude Medical, and company located in my home state of Minnesota.

St. Jude is part of Minnesota's Medical Alley, made up of 300 medical technology companies in the Twin Cities area, which has led the innovation explosion in health care. Increasingly, new medical devices are saving