

an advanced industrial powerhouse. The National Park Service provides a great and honorable service by preserving the vestiges of this rich past.

Mr. Speaker, let us celebrate this week, the important and enjoyable role that our National Parks play in our lives as well as the dedication and hard work of their employees and volunteers. These individuals reflect America's commitment to its National Parks and thus deserve our full appreciation.

HONORING THE FREE KITCHEN PROJECT IN LAKEPORT, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 24, 2002*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Free Kitchen Project. Ten years ago four distinguished organizations in Lakeport, California, a town of about 5000 people, began the Free Kitchen Project. The Free Kitchen Project serves people who are needy, lonely, transient, or families with an ill or handicapped person, each week, by providing a warm meal and environment.

The United Christian Parish, St. John's Episcopal Church, Lakeport Lions Club, and St. Mary's Parish organize over 200 Free Kitchen Project volunteers. These dedicated volunteers provide those less fortunate with a hot meal and warm environment every week.

In 1992, three people attended their first dinner. Now in the tenth year of operation, these devoted volunteers typically serve 50-100 people a week. Since its inception, the Free Kitchen Project has served over 30,000 meals. This incredible growth is testament to the value they create for the Lake County Community.

The Board of Directors of the Free Kitchen Project, comprised of members of participating churches and organizations, governs the project and oversees health department regulations which include disability issues and safe food handling practices.

Mr. Speaker, after ten years of serving people in need, I would like to recognize the American spirit within the Free Kitchen Project and the town of Lakeport, California. The Free Kitchen Project has dedicated, selfless people performing a service to those in need. I am honored to recognize this immense act of volunteerism in one town on the occasion of their tenth anniversary. They truly deserve our recognition.

A TRIBUTE TO ONCOLOGY NURSES, CAREGIVERS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

**HON. DEBORAH PRYCE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 24, 2002*

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the important and essential role that oncology nurses play in the care of patients diagnosed with cancer. I know first hand the

powerful positive impact that oncology nurses have on the provision of quality cancer care and know that cancer patients would be lost without their expertise, care, love, and dedication. As anyone ever treated for cancer will tell you, oncology nurses are intelligent, well-trained, highly skilled, kind-hearted angels who provide quality clinical, psychosocial, and supportive care to patients and their families. In short, they are integral to our Nation's cancer care delivery system.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted, and chronic disease, and people with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specialized in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. This year alone 1,284,900 Americans will hear the words "You have cancer." In addition, 555,500 will lose their battle with this terrible disease. Everyday, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment. Oncology nurses play a central role in the provision of quality cancer care as they are principally involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and the associated side-effects patients may experience.

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world with more than 30,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration and education in the field of oncology. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. To that end, ONS honors and maintains nursing's historical and essential commitment to advocacy for the public good by providing nurses and healthcare professionals with access to the highest quality educational programs, cancer-care resources, research opportunities, and networks for peer support.

The ONS has 8 chapters in the great state of Ohio. These chapters located in the Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo, Saint Paris, Zanesville, Lima, and Cuyahoga Falls areas serve the oncology nurses in the state and helps them to continue to provide high quality cancer care to those patients and their families in the state.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge three special oncology nurses from my district who will be in Washington this week to participate in the ONS Annual Congress and the ONS inaugural Hill Day—Deborah Babb and Luana Lamkin from Hilliard, Ohio and their colleague Betty Coffelt from Worthington, Ohio. I am looking forward to the pleasure of meeting with these outstanding women who have dedicated their lives to improving the health and well-being of people affected by cancer.

On behalf of all the people with cancer and their families in Ohio's 15th Congressional District, I thank Deborah, Luana, and Betty as well as all of their colleagues in the Oncology Nursing Society for their outstanding contributions to the provision of quality cancer care to those in need. Also, I would like to acknowledge Luana Lamkin for her leadership within the Oncology Nursing Society as she currently serves on the ONS Board of Directors as the Treasurer. I have had the pleasure of working with ONS and Luana over the past few years to advance programs and policies that work to

reduce suffering from cancer. Through Luana's and ONS' leadership, our Nation is charting a course that will help us win the war on cancer.

As part of the ONS inaugural Hill Day, approximately 550 oncology nurses—representing 48 states—will come to Capitol Hill to discuss issues of great significance to people with cancer and the field of oncology nursing. Specifically, these oncology nurses will call upon us in Congress to move quickly to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions of the "Nurse Reinvestment Act" and send a comprehensive measure to the President for signature by June 1st so that the measure can be funded fully in FY 2003; reform Medicare to ensure that the program reimburses adequately and accurately for the full-range of services provided by oncology nurses so that Medicare payment policy reflects the real value of oncology nursing and in turn, helps sustain our Nation's system of community-based cancer care for all Medicare beneficiaries; and allocate \$27.3 billion to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to fulfill the commitment to double the NIH budget over five years, \$5.69 billion to the National Cancer Institute (NCI)—the amount the NCI Director deems necessary to take advantage of extraordinary opportunities, \$199.6 million for the NIH National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities—the course necessary to double the Center's budget over the course of three years, and \$348 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Comprehensive Cancer Control, National Cancer Registries, Prostate Cancer Awareness, National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection, Ovarian Cancer, Skin Cancer, and Colorectal Cancer Screening, Education and Outreach programs—to ensure that all Americans benefit from breakthroughs in cancer research, prevention, early detection, and treatment.

I commend the Oncology Nursing Society for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 27 years and thank the Society and its members for their ongoing commitment to improving and assuring access to quality cancer care for all cancer patients and their families. I urge all of my colleagues to support them in their important endeavors.

HONORING NATIONAL COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL CARE MONTH—2002

**HON. DOUG OSE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 24, 2002*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women who work hard everyday to provide quality health care for the elderly, disabled, and mentally ill. May is National Community Residential Care Month, and I can't think of a better way to pay tribute to these men and women.

Community care providers offer medical, social, and nutritional assistance to those in need. They are committed professionals who work hard to create comfortable environments for people who are unable to care for themselves in their own homes.

More importantly, these professionals work hard to boost the self-confidence of those whose confidence is often broken as a result