

are also the proud grandparents of five grandchildren.

Since being elected to the General Assembly in 1961, Mr. Carnell has diligently worked to improve the health care system in South Carolina, taking extra steps to advocate for the mentally and physically disabled.

On several occasions many organizations have named Mr. Carnell Legislator of the Year. The Greenwood Area Chamber of Commerce inducted Mr. Carnell into the Greenwood County Hall of Fame for his contribution to the economic prosperity and quality of life in Greenwood County. In 1962 he was named the Woodman Outstanding Man of the Year, in 1990 he was awarded the Special Service Award, and in 1995 and 1999 the S.C. Citizens and Merchants Association honored him as an Outstanding Legislator. These are just a few of his many accomplishments that have set him apart and are a testament to his service to South Carolina.

I am exceptionally proud to note that Mr. Carnell has recently received the Order of the Palmetto. Awarded by the Governor of South Carolina, this award is the state's highest civilian honor. Mr. Carnell rightly deserves this great honor for his 40 years of hard work and dedication in ensuring a bright future for our state.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this body will join me today in honoring Mr. Marion P. Carnell for his hard work and dedication to the people of South Carolina.

EXTRADITION TREATY WITH
MEXICO

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring an issue to the floor of great importance to every member of this body and to the entire nation. Throughout my career on Capitol Hill I have worked hard to ensure that criminals who flee our borders are returned to face our justice system. Unfortunately, many criminals are never returned to the United States, particularly those who flee to Mexico. Too many criminals are running south where, in violation of our bilateral extradition treaty, the government refuses to extradite criminals who may face a penalty of life imprisonment or the death penalty. This is an outrage! Why should hardened criminals with no respect for human life be allowed to serve lesser penalties in Mexico or even be set free in direct violation of our treaty? They should not. They should be returned to face our legal system.

This is a problem that has tormented many prosecutors and plagued many states, including my home State of Florida. I recognized the need for extradition reform after Jose Luis Del Torro killed a mother of four in Sarasota, Florida and fled to Mexico. After an enormous amount of negotiation, we were able to bring Del Torro to justice. But instead of a possible death sentence, arrangements were made for Del Torro to spend the rest of his life in a jail cell.

In May of this year, David March, a dedicated 33-year-old Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy, was shot to death during a routine

traffic stop in Irwindale, California. The prime suspect in the cold-blooded execution style murder of this police officer is a known and repeated violent criminal and is believed to have fled to his native Mexico. If arrested in Mexico, there is no guarantee that Deputy March's killer will ever be brought to justice. Current Mexican policy would prevent extradition for any future prosecution in the United States for the murder of Deputy March—a crime that under California law requires at least a potential life sentence.

For years criminals have fled our southern border to evade our justice system, and we now have a case where a cop killer is believed to have done the same.

Mr. Speaker, Mexico claims that no matter what the crime, a criminal can in fact be rehabilitated and thus does not respect our penalties. Our penalties, however, are the way we, the United States, send a message to those who disdain our laws and way of life. I strongly urge everyone in this room to support extradition reform and ensure that cop killers do not flee to Mexico to escape justice.

HONORING THE BLUE CROSS OF
CALIFORNIA STATE SPONSORED
PROGRAMS FOR THEIR DEDICATED
SERVICE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Blue Cross of California State Sponsored Programs (BCC SSP) for their dedicated service to the citizens of California. The BCC SSP has had a tremendous impact on over one million low-income Californians who would otherwise be without health insurance. BCC SSP is the largest commercial health plan provider involved in California's Medi-Cal Managed Care and Healthy Families Programs, and is the only health plan that serves every county in the state.

One of the primary challenges that the BCC SSP has faced is the vastly different ethnic and regional characteristics of California. To meet the challenge of serving this diverse population, the BCC SSP has created Community Resource Centers in eleven counties. These centers are staffed by local professionals who have a deep understanding and commitment to the community. Using this regional approach ensures that every community gets the most appropriate and helpful health care services it needs.

The BCC SSP has received awards from the California Department of Health Services for quality improvement and clinical quality of care standard assessment studies. In 2001 the American Association of Health Plans recognized five of BCC SSP's innovative member service programs as Best Practices, including: the Asthma Management Program, the Prenatal Program, its AIDS Program, the Fire Safety Program and the statewide Telemedicine Program. The BCC SSP has received numerous awards for its innovation in health care.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the Blue Cross of California State Sponsored Programs for the tremendous

services that they provide for the people of California. The programs are true assets to the State of California and its communities and I speak on behalf of the people of California when I thank the BCC SSP for its services.

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO COMBAT TERRORISM ACT

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Law Enforcement Partnership to Combat Terrorism Act. This legislation seeks to designate 25 percent of available COPS grant funding for the hiring and training of intelligence officers and analysts by state and local police departments, in an effort to further promote our nations anti-terrorism efforts.

Much has changed since September 11, 2001. With a heightened awareness of the devastating effects of terrorism, our nation is undergoing change on every level, in order to ensure that National and Homeland Security are at the forefront of our agenda.

As the Chairman of the House Armed Services Special Oversight Panel on Terrorism, I have played an active role in many of these initiatives. While many important steps have already been taken in fighting the war of terrorism, I believe that more can be done to ensure a concentrated, connected, nation-wide effort.

To this end, I feel that it is imperative to enhance the anti-terrorism efforts of our police departments, as opposed to simply providing funding for the traditional community policing efforts. Designating 25 percent of available COPS funding to increase the number of law enforcement officers involved in activities that are focused on intelligence efforts is an important step in this direction.

The Law Enforcement Partnership to Combat Terrorism Act states that specialized training will be provided for one intelligence officer and one analyst officer per grant recipient. Such training will include enhancing the officers' observation, information gathering, foreign language, and analytic skills necessary to spot terrorist threats in their communities. These officers, in turn, will be able to share their skills with the other members of their police force. In addition, my legislation directs the Attorney General to ensure that all intelligence and analyst officers have top secret security clearances. Such security clearances will allow these State and local law enforcement officers to share information with Federal officials, facilitating a concentrated effort.

By providing the necessary funding, we can further promote coordination among Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers to ensure an interconnected, concentrated effort in our war on terrorism. I am confident that these efforts will be successful in allowing state and local law enforcement officers to play a vital role in the enhancement of our Homeland Security.