

being overwhelmed, tearfulness, and irritability, poor sleep and a sense of vulnerability. However, a more prolonged and pronounced mood disorder known as postpartum depression affects 10 to 20 percent of women during or after giving birth. Even more extreme and rare, postpartum psychosis, whose symptoms include hallucinations, hearing voices, paranoia, severe insomnia, extreme anxiety and depression, strikes 1 in 1,000 new mothers.

Postpartum depression and psychosis afflicts new mothers indiscriminately. Many of its victims are unaware of their condition. This phenomena is due to the inability of many women to self-diagnose their condition and society's general lack of knowledge about postpartum depression and psychosis and the stigma surrounding depression and mental illness. Untreated, postpartum depression can lead to self-destructive behavior and even suicide, as was the case with Mrs. Blocker-Stokes. This was also evident in the case of Andrea Yates of Houston, Texas who drowned her five children.

This is why it is important for us to treat this silent disease which can have a dire impact on ones family and society in general. The challenge that we have as a Member of Congress is to bring awareness to all Americans, particularly families who have women who will give birth soon, or have given birth recently. This is a preventable disorder.

In remembrance of Melanie Blocker-Stokes and all the women who have suffered from postpartum depression and psychosis, as well as their families and friend who have stood by their side, I am introducing the Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act which will:

Expand and intensify research at the National Institute of Health and National Institute of Mental Health with respect to postpartum depression and psychosis, including increased discovery of treatments, diagnostic tools and educational materials for providers;

Provide grants for the delivery of essential services to individuals with postpartum depression and psychosis and their families, including enhanced outpatient and home-based health care, inpatient care and support services.

It is my hope that through this legislation we can ensure that the birth of a child is a joyous occasion time for the new mother and family, and not a time of mourning over the loss of yet another mother and child.

COMMEMORATING RETIREMENT  
OF GARY GRZANICH

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 13, 2003*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the retirement of one of Central Illinois' most dedicated public servants. For the past 28 years, my friend Gary Grzanich has served as the Fulton County Regional Superintendent of Schools in Lewistown, Illinois. An innovative administrator, Mr. Grzanich worked tirelessly to ensure his students an exceptional learning environment and unequalled educational opportunities both in school and in extracurricular activities.

A Fulton County native, Mr. Grzanich graduated from Canton High School and received both his Bachelor's Degree and Educational Specialist Degree from Western Illinois University. He later attended Bradley University in Peoria, where he was awarded a Master's Degree. A teacher and coach for 11 years, Mr. Grzanich went on to work for the Illinois State Board of Education before running for Fulton County Regional Superintendent of Schools in 1974. Aided by hand-painted signs, he won the post and held it despite periodic electoral opposition until November 2002.

Gary Grzanich's 28 years of service yielded a vast array of accomplishments benefitting both his students and the wider Illinois educational community. The Chairman of the Mid-Illini Educational Cooperative, he was also a member of the Illinois Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (IASCD) and the Superintendents' Round Tables at both Bradley University and Western Illinois University. He established a Cooperative Testing Program in Fulton County schools, initiated the GED Testing Program in Fulton County, introduced Madeline Hunter's "Science of Teaching" theories to Fulton County teachers, and launched an Institute Day for his schools' gifted students. Mr. Grzanich worked to promote the fine arts through comprehensive arts grants, brought the substance abuse DARE program to Fulton County students, and initiated a county-wide policy on AIDS. In addition to these achievements, he also held posts in the Regional Superintendents' Association and the Illinois Association of School Administrators, and is a past member of the State Certification Board and the Blue Ribbon Committee for Teacher Preparation and Training.

A lifelong Democrat, Mr. Grzanich is married to Dian and has two children, Susan and Jon. Fittingly, both his daughter and son grew up to become teachers in Central Illinois. He still lives in Canton, and will most likely keep himself busy hunting and fishing during retirement.

On behalf of Fulton County and the rest of the 17th District, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to Gary Grzanich for his many years of service to the youth of Illinois. His hard work and unflinching leadership will be sorely missed.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF  
THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES  
OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE  
SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"—HOUSE  
RESOLUTION 51

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 13, 2003*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 51, a resolution expressing condolences to the families of the crew of the space shuttle *Columbia*. Together, our nation, the people of Israel and the entire world grieve the loss of these seven heroes and remember their extraordinary lives.

In the days following this terrible tragedy, millions of Americans have struggled to cope with the loss of these astronauts. We have worried about the ramifications of this accident for the future of our space program. But this past Tuesday, I was reminded by the students

of the Farnsworth Aerospace Elementary School in Saint Paul, Minnesota that this tragedy can not diminish our hopes or dampen our desire to go after our dreams.

In a touching memorial service, the Farnsworth students recalled the history of the space program and told the stories of the seven astronauts that they regarded as their heroes. Even as they expressed their sadness about the loss of these astronauts, the students shared their undeterred dreams to travel to space some day.

Like the *Columbia* astronauts, the students of Farnsworth Aerospace Elementary School have always understood that travel into space is remarkable, but never routine, ordinary or without risk. While men and women across America mourn this tragic event, we must remember that our nation will overcome this tragedy and once again allow mankind to venture into space.

The students of Farnsworth Aerospace Elementary School serve as an inspiration to us all. As they keep reaching for the stars, I will hold onto hope that some day, they will make it there.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATIENT  
ACCESS TO PHYSICAL THERA-  
PISTS ACT

**HON. PHILIP M. CRANE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 13, 2003*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today with my friend and colleague, Mr. POMEROY, to reintroduce the Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act. This bill will allow Medicare beneficiaries direct access to qualified physical therapists without a physician referral.

Currently, Medicare beneficiaries must see a physician before being allowed to see a physical therapist. This burdensome requirement in Medicare is a regulation whose time has passed. The referral mandate is unnecessary and limits access to timely and medically necessary physical therapists' services. I believe that providing Medicare beneficiaries with direct access to physical therapists is critical as Congress looks to modernize the Medicare program.

All health care consumers should have the ability to choose the health care services they want when they need it. Allowing Medicare beneficiaries to have direct access to physical therapists will help achieve that goal. Currently, 47 states and the District of Columbia allow direct access to physical therapist evaluation and 35 states, including the state of Illinois allow their citizens to access physical therapists' services without the added cost of a physician referral. The Medicare Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act would allow Medicare beneficiaries in these states to access care that is already available to other residents of the state.

Direct access to physical therapists allows for improved access to quality health care services. A study of BlueCross BlueShield insurance claims in Maryland indicates that when a patient has direct access to physical therapists, services are neither over-utilized nor do they result in higher costs for physical therapy. To the contrary, the study found that