

Don Irvine is a past president of the Invercargill North Rotary Club and has been very active in the Rotary Group Exchange Program for a number of years. Mr. Irvine also served as a Group Study Exchange team leader in 1999 when he led a team to Essex, England. Don and his wife, Lorraine, have made great contributions to America. Their promotion of good will and understanding between all cultures and nations serves as a guiding light to all.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Lorraine and Don Irvine for their meritorious achievements and their desire to share the great culture of America with others. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Lorraine and Don Irvine many years of happiness.

RECOGNITION OF DEVON KILGORE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Devon Kilgore, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 1381, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in Girl Scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, 1. earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, 2. earning the Career Exploration Pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, 3. earning the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, 4. designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote Girl Scouting, and 5. spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Devon organized nursing center interactions.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Devon Kilgore for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL BARENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is from the mouths of our youngest citizens that we hear the voice of the future of our great nation. Our children, through their imagination, creativity

and pure honesty, often bring a unique perspective to some of the most debated issues of our time.

I recently received the following essay, entitled "If I Were President," from Michael Barent, a ten-year-old who is in the fifth grade at Deer Run Elementary School in East Haven, Connecticut. As I read it, it was apparent that even at such a young age, Michael knows the direction in which he would like to see his country led.

"If I were President, I would work hard for all the citizens of the United States. If I were President, I would improve education, keep the citizens safe, and protect our environment.

First of all, I would improve education. I would do that by building more schools and hiring more teachers. I would also improve them by giving all of the schools new books. Also, I would get more computers. Finally, there would be more subjects for the students to choose from.

Second, I would keep the citizens safe. I would do this by putting border guards at every town and city on the border of the United States. Also, I would not go to war with Iraq until I had proof that they have or don't have nuclear weapons.

Finally, I would protect our environment. I would do that by telling car companies to make cars that would take in carbon dioxide and put out oxygen. I won't allow people to cut down many trees and green plants so we could get the oxygen we need. I would build more buildings that filter the water we drink. Also, there would be more solar power and wind power, but less power plants.

This is what I would do if I were President. I would improve education, keep the citizens safe, and protect our environment."

I have often been impressed with the messages that I hear from the voices of our youngest citizens. I am proud to stand today to thank Michael for sharing his thoughts with me and to extend my congratulations to him on a job well done. Michael is sure to have a bright future ahead of him.

TRIBUTE TO MABEL PETERSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Mrs. Mabel Peterson was born on November 2, 1924. Upon graduating from Bowman High School, Mrs. Peterson married Robert Holmes. They had two children. Mrs. Peterson then decided to run for judge, where she won.

As a judge, Mrs. Peterson is known for practicing nothing but fairness. She has been known to often help people pay fines that she has charged. Mrs. Peterson admits that her favorite duty of being a judge is marrying couples. Mrs. Peterson served as a judge for twenty years.

On December 31, 2000, Mrs. Peterson retired to spend more time with her grandchildren and her husband. This past January, Mrs. Peterson was selected as the senior citizen of the month.

PANCREATIC ISLET CELL TRANSPLANTATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation Act of 2003.

I know first-hand about the difficulty involved in managing this disease, as my daughter was diagnosed with diabetes when she was 6. I have hope in the rapid pace of research in this area and believe that one day soon there will be a cure for my daughter and the millions of Americans with diabetes. The legislation we are introducing today is an important step toward this goal.

It is a promising time for research on diabetes, and those suffering from the disease and their families are filled with hope. One of the most exciting recent advances, and the focus of this legislation, is pancreatic islet cell transplantation. Many have hailed the breakthrough in this area as the most important advance in diabetes research since the discovery of insulin in 1921.

In 2000, researchers in Edmonton, Canada, were successful in isolating islets from donor pancreases and transplanting those cells into a person with diabetes through an injection. These injected islets then begin to function and produce insulin, and this procedure appears to offer the most immediate cure for diabetes. This procedure has become known as the Edmonton Protocol and of the approximately 200 patients who have been transplanted using variations of this protocol, nearly 80 percent remain insulin independent beyond 2 years. The research is moving forward quickly, and researchers around the world are trying to replicate and expand on this success and make it appropriate for children.

I am proud that exciting advances are underway in the State of Washington. Recently, a clinical research team at the JDRF Center for Human Islet Transplantation in Seattle performed the first three human islet transplants in the Northwest. All of these individuals were suffering the effects of advanced diabetes complications prior to receiving the transplant, and all three have now achieved critical post-transplant success in the management of their blood sugar levels. I am heartened to know that the Seattle program team plans to continue its research in the future.

The Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation Act of 2003 contains four provisions that I believe will help move this research forward. The first section of the bill provides a regulatory incentive to organ procurement organizations (OPOs) to procure additional pancreases. One of the major challenges in promoting research on and transplantation of islet cells is the shortage of pancreases. Approximately 2,000 pancreases are donated each year, and only approximately 500 of those donated are available for use in islet cell transplants. Clearly, this is not nearly a large enough supply considering that millions of Americans have diabetes. While OPOs do receive credit from CMS for pancreases retrieved and used for whole pancreas transplants, they do not receive credit for pancreases retrieved and used for islet cell transplantation. This creates a disincentive for OPOs to retrieve pancreases for