

In the 1950s, postal officials and local vineyard owner, Ronald S. Federspiel, met to determine a new name for the area. In the years before, a great number of homebuyers related to the name, Rancho Cordova, since it was the name of their new neighborhood. When the postal officials and Mr. Federspiel discovered that the name fit perfectly on a stamp, the name Rancho Cordova was officially adopted.

In 1950, Aerojet General Corporation, developers of rocket fuels and space engines, choose Rancho Cordova as its home base. Subsequently, Mather Air Force Base, with the only navigation and electronic warfare training wing in the U.S.; McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft, missiles and space systems test center; PMI Manufacturers, Pittsburg Des Moines Steel Co., and many smaller industries would come to call Rancho Cordova home.

In many regards, Rancho Cordova already features some of the essential traits of a well-established city. By comparison, the city's population of approximately 57,000 is bigger than Santa Cruz, Fountain Valley, or San Rafael. In the Sacramento region, the only cities with greater populations are Sacramento, Davis, Roseville, Citrus Heights, and Elk Grove. Furthermore, Rancho Cordova is already the home to an impressive and growing list of businesses; Bank of America, Aerojet Industries, MCI, and Delta Dental, just to name a few. With another 55,000 jobs projected in the next decade, Rancho Cordova is well on its way to becoming one of the most important cities in the Sacramento region.

During the nearly two-decade drive to cityhood, the community leaders and citizens of Rancho Cordova displayed remarkable dedication, determination, and civic pride in ultimately achieving their goal. Judging from its citizens overwhelming commitment to promote and serve the best interest of the city, I have every confidence that Rancho Cordova will continue to achieve and realize greater goals and ambitions in the future.

Mr. Speaker, as the city of Rancho Cordova celebrates its cityhood; I am honored to welcome this vibrant community into our growing region. Rancho Cordova's future is bright and limitless. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing the city of Rancho Cordova continued success in all its future endeavors.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND IRS ACCOUNT ABILITY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this is another example of the Republican leadership taking a non-controversial, bipartisan bill and adding provisions to turn it into a divisive and bitter battle. The underlying bill contains technical changes and provisions that would make it easier for taxpayers to manage the tax system. We all support these changes and this bill would pass unanimously without the games the leadership insists on playing.

Unfortunately, the games they are playing pose terrible threats to many working men and women across the country. In this instance, Republican leadership has included a provi-

sion that strikes important health insurance standards protecting workers laid-off as a result of trade-related competition.

Trade Adjustment Assistance, TAA, enacted just last year, provides for a tax credit for 65 percent of the cost of health coverage for eligible individuals and qualified family members and establishes protections designed to ensure coverage for all participants. H.R. 1528 undermines the consumer protection provisions provided in the current TAA law and would essentially allow insurers to avoid covering workers 55 and older, who are the majority of TAA participants.

The timing of this could not be worse considering the President was only recently granted Trade Promotion Authority by Congress and we are moving quickly on free trade agreements with several countries and regions around the world.

Overall, these free trade agreements will benefit our economy, but there will be sectors that will lose out to foreign competition. Knowing this, Trade Adjustment Assistance programs and benefits have been set up to help those negatively impact by free trade.

I am appalled at the Republican leadership's ability to take a productive, bipartisan bill that benefits taxpayers across the country, which the underlying bill does, and risk it all by including a provision that hurts American workers.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 660, the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2003.

This legislation aims to make health insurance more affordable for small businesses by allowing them to band together to increase their purchasing power and negotiate lower rates for health insurance.

I know that our small businesses are struggling with their health insurance costs. With double-digit increases in premiums, Madam Speaker, many small businesses simply cannot afford to continue to provide coverage for their employees. And while I support measures to make health insurance more affordable, I have concerns that this legislation would not achieve that end. In fact, studies by both the Congressional Budget Office and RAND have indicated that existing AHPs have not reduced insurance costs for participants.

I also have concerns about this legislation because it would exempt AHPs from state insurance regulations that protect patients and families.

In Texas, health plans are required to cover maternity care, immunizations for children, mammography breast cancer screening, diabetes treatments and supplies, and certain mental health services. H.R. 660 would exempt AHPs from covering these vital services.

I don't think that small businesses and trade associations should have to sacrifice quality in order to afford their health insurance. By taking away these vital patient protections, the policies purchased under AHPs would be

worth little more than the paper they are printed on.

The Kind/Andrews amendment, however, corrects many of these concerns by allowing small businesses to purchase insurance through a Small Employees Health Benefit Plan, similar to the FEHBP. This system would ensure that quality of health plans are protected, that low income employees have assistance to purchase policies, and that the smallest of small businesses get the additional assistance they need.

I urge my colleagues to support the Kind/Andrews alternative, and I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO NEWARK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the New York State Class B Champion Girls Varsity Softball Team from Newark Central High School. Their win was a great testament to the hard work and dedication of this team and its coaching staff.

Head Coach Mike Muscolino has a lot to be proud of, as his Lady Reds brought home not only the State title, but the Section V title and the Class B State Sportsmanship award as well. Newark High School athletic teams have always had a reputation for fair play and good sportsmanship, and this year's girls softball team was no exception. Their award adds an extra ounce of pride to their title, making their victory just that much sweeter.

On behalf of the people of the entire 25th District of New York State, I would like to congratulate the following champions on their outstanding triumph: Brandice Balschmitter, Amanda Baker, Jane Parcerro, Holly Perry, Brittney Peters, Tab Pullen, Andrea Rommel, Sylina Santell, Christine Seppeler, Carrier Sheehe, Rachael Stowell, Sarah Wlodarczyk, Shelly Graham, Alex Hincley, Karli Clingerman, Shannon Schulmerich, Corrie VanDemortel, Thalia Wheaton, as well as Head Coach Mike Muscolino and Assistant Coaches Lee Prong and Dan Pullen.

CONGRATULATING THE NCAA D-II BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate the Central Missouri State University (CMSU) Baseball Team on their NCAA-Division II Baseball Championship.

With the leadership of Coach Brad Hill, "MIAA Coach of the Year," the CMSU Mules defeated Tampa 11 to 4 in the championship game to claim its second national title. The Mules ended the season 51-7, their fourth straight season with 50 or more wins.

The Mules also were led by the dedication of its six seniors: Rob Bergin, Boomer Berry,

Eric Horner, Brandon Pugh, Brian Shewmaker, and Matt Whitney. Three members of the CMSU team made the NCAA-Division II All-Tournament Team: Zach Norman, Danny Guidry, and Danny Powers.

Mr. Speaker, this outstanding team has played a wonderful season of baseball and has made the people of Missouri proud. I know that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating them on their NCAA-Division II Baseball Championship.

CALLING ON JAPAN TO APOLOGIZE TO WOMEN FORCED INTO SEXUAL SLAVERY DURING AND PRIOR TO WORLD WAR II

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a resolution calling on Japan to issue an apology to the women and girls forced into sexual slavery during and prior to World War II.

During the war and the colonial occupation of South East Asia, Japan forced over 200,000 young women and girls, known euphemistically as "comfort women" by the Japanese, into military brothels. This sexual enslavement of mostly Korean and Chinese women was officially commissioned and orchestrated by the Government of Japan. Women throughout Southeast Asia were recruited by force, coercion, or deception, transported across national borders, and kept at the mercy of the Japanese military in sub-human conditions. They endured such horrific crimes as gang rape, forced abortions, sexual violence, and human trafficking.

However, the horror of this experience did not end with the cessation of hostilities. Many comfort women were killed by Japanese soldiers after Japan surrendered. In addition, some of these women had no family or homes to return to, and found themselves abandoned in hostile lands where they were viewed as collaborators. The few remaining survivors live daily with the painful memories of their enslavement, and many still suffer serious health effects as a result of violent physical and sexual abuse and sexually transmitted diseases contracted during their ordeal.

While the facts of these crimes are incontrovertible, Japan has not officially acknowledged guilt or assisted the victims. Japan has paid \$1.3 billion in war reparations, yet none of it has gone to the victims of sexual enslavement and not one person has been tried for their crimes. Japan waited over 44 years to even acknowledge the use of comfort women and then only issued a very ambiguous apology. Japanese textbooks rarely mention this enslavement and extreme nationalists still deny Japan's involvement. A private fund set up to compensate comfort women is, according to the United Nations Special Rapporteur's reports, a complete denial of legal responsibility.

There are only a handful of these victims still alive. For too long, these women have had to live in silence and shame. My resolution calls for Japan to issue a clear and unambiguous apology, render state compensation to the victims, and provide historical accountability for these horrific crimes. The sexual en-

slavement of hundreds of thousands of women should not disappear into history without a full apology and compensation.

RECOGNITION OF MR. YASHVANT PATEL AND MATRI, INC.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of Mr. Yashvant Patel, and the organization he created, Matri, Inc. Mr. Patel and Matri, Inc. have created a unique and important forum where Gujarati youth can uphold their traditional values while searching for a life partner using more modern methods. This forum has been the starting ground for many happy couples, and has provided a much-needed service to America's young Gujarati people.

Mr. Patel founded Matri, Inc. in 1995 with a specific vision of a forum where Gujarati youths could uphold their traditional values while searching for a life partner. The first Matri was hosted by Anand Pragati Mandal in Kearny, NJ, and it had less than 100 attendees. In the last nine years the event has grown drastically and become a professional non-profit organization, providing annual conventions with over 300 participants.

Matri serves an important role in the unique Gujarati youth culture. Although it is a matrimonial forum, it does not force ideas of marriage but instead encourages networking and meeting with people who share similar ideas and principles, who may become lifelong friends or even marriage partners in the future. It is their belief that similarities in dharma, poshaak and khorak (religion, dress and food) are necessary to create a successful marriage. Matri allows Gujarati parents to fulfill their duty to pave the way for their children and give them a prosperous and happy life by honoring Gujarati traditions.

Matri is actually the Sanskrit term for friendship, which is a key element in any successful marriage. Since the participants are allowed to meet without the pressure of parents, the event gives them the opportunity to meet other people and develop relationships. Matri estimates that approximately 15 percent of all participants meet with success each year.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Patel and his organization for the fine and important work they have done over the past eight years. His organization is doing an enormously important service to an important group of our nation's citizens, and we thank him for it.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF CDC OFFICIAL FRANCIE DE PESYTER

HON. W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and great appreciation that I rise today to commemorate the retirement of someone who has been a treasure to the United States Congress for the last 28 years.

Ms. Francie de Peyster will be retiring from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on June 30, 2003, after many years of distinguished leadership and of tireless dedication to improving our Nation's public health.

Ms. de Peyster's prestigious career in public service began right here in the House of Representatives for what is now my committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee. She worked for more than five years for Representative Tim Lee Carter on the staff of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. Following her tenure in the House, Ms. de Peyster went to work for the CDC in its Washington office in 1980. Ms. de Peyster became Deputy Director of the CDC/Washington office in 1984. In June 2001, she received the Secretary of Health and Human Services' Award for Distinguished Service. And just last year, she worked closely with my Committee as we drafted and passed into law one of the most important public health and national security initiatives in recent history—the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002.

Ms. de Peyster's professionalism, civility, experience, and dedication will be greatly missed by her friends and colleagues in the Senate and the House, and we will remain eternally grateful for her outstanding contributions to this Nation. I know all my colleagues would want to join me in expressing our sincerest thanks and wishes of happiness to Francie as she enters retirement.

HONORING FUTURE FOOTBALL GREAT RYAN HOAG

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, for the past 28 years, the Orange County community has given out its "Irrelevant Week" award to the last player selected in the National Football League draft—an award premised on the "simple act of doing something nice for someone for no reason."

This year's award, Irrelevant Week XXVIII, honors Ryan Hoag, a wide receiver from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MI, who was selected 262nd in the NFL draft by the Oakland Raiders. Ryan, who checks in at 6 feet 2 inches tall and 200 pounds, caught 56 passes in the 2002 season, racking up 808 yards and 10 touchdowns. This rock-solid performance earned Ryan his second straight first-team selection to the all-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference team—and apparently also caught the eye of scouts for the Oakland Raiders, who hope that he can make a significant contribution to their team's future success. In addition to his football skills, Ryan is clearly a tremendous all-around athlete: he was a soccer and tennis star in high school, and he also competes on his college track team, where he recently placed third in the NCAA Division III national championships for the 100-meter race, with a cheetah-fast 10.51-second dash. And when his football playing days are over, Ryan says that he hopes to follow his true passion, teaching, by becoming a kindergarten teacher.

While Ryan will surely have a lot of hard work ahead of him if he is to earn his way