

for duty. Mobilizations also took place in large numbers for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan as well.

New military construction projects were also a major part of Harris' tenure. Working with the Illinois congressional delegation along with state leaders, funding was secured for new armories and for the upgrade of existing armories throughout the state.

Major General Harris began his military career in 1970. In 1971 he successfully completed Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He joined the Illinois Army National Guard in 1979 where he has held numerous positions. During the 1980's he served as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives representing his home in the northwest Chicago suburb of Arlington Heights.

I want to thank Major General Harris for his many years of service to his country and state. He is a man of great ability, but more importantly a man of integrity who has devoted his life to protecting the citizens of his country and state. I wish him the best as he enters retirement. He will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALLAN R. JONES

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who devoted his life in service to our nation. Mr. Allan R. Jones passed away on May 7th, and I am certain he will be missed by all who knew him.

A graduate of the College of William and Mary, Mr. Jones is a decorated Korean War veteran. Due to his service with the 45th Division of the United States Army during the war, he received the Purple Heart and Silver Star Medal.

Mr. Jones was not only a veteran of the Army, but he was also a noted journalist for several newspapers. He began his career with the Daily Times News in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. While there he served as sports editor, reporter and photographer. He also worked at the Richmond Times-Dispatch as a reporter who covered Henrico and Chesterfield counties. As a reporter he covered several important stories involving state politics and school desegregation.

After working as a journalist, Mr. Jones started a new career on Capitol Hill as a researcher for the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Oceanography and Merchant Marine. After his time with the committee, he served as a legislative assistant with Senator William Spong. During his tenure with Senator Spong, Mr. Jones and a colleague earned a national award from the National Association of Independent Insurers for research they did on auto insurance in Virginia.

In 1973, he joined the American Trucking Association Legislative Affairs department. Through his efforts, he helped push legislation which created the commercial drivers' license, and helped craft the landmark Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991.

Retiring after twenty years with the ATA, Mr. Jones moved to Florida and became immediately involved with his community. He served as Vice President of the Flagella County, Flor-

ida Education Foundation, and served on the Flagella County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Action Committee.

In honor of his service to the United States during the Korean War, Mr. Jones was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on June 10". Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Allan Jones for all that he has achieved during his life, both for his country and for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHILDREN'S CREATIVE FESTIVAL

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Children's Creative Festival of Orange County, California and support their efforts to educate and enlighten the community.

Last month, the Children's Creative Festival wrapped up their weekend-long street painting festival, Fun with Chalk. Hundreds of artists from around the world descended on to my district to transform the streets around the Mission Viejo, California civic center into a colorful, interactive art gallery.

The art of street painting and the carnival that follows it dates back to sixteenth century Europe when villagers decorated the cobblestone paths surrounding their town square to celebrate a harvest or other important occasion. The Children's Creative Festival continues this tradition as a way to educate, entertain and inspire young people, and to foster a small town atmosphere reminiscent of old Europe.

The Children's Creative Festival uses funds raised at this annual street painting faire to help local schools with art education and other cultural activities. Last year, more than 79,000 children benefited from year round programs and classes sponsored by this all-volunteer organization.

The Children's Creative Festival was also the key sponsor of my 2003 Congressional art competition, which awarded scholarships to five young artists.

Dr. Frank Lieberman and his wife, Elaine, founded the Children's Creative Festival five years ago to inspire creativity, teach art appreciation and provide supplemental funding for quality visual and performing arts experiences for school children, thus developing creative and imaginative adults. I believe they have achieved their stated goals and wish them and their organization continued success in future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL URBAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mr. Michael Urban, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in national government.

Michael is a junior political science major at the University of Missouri-Columbia and has

distinguished himself as an intern in my Washington office by serving the great people of the 6th District of Missouri. Michael joined my staff for the 108th congress as part of the House of Representatives intern program at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., a program designed to involve students in the legislative process through active participation. Through this program, Michael has had the opportunity to observe firsthand the inner workings of national government and has gained valuable insight into the process by which laws are made.

During his time as an intern in my office, Michael has successfully demonstrated his abilities in the performance of such duties as conducting research, helping with constituent services, and assuming various other responsibilities to make the office run as smoothly as possible. Michael has earned recognition as a valuable asset to the entire U.S. House of Representatives and my office through the application of his knowledge and skills acquired prior to his tenure as an intern and through a variety of new skills he has acquired while serving the people of Missouri and our nation. I would also like to commend his interviewing skills and his solo singing rendition of happy birthday for other staffers.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mr. Michael Urban for his many important contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives during the current session, as well as joining with me to extend to him our very best wishes for continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF BAYAUD INDUSTRIES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bayaud Industries, a non-profit corporation that enables disabled individuals to contribute to their communities by providing them job training and placement.

Since 1969 Bayaud Industries has provided job training and placement to thousands of individuals with mental, emotional, and physical disabilities. Even after placement, Bayaud Industries continues its support, making sure that each of their clients has a case worker they can turn to even after they start their first job. Bayaud's mission is simple—to provide hope, opportunity, and choice by using employment as a means through which people with disabilities can participate in mainstream life.

Many working individuals find satisfaction in their jobs because they feel they have the opportunity to do something useful everyday. Groups of disabled Americans and advocates for individuals with disabilities have told me that employment can provide a sense of worth and accomplishment that many people with disabilities live without. In addition, they say that disabilities can keep people isolated from their communities, creating a sense of loneliness and dulling social skills. Employment can take individuals with disabilities off of the sidelines, provide them an opportunity to be involved in daily life, and a chance to interact with members of the community.

Unfortunately, according to the Mental Health Association the unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities is approximately 75 percent, and for those with psychiatric disabilities it is at almost 80 percent. Some of these statistics can be attributed to those individuals with such severe disabilities that they are unable to work, however much of that percentage is made up of individuals with disabilities who have never had the training or help they need to find the jobs they can do.

The need for a company like Bayaud Industries is clear. Bayaud provides an invaluable link between individuals with disabilities and employment. By being that link they are changing lives on a daily basis. They make a difference every day by opening doors for members of America's disabled community that many of them never knew existed before.

CITIZENS OF LIBERIA

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, tonight, while the President of the United States is visiting Senegal and other countries in Africa, I rise to address the House to express my concern for the citizens of Liberia. Liberia is an African nation that was founded in 1820 by freed Black slave men and women from the United States. The nation, considered to be the only U.S. colony in Africa, was founded with a grant of \$100,000. Its capital, Monrovia, is named after the United States fifth president, James Monroe. By 1847, thousands of freed slaves had immigrated to Liberia from the United States. They declared independence and the commonwealth of Liberia became the Republic of Liberia.

Liberia's recently-deposed president, Charles Taylor, seized power in 1997 after leading a seven year insurrection, which claimed the lives of thousands of Liberian Africans against his predecessor, Samuel Doe. Taylor, an accused embezzler and protégée of Libyan dictator, Col. Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, spread terror throughout Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Guinea. Taylor's human rights abuses include the use of child soldiers and funding terrorist organizations with money from blood diamond mines.

On June 4, 2003, the United Nations supported an indictment of President Taylor by a Special Court in Sierra Leone, at the same time a group of West African Presidents were meeting with Taylor and others in Ghana to discuss efforts to negotiate a peace agreement.

During the negotiations, President Taylor [said he would step aside if it would bring peace to his war torn country]. On Sunday, July 6, 2003, President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria announced that Taylor agreed to leave Liberia under certain conditions and with certain guarantees. President Obasanjo stated that what was happening in Liberia could happen anywhere in Africa. Liberia, he said, needed relief from dictatorship so that the entire region wouldn't be affected by the errant regime in that nation.

Mr. Speaker, thus far, there has not been a successor named to govern Liberia. The leaders from the 16 Liberian opposition political

parties in the nation, as well as leaders from religious and women's organizations, have been meeting in Ghana to draw up a peace plan and establish a transitional government expected to run the country for 18 to 24 months before new elections can be held.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Britain and France have asked the United States to lead, at least initially—a peace-keeping operation designed to separate and disarm the warring factions and establish an environment where a transitional government can take control of the country. ECOWAS has pledged 3,000 troops for an intervention force and is asking the United States to pledge 2,000 troops in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you, and my colleagues support the Liberian people's struggle to return their country to sane and just rule. Liberia has been a friend and a supporter of the United States. It was an ally during the Cold War and a facilitator of covert operations against Col. Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi during the 1980s. It would be a betrayal of that long-held trust to turn our backs on the people of Liberia who have supported us in the past.

Liberia's natural resources are plentiful. The country has iron ore, rubber, timber, diamonds, gold and tin. In addition, in recent years that it has discovered sizable deposits of crude oil along its Atlantic Coast, and it continues to make strides in the agriculture sector. We need to work with the local communities and provide assistance in the areas of development, policing, healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, Liberia has the potential of re-establishing a strong democratic model of liberation and justice for the continent. We must do whatever we can to assist the Liberians—these proud people of liberty—rebuild their beautiful country.

DISEASE PREVENTION IN MEDICARE

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit into the Record a letter I have received from seven former Secretaries of the Department of Health and Human Services and its predecessor, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The letter, sent to many Members of Congress, and especially to the leadership of both bodies, requests that during our work on Medicare modernization we not forget about the benefits of disease prevention.

The letter specifically references a report by Partnership For Prevention, "A Better Medicare for Healthier Seniors: Recommendations to Modernize Medicare's Prevention Policies," which states that Medicare should increase its emphasis on keeping seniors healthy, not just treating them when they become sick, as a roadmap for a modernizing Medicare's prevention practices.

The Partnership For Prevention (PFP) is a highly respected non-profit partnership of public and private sector organizations committed to finding solutions to health issues in a non-partisan and rigorously scientific manner. The report and other recommendations can be viewed and downloaded at the PFP Web site, <http://www.prevent.org>.

I encourage my colleagues to read the attached letter, look at the Partnership For Prevention report and consider their recommendations in our further efforts to modernize Medicare.

THE FORMER SECRETARIES OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND
HEALTH EDUCATION AND WELFARE
JUNE 25, 2003.

Hon. JIM RAMSTAD,
*U.S. Representative, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515.*

DEAR MR. RAMSTAD, as former Secretaries of Health and Human Services (or Health, Education and Welfare), we write to encourage you to include disease prevention in discussions about Medicare modernization.

Congress created Medicare in 1965 based on the knowledge of health and medicine at that time. Thus, Medicare came into being as a national insurance system to cover hospitalization and visits to clinicians' offices for diagnoses and treatment.

In the nearly four decades since Medicare's creation, considerable research and practice have yielded proven ways to not just diagnose and treat disease, but to prevent it and promote longer, healthier life. Today we know that postponing disability, maintaining social function, and sustaining independence are achievable for seniors through evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention services. It is nearly always preferable, both for the individual and for society, to prevent disease instead of waiting to treat it.

Congress has added selected preventive services to Medicare but has not included other services that are proven effective, nor has it encouraged Medicare to take a comprehensive approach to disease prevention and health promotion for America's seniors.

A recent Harris Poll found that nine in ten American adults want Medicare to be modernized and to put as much emphasis on disease prevention as it does on disease treatment.

The roadmap for this Medicare modernization is laid out in a new Partnership for Prevention (Partnership) report, A Better Medicare for Healthier Seniors: Recommendations to Modernize Medicare's Prevention Policies, which you already have received. These recommendations would move the U.S. toward realization of our nation's two overarching national health goals: Increasing life expectancy and improving quality of life, and reducing disparities in health among different segments of the population.

Respectfully yours,

JOSEPH A. CALAFANO, JR.
RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER.
MARGARET M. HECKLER.
DAVID MATHEWS, MD.
LOUIS W. SULLIVAN, MD.
DONNA E. SHALALA, PHD.
OTIS R. BOWEN, MD.

TRIBUTE TO RODNEY C. LESTER,
PhD, CNRA

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to an outstanding representative from the State of Texas, Rodney C. Lester, PhD, CRNA. Dr. Lester will soon complete his year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). I am very pleased that one of Texas's own was tapped as the 2002–2003 president of this prestigious national organization.