

discoveries have changed the world in remarkable and unmistakable ways. Even today, America's space program is coordinating our most sophisticated space exploration effort ever. The Mars Rover program is a tremendous scientific success developed by NASA's best and brightest scientists.

Yet if academic indicators are correct, America will face a vast drain of scientific knowledge and ambition in the near future and we must begin to ask ourselves where we will find America's next Dr. Salk or the talent to develop America's future missions in space.

Congress has a clear interest in ensuring that America's great scientific past and present continues into the future. The Congressional Science Competition is an effective way for Congress to demonstrate leadership in promoting scientific education as a national priority, to show support for the process of scientific inquiry, and to foster enthusiasm for science. I urge all of my Colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation and in doing so, indicate their support for making science education and interest a national priority.

TRIBUTE TO DR. STUART D. COOK

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of respect that I rise to acknowledge the accomplishments made by Dr. Stuart D. Cook during his tenure as president of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). As Dr. Cook steps down from the presidency after six years, the Concerned Citizens at UMDNJ and the UMDNJ-University Hospital are proud of the contributions he has made to this institute of excellence.

During his presidency, Dr. Cook partnered with the Board of Trustees at UMDNJ, faculty, staff and students to create a compelling vision for the future. Through his efforts, federal research support to UMDNJ more than doubled over the past five years. Over the past four years, the university's funding from the National Institutes of Health has increased at a faster rate than the average for all schools and universities in the nation. The National Science Foundation, in its most recent rankings of research universities across the nation, ranks UMDNJ as the number one research university in New Jersey as measured by federal research expenditures and 71st out of the top 100 research universities in the country. This marks the university's highest ever ranking.

Under Dr. Cook's leadership, the university is in the midst of a \$535 million statewide capital construction program to upgrade existing space and provide new space for scientists and clinicians. On the Newark campus, which is in the heart of the 10th Congressional District, the University Behavioral Health Sciences Building and the International Center for Public Health have been completed. Additionally, construction of the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School-University Hospital Cancer Center and a second Ambulatory Care Center are underway. Construction of a new clinical building for the UMDNJ-New Jersey Dental School will be completed in the first quarter of next year. On the Piscataway campus, a new building

housing a research tower for UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and UMDNJ-School of Public Health was opened. In New Brunswick, the steel structure for the Child Health Institute was completed and the new wing of Cancer Institute of New Jersey facility will open in early 2005. On the Stratford campus, the University Doctors Pavilion is open and construction is underway for a new wing of the Science Building.

Complementing these outstanding efforts, other initiatives include, the establishment of a University Professorship Program which has to date, named 15 researchers to the faculty. This program significantly increased the overhead revenues to the University as the researchers brought with them more than \$7.5 million in federal funding. The University also created a program that is unique in the nation—the Master Educators Guild—which recognizes teaching excellence. The Guild now has 48 faculty members. Through collaboration with other colleges and universities throughout the state, a school of public health emerged. As a result of this effort and Dr. Cook's leadership, the School of Public Health established the Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities.

Mr. Speaker, as he returns to the faculty at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School to continue his clinical practice and research in multiple sclerosis, I urge my colleagues to commend Dr. Cook for all that he has done in his years as president of UMDNJ.

HAPPY 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY,
HENRY AND BARBARA
WIRSTSHAFTER

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two very extraordinary Americans who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary—Henry and Barbara Wirstschafter.

Henry and Barbara are a joy to know. Perky, humorous, and filled with the spirit of life, the two share their love and their youthful spirit with their four children: Gary, Joy, Robert and Greg, and their six grandchildren.

For many years, the two have participated in the life of the community. Henry and Barbara met back in 1953, and were married in June of 1954 in McGee, Arkansas. Since that time they have had the opportunity to tour the country. They even saw the world come together when they volunteered for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

In addition, they recognize the special needs of the community. Henry and Barbara have been loyal and dedicated in helping the less fortunate. They assist the hungry with their involvement with Meals on Wheels, and they assist the poor by providing families with affordable housing units. Their loyalty and dedication to assisting others is a true virtue.

Surely their secret to a long happy life together is to be warm, outgoing, motivated, optimistic, and to be of service to others. For Henry and Barbara, their marriage has been filled with many wonderful memories. All who know Henry and Barbara have been charmed by their presence. Happy 50th wedding anniversary, and best wishes.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM MAURER

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I share with my colleagues the news that a distinguished Veteran and longtime friend, Bill Maurer, has passed away. I submit the following announcement:

William W. "Bill" Maurer, 72, of Fort Collins died Tuesday, April 13, 2004, at Poudre Valley Hospital. He passed peacefully with his family members at his side.

While in the Wyoming National Guard he rose from the rank of private to sergeant first class and was ultimately commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1953. He was called to active duty in the Army in mid 1953 and attended the Artillery Basic Officers Course at Fort Sill, Okla., and then joined the 37th Infantry Division at Fort Polk, La.

He married Joyce Marie Huntzinger in Douglas on Dec. 28, 1953. They were blessed with two children, Deborah Ruth and David William. During their marriage, Bill and Joyce traveled to many duty assignments around the world with tours of duty in Fort Polk, La.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Riley, Kan.; Germany; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; and Washington, D.C. During his military career Bill commanded the 5th Battalion, 29th Artillery in the Republic of Vietnam and the 1st Infantry Division Artillery at Fort Riley. He also was a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. During his military career he served in many high-level positions that included tours of duty as an Army liaison officer to the U.S. Senate, deputy chief of legislative liaison, Office, Secretary of the Army and deputy secretary of defense legislative affairs. He retired from the Army on June 30, 1979, with more than 30 years of service at the rank of brigadier general. His military decorations include the Silver Star, one OLC; Legion of Merit, one OLC; Defense Superior Service Medal, the Soldiers Medal, the Bronze Star Medal for valor, one OLC; the Purple Heart medal, one OLC; the Meritorious Service Medal, two OLC; the Air Medal for valor, 12 OLC; and the Army Commendation Medal, three OLC, and numerous foreign and service awards.

After his retirement he joined Chrysler Corporation as director of the Washington office of the Chrysler Defense subsidiary. In 1981 Chrysler Defense was purchased by General Dynamics Corporation, he assumed new duties in the General Dynamics Washington Corporate Office as manager of legislative affairs. In 1984 he was promoted to corporate director of legislative affairs and later became corporate vice president for congressional relations in 1991. He retired from General Dynamics in March 1994, and Bill and Joyce relocated to their retirement home in Fort Collins, where he still remained active as a consultant to General Dynamics.

He was a 43-year member of the American Legion, a life member of the Retired Officers Association, the Reserve Officers Association and the Army War College Alumni Association.

Bill was a generous, caring man who will be missed by all who knew him. He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather.