

money are allowed safe passage here; we must also express our concern for the welfare of Venezuelans and others around the world. The control of harmful substances is an international effort in which we must all take an active and engaged role.

I am deeply committed to fighting our international war on drugs. However, the United States diplomacy has been entirely too weak in this regard, and we must recognize that Venezuela is an ally, not an enemy. Our foreign policy must be governed by what is best for the American people rather than by what party is in power. Recent evidence shows a general lack of enforcement in Venezuela of the measures necessary to avoid the trafficking of narcotics and other controlled substances. However, instead of delivering a political attack to a nation for a lack of customs control in an international airport, we must be constructive and pragmatic in our call for stricter enforcement.

I support the message of this resolution to ensure the compliance of the international community with the Organization of American States conventions and comprehensive treaties on narco-terrorism. However, we would benefit from more constructive engagement in diplomatic relations with our allies in the Western Hemisphere rather than simply issuing a reprimand.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this resolution and support better diplomatic relations with the Government of Venezuela.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATIENTS' ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS ACT (PAPA)

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2006*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, this legislation responds to the fact that physicians are currently scheduled to receive a significant reduction in their Medicare payments over the next 5 to 10 years. The Medicare Trustees have projected that Medicare payments to physicians will be cut by 4.6 percent in January. And, if Congress does not act, physicians will see a cumulative cut of approximately 37 percent through 2015. Providers in Michigan alone stand to lose \$8 billion over this time period if the cuts that are forecast are allowed to take effect.

My legislation would provide a temporary halt to these Medicare physician payment cuts. It would provide a positive physician update, expected to be between 2 and 3 percent, in both 2007 and 2008. The update would reflect physician practice cost inflation. This follows the advice of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission's recommended formula of increases in physician practice costs minus productivity adjustment.

This legislation would also protect beneficiaries from any additional premium increases that would otherwise be caused by this change in physician payments for these 2 years. For seniors living on fixed incomes, unexpected increases in their living expenses can impose hardship. The Part B premium already consumes 9 percent of the average Social Security check. Thus, the bill ensures that beneficiaries would not see an increase in

beneficiary premiums due to Congressional action to increase physician payments.

It is critical that Congress protect the right of beneficiaries to see their doctor in Medicare. The vast majority of seniors and people with disabilities are and will remain in Medicare where they have the freedom to choose their own doctor and get the care that is right for them.

While ideally we will develop a new payment system that integrates payment and quality, we do not have enough information and data to implement such a system at this time. My legislation would provide a temporary increase for doctors while Congress continues to work toward a permanent solution.

IN HONOR OF MARY LOU McCUTHEON'S SERVICE TO THE SENIOR CITIZENS OF SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2006*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, for 15 years, Mary Lou McCutcheon has served the senior citizens of Sussex County with integrity, dedication and pride. Under her leadership, first at the County Office on Aging and then at the Division of Senior Services, seniors in Sussex County have seen an improved quality of life financially, medically, and socially. She has always put forth extra effort, going far beyond what was required of her job, to address the needs of the elderly in Sussex communities with true compassion.

Mary Lou has also served as a spokesperson for the elderly on both the state and national level. Just last year, Mary Lou was appointed by the Governor to be part of the New Jersey delegation to attend the White House Conference on Aging.

Her achievements have been too numerous to list and will not be forgotten anytime soon. Without a doubt, Mary Lou has touched the lives of many through her public service in Sussex County. Upon the occasion of her retirement, I extend my warmest appreciation to Mary Lou for her years of service and my best wishes for a happy retirement.

UNITED STATES AND INDIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5682) to exempt from certain requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 a proposed nuclear agreement for cooperation with India:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise in qualified support of this legislation.

India is the world's largest and most diverse democracy and a strong ally and friend of the United States. As a member of the India Caucus, I recognize the benefits of increased eco-

nomics, security, and cultural cooperation between India and the United States and am proud that in recent years the relationship between our two countries has made rapid advances in so many areas.

Because of the growing importance of that relationship, it made sense for the Bush Administration to consider expanding the U.S.-India strategic partnership to include civilian nuclear energy development. In the context of our friendship with India, I support the concept of civilian nuclear cooperation, and I will support this legislation today.

U.S. law prohibits nuclear cooperation with countries that have not pledged under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty—like India—to forgo nuclear weapons. H.R. 5682 carves out an exception for India to allow it to gain access to long-denied civilian nuclear technology in exchange for opening 14 out of 22 of its nuclear facilities to inspections under the International Atomic Energy Agency. Importantly, the bill requires that India and the International Atomic Energy Agency negotiate a safeguards agreement and that the Nuclear Suppliers Group approve an exemption for India before Congress votes on the final cooperation agreement. That means Congress will have a chance to vote up or down once more, this time on the final negotiated agreement. I think that's the right approach.

In exchange for getting access to sensitive nuclear technology and fuel supplies, India has promised to continue the moratorium on nuclear weapons testing, to separate its civilian and military nuclear programs and not to transfer the nuclear technology to third parties.

But the deal would not prevent India from ramping up its military nuclear program. Whether or not India actually begins building more nuclear arms is less important than the fact that it will have the capability to do so, and it is unclear what actions countries like China and Pakistan might take in response to that new reality.

I tend to agree the statement by Rep. BERMAN (D-CA) in his additional views on H.R. 5682 that "only a halt on fissile material production would make this deal a net plus for nonproliferation." In the July 2005 joint statement between President Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, India committed to "assume the practices and responsibilities" of other advanced nuclear powers. With four of the five recognized nuclear weapons states already having stopped producing fissile material for nuclear weapons and China believed to have halted production, it would seem that India should be able to "assume" this important practice.

Yet the agreement itself does not include any promise by India to cease its production of fissile materials. So I remain concerned about the potential effects of the agreement on our broader nonproliferation goals, since the real has ramifications far beyond the U.S.-India relationship. That's why I supported an amendment based on a proposal by former Senator Sam Nunn to allow the exports of nuclear reactors and technology to India but not the transfers of reactor fuel until it had been determined that India had halted the production of fissile material for its weapons program.

We must try to strike the right balance between strengthening our relationship with India and also maintaining our robust and time-tested international nuclear nonproliferation regime. I will support the bill today, but once the

agreement has been negotiated and before Congress takes its final vote on the deal, I plan to carefully scrutinize the agreement to ensure that it strikes a balance I can support.

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HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Mr. Tim Friedman's 30 years of dedicated service in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Democratic Cloakroom.

Now 30 years may seem like a long time, but really it's only 6 in "Tim Years." That is to say, six World Series wins resulting in rings for the Yankees. I have to wonder if Tim's retirement may have something to do with the prospect of Barry Sullivan's Boston Red Sox winning a few more World Series' and narrowing the Yankees' lead in titles.

Now safe at home—quite literally—I can publicly disclose how I caused one blemish on Tim's otherwise perfect congressional record. The March Madness NCAA basketball tournament bracket was overseen by Tim for years, and he ran a tight ship. You were in by the deadline, or you were out of the pool—except for this one time.

On a late flight home I realized that I had forgotten to put my entry in for the congressional NCAA pool. As soon as I returned to D.C., I petitioned the court of last resort, Tim Friedman, believing my cause was virtually hopeless, but imagining myself shooting that desperate last second three-pointer to win the big game.

To my complete surprise, Tim allowed my desperate shot to count, and he allowed me to slip in my late entry. Even with his charity, I still managed to go 0 and out in the Big Dance! Still, I'll never forget his wisdom for letting me in, and my folly for believing I could handicap the results.

Tim's sports enthusiasm—near-fanaticism, really—will be sorely missed around the Cloakroom. More than that, however, we will miss Tim Friedman's smile, his warmth and his gracious humanity. We hear a lot about world-class athletes. Tim Friedman is a world-class human being.

It has been my distinct pleasure to work with him, an honor to know such a genuine and goodhearted man, and a sad but proud moment for me to say goodbye and best wishes.

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CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF AL BROUNSTEIN

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2006*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the beautiful and inspirational life of a true American icon. Al Brounstein, a longtime leader in California's Napa Valley and producer of some of the world's finest wines for over 30 years, passed away on June 26.

While Al's name may not be easily recognized in these halls of Congress, millions of the constituents we represent have benefited from the extraordinary quality, high standards and international recognition he has brought to the American wine industry.

Al Brounstein's single vineyard Diamond Creek cabernets have set the industry standard for quality and enduring structure for more than three decades. National and international wine critics have long credited Diamond Creek's unmatched success with Al's pioneering efforts in bringing the French tradition of "Terroir" to our shores. But to those of us who have had the pleasure of getting to know Al, it is at best naive to ignore the fact that more than any other single ingredient, Al's character was responsible for the works of art he bottled. The land and the climate were only a part. It was Al. Or as I like to call it: It was the Napa Valley tradition of "Al'oir."

I had the honor and extreme pleasure of knowing Al and his wonderful wife Boots for many years. While the world outside of our valley may have known him for his wine, those fortunate enough to be a part of his community knew him for his sense of humor, his love of life, his loyal friendship and his heroic, 23-year battle against a debilitating neurological disease.

Mr. Speaker, I know I am not the first and I certainly will not be the last public official to express his disappointment over a newspaper account. But I was angered to read a recently printed report regarding Al, stating he had passed away after "losing his battle with Parkinson's." Those of us who knew Al well know that he did not "lose" one darn thing to Parkinson's. Parkinson's may have picked the fight, but it was Al who ended up kicking its backside.

Al fought it with a sense of humor and a wry wit that remains unmatched. He also fought it with his commitment and tireless efforts that raised millions of dollars to fund research for a cure.

Mr. Speaker, if there is one disease in our modern time that knows it was in a fight, it is Parkinson's and it has Al's boot prints all over it. Every time he refused to complain about his illness, it took a kick. Every time he created another original painting that would be auctioned for research, it took a kick. And every time he tried to put his visitors at ease by shrugging off his tremors with a funny quip, he gave it another swift kick.

All of us were so very proud of Al and Boots when he was recognized for his leadership in this field by winning the "Buddy" Award for Enduring Spirit at the Annual Morris K. Udall National Awards Ceremony just a few years ago.

And Al's vision went far beyond making great wine and fighting disease. He had an equally unbridled vision and passion to make friends with nearly everyone he met. And, like his wine, he just did not simply make them, he nurtured and cared for them.

Mr. Speaker, nearly a thousand of these very special friends are gathered today at the Culinary Institute of America to celebrate Al's remarkable life. They represent diverse backgrounds and many uncommon occupations brought together by one common influence.

Al liked to refer to the famous budwood he creatively brought into California from France to start his vineyard as "suitcase clones." Whether you knew him as a salesman in his

early days or as a vintner, artist neighbor, national spokesman or loving family member, we all carry a little of Al with us today. We, in a sense, could be considered his budwood. And we, in a sense, have a responsibility to spread the spirit and vitality that defined this American icon.

Al has encouraged us to be proud of what we do, focus on what matters, strive for quality, and always remember that we are all part of something that is much larger than ourselves.

Like his wines, the powerful concentration of his vision and the enduring structure of his character will continue to last for a very long time through the lives he has touched.

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TRIBUTE TO THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF BRODHEAD, WISCONSIN

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2006*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the sesquicentennial celebration of the city of Brodhead, Wisconsin. I am indeed fortunate to represent such a great city.

Brodhead is a proud and progressive community of 3,200 found in the beautiful countryside of southern Wisconsin. This peaceful city offers several unique tourist attractions. The most notable is the 23-mile long Sugar River Bike Trail, which includes a ride under the National Award Winning Clarence Covered Bridge replica constructed by the Brodhead Jaycees. Brodhead sponsors an annual festival in honor of the bridge, Covered Bridge Days, which features a tractor pull and flea market.

The city was formally founded during the spring of 1856, and named in honor of engineer Edward Brodhead, who was the mastermind behind the Milwaukee and Minnesota Railroad. Only a year later the infamous Brodhead Band was founded. The bandwagon was pulled by six horses and traveled far to Freeport, Illinois, for the Lincoln-Douglas debate. They even enlisted in the Civil War and marched in the Grand Review in Washington at the end of the war.

Residents point to the Half-Way Tree as their city's most recognized feature. The bur oak tree is located south of the city, and marks the halfway point from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. It is believed that Native Americans planted the tree purposefully there in the 19th century.

Brodhead's rich history in manufacturing and industry has and continues to provide the city with a solid economic foundation. Most recently, Stoughton Trailers, Kuhn Knight, Inc., and Woodbridge Corporation have helped to contribute to Brodhead's prosperity.

The celebration for this momentous milestone will start on August 11 with an opening ceremony followed by a city-wide street dance. The residents of Brodhead will continue to commemorate 150 years through the weekend, finishing on August 13 with tractor pulls and fireworks. The festivities' theme of "Pride in the Past, Faith in the Future" is a perfect representation of all that this wonderful city encompasses. The people of Brodhead