wish the winning combination of task force members, interested citizens, county agencies, community organizations, and students continued success as they embark on future odysseys in mentoring.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It is time to remember the 46,000 women who died last year, and the 182,000 women who will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. I know the hard cold facts because I am a breast cancer survivor.

Women must play a vital role in the war against breast cancer by performing a monthly breast-self-examination, visiting a physician and obtaining an annual mammogram. Since there is no cure for breast cancer, early detection is the key to survival.

However, early diagnosis of breast cancer is of no use if the patient cannot get proper treatment once a tumor is discovered. The treatment for 50 percent of all breast cancers is limited to one drug, yet current law does not permit Medicare coverage.

Today I am introducing legislation which provides coverage of this drug under Medicare. Without this coverage, breast cancers are left untreated, and women are left to suffer.

Remember the women during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Become a cosponsor of this life-saving legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CWO DENNIS ST. CLAIR

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to CWO Dennis St. Clair, a dedicated public servant who will soon retire from the Ohio Army National Guard after over 41 years of distinguished service.

Dennis St. Clair began his service at the Camp Perry Training Site, located near Port Clinton, OH, on July 22, 1954. Since that time, CWO St. Clair has distinguished himself as a man of dedication, innovation, and personal accomplishment. During his tenure, CWO St. Clair's expert management was instrumental in a comprehensive building program which included the construction of four new barracks, a new beach tower, a new troop medical clinic, new officers quarters and new motel units.

As the full-time Operation and Plans officer for the Camp Perry Training Site, CWO St. Clair developed one of the most comprehensive range safety programs in the country. His legacy is an outstanding range safety record at Camp Perry.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis St. Clair is a remarkable individual whose 41 years personal competence, unwavering commitment and selfless sacrifice is a model for public servants. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him for his service to the U.S. Army, the Ohio Army National Guard, and to the people of the State of Ohio.

As he begins his retirement, may he and his family fully enjoy the benefits of the freedom he has so ably defended for over four decades as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

MEDICARE SUBSTITUTE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I plan to offer a substitute for H.R. 2425, the Medicare Preservation Act of 1995 when it is debated in the House of Representatives on Thursday, October 19, 1995. My substitute is very simple. It is printed in its entirety in the amendments section of this RECORD. It contains three provisions.

First, my substitute would establish a bipartisan commission to develop recommendations to strengthen and improve the Medicare Program. The commission would be required to submit its recommendations to the Congress not later than May 1, 1997.

Second, my substitute would provide for $90 billion less in tax reductions than now contemplated by the budget resolution. This would be accomplished by an across-the-board limitation on all the tax reductions.

Finally, my substitute would transfer the additional revenues resulting from the limitation on the tax reductions into the Medicare Part A Trust Fund. This would extend the solvency of that trust fund until the year 2006.

Mr. Speaker, there is no reason to do irrevocable damage to Medicare and senior citizens by cutting $270 billion from the program over the next 7 years—unless you want to grant excessive tax cuts to the very wealthiest of our citizens. The trustees of the fund made it clear that an infusion of $90 billion into the Part A Trust Fund will assure solvency through 2006.

My substitute will solve any intermediate problems of the fund now, while creating a mechanism by which any long-term problems can be addressed in a thoughtful and reasoned manner.

By this substitute, we truly can preserve, protect, and strengthen Medicare for both present and future beneficiaries.

A VISION FOR AMERICA

HON. JOHN SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Miss Jacquelyn Clark, a student at Horizon High School and a resident of my district in Scottsdale, AZ. Miss Clark is the Arizona State winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting scholarship contest. The contest theme this year was ''My Vision For America.'' I commend to you, Mr. Speaker, and all of my fellow Members of Congress, both in this House and in the other body, her words:

MY VISION FOR AMERICA

In 1783, a group of men had a vision for a country based on justice and liberty for all Americans. One of the most beautifully written documents in our nation's history was created, the United States Constitution.

My vision for America is that the people of our nation maintain a faith in the ideals held by our forefathers. The United States Constitution has proven itself worthy of our respect and allegiance. It has upheld its values with fortitude, and has stood the test of time by remaining true to its original principles.

James Madison, considered the ''Father of the Constitution,'' believed that ''in framing a system which we wish to last for ages, we should not lose sight of the changes which ages will produce.'' Our nation has undergone many remarkable changes since its beginning. We have spread the words of liberty across our entire continent, and to all people who call our great nation their home. Amazingly, our Constitution's words are as valid today as they were when first written. These words of hope have served as a guiding light for all men. No matter where our individual paths may lead us, we always know that the rights recognized to us in the Constitution are rights we realize from birth, and rights on which we can depend to shield us from civil injustice and oppression. Included, are the rights to share in our government, the right to worship God in one's own way, and the right to a full and happy life.

We must keep in mind, however, that with these rights come responsibilities, and how we invest in our country determines how we profit from it. A wise American once said, ''ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country,'' This message remains true today. From its beginning, our Constitution has represented a belief in the future, but this belief must be maintained in the present.

My vision for America is the hope of a shared vision between all Americans, and that they would be dedicated to protecting our nation's heritage. Today's Americans must have the desire and initiative to educate our children. Our coming generations need to realize that great accomplishments grow from average people. Every day, men and women had hopes for a brighter future and ended up making our great country what it is today. When I see veterans standing proudly to salute the American flag while the National Anthem plays patriotically in the background, and when I see small children with their hands held over their hearts stumble through the Pledge of Allegiance, I feel such pride for our nation and the principles for which it stands. We need to remember that those who come before us cannot depend on those who come after us to maintain the spirit of our Constitution. The goal of our forefathers was to assure within the wording of this great document that our nation would remain strong and would be a land of opportunity for all who supported it. Our constitutional foundation will remain firm only as long as its holders continue to protect its principles. It is up to us, today's Americans, to cherish the beliefs of our fathers and keep them alive and safe for our children.

My vision for keeping this spirit alive is through a personal involvement in our government. Americans have a responsibility to its authors to not only teach the wording of the Constitution, but to demonstrate it's principles through our actions. We need to encourage all citizens to exercise their Constitutional privilege of suffrage, and to actively take part in the decisions that shape and mold our nation. By encouraging our children to participate in the KIDS VOTING

program, we hope to emphasize the importance of democracy and set an example of individual responsibility and citizenship. However, individual responsibility requires active participation daily, and not merely at the polls on voting day. By keeping oneself informed about the day-to-day workings of our government, citizens can experience the enthusiasm shared by our nation's patriots as they framed our basic freedoms of religion, speech, press, and assembly. In this way, the values on which our country was founded will continue to flourish and strengthen us as we meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

My vision for America is a shared vision, and it begins with us, the people. We hold the key to keeping our country on the path of greatness. In just two hundred years, much has been done, but many great accomplishments are yet to come. With continued support from its people, this country will remain a land of freedom and opportunity and will hold fast to the principles of ''one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all!'' May God bless America—Thank you.

THE PEOPLE'S FIREHOUSE CELEBRATE ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the People's Firehouse, Inc. which is celebrating its 20th anniversary of service to the Williamsburg and Greenpoint communities of northern Brooklyn this November. PFI was founded when, in November of 1975, the city of New York announced that it would close fire engine company 212. The threatened loss of prevention services brought the people of north Brooklyn together to form the People's Firehouse.

In an act of courage rising out of concern for their community, residents entered the firehouse and refused to leave. They held the firetruck hostage and, for 16 months, lived and worked in the fire station, all the while pressuring the city to reopen engine company 212.

One official called off attempts to remove the protesters from the firehouse saying that the fire station was now ''the people's firehouse.'' The name stuck and after much negotiation, engine company 212 was reopened as a fully operational fire station. Those involved in the firehouse situation decided to form a permanent organization to assist their community, and, this year, the People's Firehouse, Inc. a Housing and Community Development Co., celebrates its 20th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, PFI offers a number of services to the community deserving of recognition. PFI provides legal rights outreach and mediation services to tenants, landlords and the homeless; housing management programs; and housing preservation and development. Seniors and immigrants are given special assistance in English, Spanish and Polish. PFI manages 16 buildings consisting of 141 residential units. The NYC Housing Preservation and Development Community Management Program provided funding for PFI to renovate and manage previously abandoned, city-owned buildings. Since beginning contracting with Housing Preservation and Development in 1979, PFI has rehabilitated nine city-owned buildings and later sold them to the tenants as limited equity cooperatives.

As if their housing and citizen-outreach programs were not enough, the PFI has received fire and arson prevention funding from the U.S. Fire Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the New York Department of State, and the mayor's office arson strike force. The PFI also offers a weatherization assistance program; participates in historic restoration; strengthens the Northside Merchants Association with marketing assistance, store renovation and a matching grant program; improves streets with the Bedford Avenue street reconstruction project; and engages in protection of the environment.

Mr. Speaker, the 20 years of service to the community provided by PFI deserve our recognition and praise. PFI takes great pride in its community and responds to the needs of its citizens throughout Greenpoint, Williamsburg, Northside and Southside. One of PFI's most recent projects includes youth job training and establishment of the People's School which offers programs designed to address issues of unemployment, poverty and neighborhood stabilization.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of the People's Firehouse Inc.'s 20 years of service to its community. At a time when many argue that neighborhoods and any ''sense of community'' no longer exist—PFI strives to find more and more ways to serve its citizenry.

OVERCOMING EXTREME POVERTY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today, October 17, is the World Day To Overcome Extreme Poverty. In thousands of cities, towns, and villages across the United States and around the world, the poorest people, and those who stand beside them, will be solemnly recommitting themselves to the task of ending extreme poverty.

The first observance of October 17 took place in Paris in 1987. It was made possible by a partnership between extremely poor families and a man named Joseph Wresinski. Together, they founded the Fourth World Movement, which is now an international anti-poverty organization whose activities span the globe.

Around the world, there are 1.3 billion people living with little other than a dream of a better future. Their dreams are usually not for themselves, but for their children. It is our job as their fellow human beings, and as elected leaders, to recognize those dreams and to take up our full responsibilities in seeing that they become a reality. The poorest people are ready to join us in building a better world. It is only with their cooperation and partnership that we can succeed.

Today, we must resolve to work with these poor families to put an end to extreme poverty, just as apartheid and slavery have been abolished. Today, we must resolve that never again should a single man, woman, or child be condemned to the silence and uselessness that extreme poverty entails.

I hope that Members will join me in observing October 17, the World Day To Overcome Extreme Poverty.

TAMING THE EITC

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues an excellent article regarding the Earned Income Tax Credit.

TAMING THE EITC

The Earned Income Tax Credit often is hailed by Republicans as the best welfare program around. So why are they bent on cutting it? The answer: It has grown so much that it's now doing more harm than good.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas, hopes to cut the EITC some $20 billion over the next seven years.

President Clinton sharply attacked the move, saying it's ''inconsistent with those basic, bedrock values this country should be standing for.''

What's all the fuss about?

Started in 1975, the EITC was supposed to help offset the growing costs of payroll taxes on the working poor. Those eligible could get a credit on a portion of their income taxes.

For some families below a certain income threshold, the EITC worked as a negative income tax. They paid little or no income taxes to begin with.

The idea was to encourage work among the poor by boosting their after-tax income. So the EITC has come to be seen as a welfare program with a built-in work incentive.

Popular with both Republicans and Democrats, the cost of the credit grew rapidly. Presidents Bush and Clinton both expanded the credit's size and scope dramatically.

So much so, in fact, that when the Clinton expansions are fully phased in next year, the EITC's cost will have nearly quadrupled since 1990. By 1996, the credit will cost $26 billion—equal in size to the federal food stamp program.

As a modest program, the EITC worked fine. But most economists agree that today it's doing more harm that good.

The problem stems from the way the credit is structured.

It gets phased in for working families with income up to $8,900. The effect of the credit is to provide a wage subsidy of 40 cents on each dollar up to that income limit.

From there, the credit is maxed out. Families who earn up to $11,600 don't get any additional credit.

Once a family exceeds that limit, the credit is phased out. For each dollar over $11,600, the family loses 21 cents of its EITC until its income hits $28,000.

Economists say this acts like a marginal tax rate of 21 percent, on top of all the other state and federal taxes, giving these families one of the highest marginal rates around. And that, they say, provides a strong distinctive to work.

The trouble is, as the EITC expands, this disincentive looms larger, overwhelming the work incentives created when the credit is phased in.

Marvin Kosters, who has done extensive research on the EITC for the American Enterprise Institute, finds that today about 40 percent of American families are eligible for the credit.

But of these, there are nearly four times as many families in the phase-out range as in the phase-in range.