

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Chairman Thomas, Chairman TAUZIN, and the House Republican leadership for their work on H.R. 4954, a bill which attempts to balance the needs of two national objectives: ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable prescription drugs and exercising fiscal responsibility.

No American should be denied needed prescription drugs because he or she cannot afford them. This bill, if adopted, will ensure that low income seniors, who cannot afford them will receive the prescription drugs they need.

H.R. 4954 takes a new approach to providing Medicare beneficiaries with prescription drugs and improves the mechanisms for paying healthcare providers. Under this approach, the federal government will pay some of the costs and private insurance plans will be expected to pick up the tab for others. This setup will encourage participants to seek out cost effective ways of addressing potential health problems through preventive measures and competitive bidding. Rival proposals that do not include the participation of the private sector choke out the innovation of competition and often lead to price gouging.

According to Congressional Budget Office estimates, H.R. 4954 should fit within the framework of the budget resolution this House agreed to this year. The Democratic alternative to H.R. 4954 would burst the seams of the budget resolution and is in no way a fiscally responsible plan. Nonetheless, I harbor ominous concerns about the wisdom of spending \$350 billion on a new entitlement program at a time when we are already running a deficit. Although I have not seen any specific plan that takes a better approach to helping needy Americans obtain prescription drug benefits, I hesitate in lending my support to H.R. 4954 because I believe that a more thoughtful process might result in a better and more fiscally responsible proposal than any this body is scheduled to consider today.

Mr. Speaker, in our lifetimes we have seen too many government programs expand to the detriment of our nation. The actual cost of entitlement programs has sometimes doubled, tripled, and even quadrupled that of the original estimate. The authors of this bill have taken many precautions to preserve the private medical insurance system and have attempted to limit government aid to Americans who actually need assistance. My greatest concern about this bill, however, is that it may lure Americans who can afford prescription drugs away from private plans and into the black hole of dependency on the taxpayers. If this Congress adopts this bill we must all remain vigilant and turn away from all tempta-

tions to morph this entitlement program into a monster that will take a trillion dollar bite out of the general revenues.

This Congress will be credited or held responsible for the results of this initiative for many years to come. I, nevertheless, recognize that our nation's seniors are in need and know that we must respond. H.R. 4954 is the best prescription drug benefit plan before us and I support its passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No.'s 249, 250, 251 and 252, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 249, "yea" on rollcall No. 250, "yea" on rollcall No. 251 and "yea" on rollcall No. 252.

THE REDEDICATION OF THE CARROLL COUNTY COURTHOUSE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rededication of the Carroll County Courthouse on June 29th, 2002, located in Carrollton, Missouri.

This year will mark the 100th year that the courthouse has served the good people of Carroll County. Serving as a place for the community to gather and for the dispensation of justice, the courthouse has stood the test of time. Within its walls, juries have served, county government has convened, and elections have been tallied ensuring that the will of the people of Carroll County is carried out.

Although age and time have been kind to the courthouse, it was not until recently that the courthouse was renovated to include new elevators and restrooms that make it fully accessible to all the people of the county.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the Rededication of the Carroll County Courthouse.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOWARD BERNSTEIN

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent and friend, Howard Bernstein, of Boca Raton, Florida.

In 1945, instead of being at home with his family, Howard Bernstein was on a ship near

Okinawa, Japan, "engulfed in the fight for freedom." He was fighting a war where the enemy had threatened the security and liberty of his home, a war in which he wondered if "there would even be a tomorrow."

On April 2nd, while going about his duties, his ship encountered a group of Japanese kamikaze planes, bent on destroying his fleet. During the attack, Howard was hit by a piece of shrapnel, injuring his right eye. Not noticing the blood, he continued fighting, seeking medical attention only when the battle had ended. After receiving treatment, he told both the Captain's Yeoman and the medical Corpsman not to report his injury, as he did not want to alarm his mother, who had another son fighting in the Pacific, in addition to having lost her husband unexpectedly.

Howard Bernstein returned home after the war, enjoying the freedom he and his comrades had worked so hard to preserve. Only recently did he want to commemorate his injury with a Purple Heart, as he wanted to have the medal "as part of [his] heritage." However, since Howard had not reported his injury, he was initially denied a Purple Heart. It took two sworn affidavits of support from his former comrades for him to finally be given the tribute he so richly deserves.

Today, we recognize Howard Bernstein for his courage and bravery in battle and his unflagging devotion to home and family. In honoring Howard, we honor all those who would risk their lives to preserve the liberty of all people, and all those who would sacrifice personal gain for the consideration of others.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BRENT SWART

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Colonel Brent Swart, the Garrison Commander of the United States Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama. His unwavering patriotism and dedication to the armed services is truly commendable.

Colonel Swart's 26 years of meritorious service in the Army represent his loyalty to the United States of America. This milestone is one many strive for, but few reach. Colonel Swart is a decorated officer and has received the Army Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Parachutist Badge and the Army Commendation and the Army Achievement medals, both with Oak Leaf Clusters. On July 1, 2002, when Colonel Swart retires from 26 years of service, it will truly be a day worthy of commendation.

As the Garrison Commander at AMCOM, it was Colonel Swart's duty to allocate the base's operating budget of over \$130 million. Under his command were 1,649 military, civilian, and contract employees who came to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

work each day confident they could put their lives in Colonel Swart's hands. Through Colonel Swart's leadership, four separate multi-functional organizations housed in four separate buildings were consolidated under one roof, therefore increasing effectiveness, productivity and communications.

Colonel Swart's guidance has also been instrumental in providing community service to North Alabama. Over 40 community and family service organizations that enhance the overall quality of life of soldiers, civilians, retirees and their families have benefited from Swart's leadership. The beneficiaries range from a bowling center that received a \$750,000 renovation, to a significant upgrading of the Child Development Center, to drastic assistance given to the neighborhood child rearing center.

Colonel Stewart also took strides during his tenure at AMCOM to advance an environmental program. Swart improved relationships with surrounding communities affected by the Redstone Arsenal Environmental Restoration Program. Additionally, he spearheaded a ground breaking water treatment program which eliminated large quantities of hazardous substances from the water.

Colonel Swart's family is from Clay County, Alabama, the same county in which my family has resided for several generations. During his 26 years of service to the Army, Colonel Swart has made Clay County and all of Alabama proud. We thank him for serving our Nation during his career in the Army and wish him well in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES A. AHRENS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career has come to an end. Lt. Col. James Ahrens has retired as Director of Institutional Research from Wentworth Military Academy and Junior College in Lexington, MO.

Lt. Col. Ahrens has led a life of serving his family, community and country. In 1962, he graduated from Grinnell College, Iowa, with a history degree and entered the United States Air Force as a radar controller and public affairs officer. While in the United States Air Force, James received a master's degree in Public Relations from the School of Public Communications at Boston University. He retired from all military service in 1995.

Lt. Col. Ahrens arrived at Wentworth in January of 1982 to teach social science courses in the junior college division. While at Wentworth, he joined the 418th Civil Affairs Company in Grandview, MO, after receiving a direct commission in the United States Army Reserve as a Civil Affairs Officer. Lt. Col. Ahrens mobilized and commanded this unit as it served in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Turkey during Operations Desert Storm and Provide Comfort in 1991. He served as a detachment commander, company executive officer and commander before the end of his tour.

During his years at Wentworth, he served as Assistant/Associate Dean, managing the Junior College from 1989 through academic

year 1994. He served as acting Dean of Continuing Education until January 1995. He was also assigned as Director of Institutional Research from 1995 through May 2001. Lt. Col. Ahrens also coached soccer, track, was a sponsor of the Civil War Living History Club and assisted with academic competition for high school students for a number of years.

Lt. Col. Ahrens is an accomplished historian who has completed a history of Wentworth Military Academy and Junior College from 1947 through 2000. He is also published in Vertical World magazine, which is a history of the United States Air Force Helicopter School.

Lt. Col. Ahrens has distinguished himself as a husband, father, grandfather, teacher and soldier. He has and continues to make his friends and family proud. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Lt. Col. Ahrens and his family all the best.

SENSE OF HOUSE THAT NEWDOW
V. U.S. CONGRESS WAS ERRO-
NEOUSLY DECIDED

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 459, a resolution condemning the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for ruling that the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional.

The ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals flies directly in the face of Thomas Jefferson's reasoning for the formation of our Nation. In writing the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson reasoned that all men have been endowed with inalienable rights by God and to defend these rights governments are instituted among men.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Goodwin and Judge Reinhardt do not understand the irony of their decision: without God, according to Thomas Jefferson, there is no American government and thus no 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judges are supposed to interpret the Constitution and laws passed by Congress: not revise the wisdom of our founding fathers to their own liking. If this harmful judicial attitude is not soon corrected, we may find ourselves condemning judicial decisions to delete text from the Declaration of Independence.

I would like to assure my colleagues and the American people that, although the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals exercises appellate jurisdiction over the State of California, this decision is not indicative of the sentiment of the people of California. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals is notorious for the fact that its decisions are overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court more often than any other circuit. I am confident that this decision will, like many others this court has made, be overturned.

The Senate has acted swiftly to condemn this decision. I urge them to back up their rhetoric with action and expedite their approval of the President's Judicial nominations for the five existing vacancies on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals so that similar decisions may be avoided in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to speak and I urge all my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

ON NAMING THE DEER PARK, NEW YORK POST OFFICE FOR RAY DOWNEY, A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, on June 30th, I was honored to attend a ceremony where the Post Office in Deer Park, New York was renamed for New York Fire Department Chief of Operations Ray Downey, one of the many firefighters lost in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2002. In fact, Chief Downey was the most senior member of the Fire Department killed that day. As you may recall, Mr. Speaker, this House voted in December to rename the Post Office. I wanted to share my remarks from that day with the House:

Our country has been reunited with the tragedy of September 11th. And we should be. But I want to tell you about something that I experienced on September 12th. Something that has stood out in my mind, above everything else that occurred that week.

It was a unique week in American history—unprecedented tragedy, unprecedented heroism. For me, one moment stands out even more than the evening of September 11th, when I stood with my colleagues on the steps of the Capitol, that we were told was a target of terrorists only hours before, holding hands and singing God Bless America as the sun descended over the dome and over one of America's most horrific days.

A moment stands out even more than September 13th, when I sat with President Bush in the White House Cabinet room and we talked about the battle to come. More than September 15th, when I went with the President to the site of the World Trade Center, where we lost Ray Downey and 3000 innocent victims of terror.

It stands above that evening, when I cast the proudest vote of my career: the vote authorizing the President to do what had to be done for the protection of our children and survival of our values and our way of life.

Of all those extraordinary experiences, one really stands out . . . from September 12th.

I was on the Floor of the House. And we had just heard from CNN or AP that Ray Downey didn't make it. I went to a phone, and I called Ray's daughter, Marie Tortorici. It would be the very first of what turned out to be over 100 condolence calls I would make as a Member of Congress to the families of my constituents who died from terror on September 11th.

"I'm sorry," I told Marie.

And here's what she said: "We still have hope. We still have faith. We are praying and we want you to pray also."

And so, I went back to the floor of the House, and addressed the Congress, and asked them to say a prayer for the Downey family.

In their darkest hour, the Downey family still had hope, still had faith, still had prayer. And this is what Osama bin Laden and those who live in the darkness of nature don't understand about our country, who we are, what are our values, and where we summon our strength.

When I visited with the President on September 14th I saw the destruction the terrorists caused: the twisted metal and the shattered glass and the smoky, acrid ruins. But I also saw the signs of the true America. Rescue workers who had planted tiny American

flags in their battered helmets. Their arms were weary from digging for three straight days and three straight nights, but not so weary that they couldn't pump their arms into the air and chant USA, USA, USA when the President arrived.

I spoke to two workers: one from Huntington Station and the other from Islip. I said, how long have you been here? They said, since the building went down. I said, how long will you stay, they said, we're not leaving. This is something al Qaeda could never understand or appreciate. When Americans saw bloodshed, we lined up for hours to give blood back. When we feel fear, we turn to our faith. We unfurl our flags. When Ray Downey's family was in trouble, they responded with hope and with faith.

Because that's what Ray was all about. When Ray Downey saw a building come down, he headed for it. When Ray Downey saw a building collapse in Oklahoma City, half a country away, he headed for it. That's what made him special. Not a hero looking for accolades. Just an American doing his job in the best way he could with a courage forged by hope and faith. That will inspire generations of Americans yet unborn.

When I went to the floor weeks later and asked my colleagues to cosponsor the bill that named this post office, they lined up to sign it. Republicans. Democrats. From New York. From Oklahoma. From California. When I asked Senator Clinton to introduce it in the Senate, she rushed it. And when I asked the President to sign it, he said, "how soon."

Ray Downey had a way of bringing us together. In sports . . . in the Fire Department . . . in Deer Park. We could really use him in Washington right now. We may not have him physically. But we will always have his spirit of hope, and faith and strength to guide us.

And when generations to come visit this post office and say, "who was Ray Downey?" The answer will be clear. He was a kind, gentle and loving man who died so that others would live.

He was one of those guys who gave his life to make us the home of the brave . . . and the land of the free. And when I think of him, as I do often, I recall the words from Romeo and Juliet:

And, when he shall die,
Take him and cut him out in little stars,
And he will make the face of heaven so fine
That all the world will be in love with night
And pay no worship to the garish sun.

God bless the Downey family. God bless America.

CITY OF SANTA CLARA'S SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the City of Santa Clara, California, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary as an incorporated city. The sesquicentennial celebration for this "All-America City" gives us the chance to honor the past, enjoy the present, and look towards a bright future.

Santa Clara is a city where tourists love to explore, students love to learn, and locals love to live. What was once a land of wide-open spaces and orchards is now the home of over 100,000 people and several globally-recognized technology companies. Santa Clara's

evolution has been an exciting one, but even as the community has become fertile ground where the high tech industry can flourish, it has continued to embrace the human touch.

The region's history started long before the city's incorporation, dating back 6000 years to the time of the Ohlone Indians. Thousands of years passed before the next settlers arrived, drawn to the area by the scenic landscape and the abundant water resources. These settlers, mostly missionaries and military explorers, chose the area that is now the City of Santa Clara to build a new mission, and in 1777 the Mission Santa Clara de Asis was established. This Franciscan mission, the eighth-oldest of California's 21 original missions, still stands on the campus of Santa Clara University, and is a living tribute to the legacy of Father Junipero Serra and to the work of Father Francisco Palou, founder of the mission.

After Santa Clara's incorporation in 1852, the allure of the region's natural resources attracted ranchers and farmers from the Eastern United States, Mexico, and Europe. Stores were opened and soil was cultivated, and by 1900 Santa Clara boasted a population of 3,650. The city suffered through and survived the historic San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, and later sent many brave women and men to serve in the World Wars.

Following World War II, Santa Clara experienced another population boom thanks to a growing number of manufacturing concerns such as the Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corporation. The growing population of almost 60,000 began to fill the suburbs developing around the city, a precursor to the population boom that would accompany a skyrocketing new industry arriving just a few decades later.

The arrival and rapid expansion of the technology industry would quickly bring Santa Clara and the whole of Silicon Valley to worldwide prominence. The technology industry has seen incredible growth in the past twenty years, and the City of Santa Clara has permanently established itself at the forefront of this phenomenon. Some of the most powerful names in the industry, names like Sun Microsystems, Applied Materials, and Intel are all headquartered here. Santa Clara's entire history is full of originality and opportunity, recent history being no exception.

The most important aspect of the relationship between the technology sector and the City of Santa Clara is that it is built on a foundation of reciprocity and mutual respect. The city's two major challenges—providing affordable housing and reusing state surplus land—are being addressed in a collaborative effort by the city and leading high-tech firms. The Intel Teacher Housing Fund, for example, will provide \$500 a month for eligible teachers' mortgage payments, and Sun Microsystems set aside part of the land occupied by their headquarters for the preservation of historic buildings and for use by the public. The city, of course, provides a willing and able workforce, and has done a tremendous job of accommodating the large inflow of tech-savvy job hunters and entrepreneurs.

The mutually beneficial relationship between the city and the tech industry is just one of the many reasons why Santa Clara is a special place, and those of us who live in the area aren't the only ones noticing. Last year, the City of Santa Clara won an All-America City award from the National Civic League, one of only 10 cities to receive the award. We who

know the city have always believed that Santa Clara is a special place, but the 54-member delegation representing Santa Clara at the competition last June did an exceptional job of ensuring that the panel of judges understood Santa Clara as well. The delegation, consisting of community groups, government officials, business leaders, and private citizens outlined the ways in which Santa Clara goes above and beyond meeting the requirements for the award, from the symbiotic relationship between the city and industry, to the contributions of Santa Clara's volunteer work force, to the city's commitment towards improving the lives of local youths. These factors, combined with the intangible qualities that only a native can describe, helped the City of Santa Clara bring home this prestigious award.

I believe that the words of the All-America City delegation put it best: "Santa Clara blends the best of a modern, urban metropolis with the comfortable charm of Small Town, USA." Santa Clara is a perfect place to raise a family, pursue a career, and fulfill lifelong dreams. It is the home of California's oldest institution of higher learning—Santa Clara University—and other fine schools like Mission College and the Santa Clara, Wilcox, and Wilson High Schools. The weather is beautiful, and the best that California has to offer is right around every corner. I am proud to represent this city as a Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the history and celebrating the achievements of Santa Clara, California, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. The city is an example for all others, and I look forward to being a part of its bright future.

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment with H.R. 4954, the Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002. I am very concerned about the burden many seniors bear in paying for their prescription drugs, and I support adding prescription drug coverage as part of the Medicare benefit. However, this sham bill will not help seniors, and it particularly fails senior women in Michigan.

Too many seniors have to choose between paying for food or medicine. Medicare made a promise of better health to America's seniors. It's time to make good on that promise and provide prescription drugs as part of the entitlement. I know what it's like to go without health insurance—I did it when my children were small and our jobs didn't provide it. It's terrifying and it forces families to make excruciating choices.

Unfortunately, H.R. 4954 is no answer to the problem of seniors' lack of drug coverage. The bill relies on private insurance companies to supply the drug benefit rather than the Medicare program itself, despite the fact that the insurance industry has already explained that such policies are not viable and that it is

unlikely many companies will offer drug benefit policies. What we have learned from the attempt to push Medicare patients into HMOs in order to cut down costs should have been instructive. Many HMOs have found the Medicare+Choice reimbursement rates to be too low and have stopped taking and treating Medicare+Choice patients. Many of my constituents have been forced to return to Medicare fee-for-service because their HMOs have left the state or now refuse Medicare+Choice patients. Private drug coverage seems even less likely to be successful.

In addition, the proposal fails to provide any coverage to beneficiaries who spend between \$2,000 and \$3,700 annually on prescription drugs, leaving a substantial portion of seniors with no drug coverage. It is unfair to exclude this group of seniors from coverage solely because their expenditure levels lie in a particular range.

In addition, the bill provides no guaranteed drug benefit, no guaranteed premium, no consistency for seniors in different regions of the country, and no measures to address rapid increases in the costs of prescription drugs. To propose such a benefit knowing it will be ineffective is highly misleading.

I take the struggles of seniors to afford essential drugs too seriously to support a bill that provides rhetoric without real assistance. It is unfortunate that we will not have the chance to debate and vote on a bill that would truly address seniors' needs, such as the Medicare Rx Drug Benefit and Discount Act. The Democratic plan lowers drug prices and covers ALL seniors under Medicare. This plan is also voluntary—if seniors have prescription coverage they can keep it. Under the Democratic plan, seniors will have a deductible of \$25 a month, and their expenses are capped at \$2,000 per year. There is absolutely no gap in coverage. This is by far the better plan for Michigan's seniors.

I hope I will have the opportunity to vote for an effective and comprehensive Medicare drug benefit in the future. In the meantime, I will oppose this bill and other proposals that provide ineffective or inadequate drug assistance to seniors.

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION AND
PRESCRIPTION DRUG ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in qualified support of H.R. 4954, the Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act. I urge my colleagues to carefully consider this issue before making a final decision.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the explosion in costs for prescription drugs in recent years. This phenomenon has in part been linked to the rapid proliferation of the number of new drugs that have become available in the past decade. We are currently enjoying a period of revolutionary advances in the fields of medicine and medical technology. Yet at the same time, a significant portion of our elderly population is unable to benefit from these new advances, due to the high costs that are associated with them. This is ironic,

when one realizes that senior citizens are the primary group that these new advances are targeting.

One fact that has become increasingly apparent is that Medicare is woefully inadequate in meeting the medical needs of today's senior citizens. When Medicare was created in 1965, outpatient prescription drugs were simply not a major component of health care. For this reason, Medicare did not provide coverage for self-administered medicine.

Today's health care environment is vastly different from that of 1965. The majority of care is now provided in an outpatient setting, and dozens of new prescription drugs enter the market every year to treat the common ailments of the elderly, including cancer, heart disease, arthritis and osteoporosis.

But while the health care environment has made remarkable progress since 1965, Medicare has stood in place. Consequently, along with most of my colleagues, I have heard from constituents who are now facing the dilemma of paying for these expensive new drugs while living on a fixed income. The story of the individual who is forced to choose between food and medicine is no exaggeration. It is an all too common occurrence across the country. The high cost of prescription drugs have become a threat to the retirement security of our Nation's senior citizens.

It is for this reason that I am pleased to learn that both the Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees have completed their work on a proposal to provide prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries. What concerns me, however, is the process by which this measure was brought to the full House for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, the decision to add prescription drug coverage will result in the largest change to the Medicare program since its creation. This is not something that should be done lightly or in haste, or in response to an arbitrarily imposed political deadline. Given that, I have serious reservations about bringing such major policy-changing legislation to the floor for final passage less than three weeks after it was introduced.

With that said, I would like to comment on the positive points of the bill as well as highlight some of my specific concerns with the legislation.

In my view, any proposal to offer prescription drug coverage under Medicare needs to contain the following characteristics: be voluntary, have universal eligibility under Medicare, contain stop-loss protections to guard against catastrophic expenses, offer choices in the type of coverage provided, and remain a good value over time.

The proposal outlined in H.R. 4954 clearly meets these requirements. In fact, it is an improvement over the first attempt by Congress to deal with this issue back in 2000. It contains a lower premium, lower catastrophic protection threshold, greater savings for the average senior, and higher subsidies for low-income individuals and couples.

H.R. 4954 establishes a comprehensive, permanent prescription drug benefit for those eligible under Medicare. Specifically, the measure provides \$310 billion over ten years for a voluntary plan with the following standard benefits: an annual \$250 deductible; for the first \$251–\$1,000 spent on prescription drugs, the senior pays 20 percent; for the next \$1,001–\$2,000 spent on prescription drugs,

the senior pays 50 percent; it provides 100 percent coverage for every out of pocket dollar spent over \$3700; it contains a premium of around \$33 per month.

This measure avoids a one-size-fits-all government imposed solution by offering senior citizens a choice in the types of plans in which to enroll. In doing this, the government will guarantee that at least two plans will be available in every area of the country. Moreover, the proposal fully funds all costs for those enrollees below 150% of the poverty rate, and partially funds the costs of those up to 175% of the poverty rate. Those seniors will be responsible for a \$2 copayment on generic and preferred drugs, and a \$5 copayment on non-preferred drugs.

Participation in the plan will be purely voluntary. However, to encourage healthy seniors to enroll, there is a cumulative penalty for those who elect not to opt into the program when they are first eligible to do so. An important exception to this, however, are those seniors already enrolled in a continuing coverage plan, whether through their employer or through an employee retirement plan.

This is an important component that was not included in the measure passed in 2000. Its inclusion should prevent the danger of adverse selection, the condition whereby most seniors in good health avoid signing up for a plan, leaving the majority of enrollees coming from the sickest segment of the population. If this were to occur, the premiums and deductibles would have to be far higher than presently outlined.

Moreover, by covering part or all of the costs of those with incomes up to 175% of the poverty level, the measure further reduces the danger from adverse selection. In the final analysis, the legislation strives to ensure that there would be an adequate base of healthy seniors to offset the portion in greatest need of the benefit.

As I noted, I do have some reservations about certain aspects of this bill. My chief concern is that this legislation does not adequately address the matter of those drug companies which are raising the prices on their products annually at rates three to ten times the rate of inflation.

While it is true that this measure exempts the new plan from the Medicaid "best prices requirement," whereby any savings achieved through this plan would need to be extended to Medicaid as well, I am unsure whether this in itself is enough to deter the drug companies from trying to take advantage of the perceived windfall that they might see in the Federal Government assuming a large portion of the costs of drugs used by senior citizens.

We also need to be cognizant of the viability of private insurers underwriting plans in areas where it is not profitable for them to do so. Recent experience with Medicare + Choice plans in my district have borne out this concern. In such cases, the government would step in as the "insurer of last resort," assuming a share of the risk as well as subsidizing the cost of offering service in a rural area. My chief concern with this is that it has the potential to become a costly venture for the government, where the private insurers deliberately hold out in order to secure a greater level of government funding.

In spite of these reservations, I firmly believe that this legislation is an important first

step in providing a benefit to our senior citizens which is long overdue. The prescription drugs situation will not change on its own in the future. The pharmaceutical companies have demonstrated scant interest in holding the levels of their annual price increases in line with inflation. Rather, while we will continue to see a flood of new revolutionary products hitting the market, this will be accompanied by price increases that put these products out of reach of their intended audience.

I am not calling for price controls. I believe in the free market, and in market capitalism. However, since the last time the House visited this issue, the drug companies have ignored the invisible hand in favor of the cash cow. Drug marketers, like any other entrepreneur, have the right to make a profit, but they are not entitled to do so on the back of the American taxpayer. If the government is going to subsidize a portion of the drug costs borne by seniors, the manufacturers need to be placed on notice that this will not be an opportunity for them to raid the Federal treasury in order to pad their bottom line.

This bill is the first step towards meeting a long overdue need. For that reason, despite my stated reservations, I intend to give it my support. It is my hope that my concerns will be addressed in a future House-Senate conference on this issue.

Finally, this legislation provides \$40 billion in badly needed adjustments and improvements to the Medicare Part B system. These include, but are not limited to: repeal of the 15% reimbursement cut for home health care providers, which was scheduled to go into effect in October 2002, increased payments to sole community hospitals, which serve rural areas, increased Medicare payment adjustment rates for physicians, reduced paperwork burdens for all providers, and stabilization for the Medicare + Choice system, which has bled out recently.

Mr. Speaker, this issue is too serious for party politics, and, as I stated at the outset, I urge my colleagues to give it their careful and thoughtful consideration. Our seniors and Medicare health care providers have waited long enough for relief. It is past time for the Congress to act.

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a strong and comprehensive prescription drug benefit for all Americans. As the prices for prescription drugs have risen at twice as the inflation rate, this issue is of the utmost importance to Americans in need of prescription drugs.

Unfortunately, in the House there is only one prescription drug coverage proposal that will truly serve America's seniors and medically dependent populations. The Democrat prescription drug plan is the only proposal that is under Medicare, that gives consumers choice, that has no gap in coverage, that has legitimate drug cost controls, and that will truly assist American's with the exorbitantly rising costs of prescription drugs.

The health of our nation depends on a strong drug proposal such as this.

The Republican's bill would not provide the American people with an assured, reliable or substantive prescription drug benefit.

The Republican bill would cover less than 25 percent of Medicare beneficiaries drug costs, leaving millions of Americans with much of the high drug costs they now face.

The Republican bill includes a "hole" in the middle, where there is no coverage for drug costs between \$2000 and \$5600. Perhaps the other side didn't do their research, as nearly half of all seniors have drug costs over \$2000, and would receive no coverage under the Republican plan for part of the year.

Where is the benefit of this drug plan? Isn't the point of a prescription drug benefit to alleviate costs? Well, the Republican plan will hardly alleviate costs. Nor will it insure that a plan exists for all Americans.

The Republican bill would rely on private insurance companies to provide a yet-to-exist prescription drug-only plan. This proposal includes no guarantee for stable coverage by private insurance companies but merely suggests what plans private firms may offer. Under this plan, costs of the plans may vary, and seniors on fixed incomes will have less opportunity to plan for their drug expenditures and personal budgets.

As for consumer choice, the Republican proposal stops well short of providing any choices. Under the Republican plan, if a drug is not on a formulary, then it is not covered, and even when a drug is on the formulary, this bill permits private insurance not to cover it.

The Republican plan does not let people choose their own pharmacies, and instead creates private networks for drug delivery, increasing the time, trouble and travel seniors, caregivers and the disabled must go through to obtain necessary medication.

Finally, the people that this program should most benefit—America's low-income senior population—are left out in the cold. In the Republican plan, low-income seniors will be required to pay up to \$3600 out-of-pocket expenses per year to cover the "hole" in coverage, would have weak protections from high medicine copayments, and worse, could face denial of medicine if they are unable to cover the co-pay.

The Democrat bill is not deficient in these ways.

The Democrat plan has no hole in the coverage, and would not stick seniors with the \$3600 potential bill that the Republican plan would.

The Democrat plan limits out-of-pocket costs to just \$2000 per year—as much as 47 percent less than the limit under the Republican plan.

The Democrat plan gives consumers choice, allowing them the freedom to use the pharmacy of choice, instead of the restrictive "private network" limitations of the Republican plan.

Nor does the Democrat plan limit the access to specific medicines, and instead pays some coverage for all drugs, regardless if they are on the formulary or not. The Democrat plan would not steer, limit or channel American's to specific drugs as the Republican plan would.

And perhaps most importantly, the Democrat plan has a method for controlling the actual costs for drugs. It is the dramatic increase in prescription drugs that has brought us to

this juncture, and the Democrat plan would enable the Health and Human Services Secretary to negotiate prices on behalf of all Americans, thereby saving American consumers, taxpayers, and the government millions in drug costs. Under the Republican plan, there is no collective effort towards cost controls, and realistically, there will be no control of spiraling drug costs.

Mr. Speaker, I am not alone in my opposition to the Republican bill and my support for a strong and true prescription drug benefit. The National Association of Chain Drug Stores, the AFL-CIO, the Medical Group Management Association, the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers, Families USA, the National Council on Aging, and perhaps most importantly, the American Association of Retired Persons all either oppose the Republican plan, or endorse the Democrat prescription drug plan.

America's senior community—what has been called "America's Greatest Generation"—deserves no less than a substantive and strong prescription drug benefit bill. I urge my colleagues not to fall for the smoke and mirrors, and to realize that the Republican plan will not provide the relief and benefit that is needed to combat the rising costs of prescription drugs. Our seniors do not deserve limited choices on drugs and pharmacies, and should not be made to shoulder the high costs of the Republican plan.

Don't be duped America—there is only one bill that works for America, only one bill that will provide Americans affordable access to drugs, and that is the Democrat prescription drug bill.

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday June 27, 2002

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4954 because it provides prescription drugs for all seniors as an entitlement under Medicare. Equally important, it prepares Medicare to deliver state-of-the-art health care to our seniors in the decades to come. Without passage of this bill, Medicare will continue to deny seniors the care they need and will continue to force the diversion of critical care hours from patients to paper work. Seniors would continue to be held hostage to an antiquated benefit structure while the rest of America benefits from advances in medicine, technology, and best practices.

First, in the area of prescription drugs, this bill captures deep discounts on drug prices, and then further reduces the cost of drugs to seniors through direct subsidies of 50 to 80%—up to \$2000 of costs. Two-thirds of seniors use less than \$2000 in prescription drugs a year, so this bill will provide them with tremendous relief. For low-income seniors—up to 150% of the federal poverty level (in 2005, \$15,065 for individuals and \$19,392 for couples)—drug costs will be paid 100 percent up to \$2000 a year (this includes premiums, copays, and the deductible). I want to stress that because twice as many women as men have

low incomes in their elder years, this is a tremendous boon to women's health and does what Americans want: helps those most who need the most help!

The bill also provides catastrophic protections to all. It assures that no senior need fear that cancer or another dread disease will consume their life savings and leave them destitute.

You've all been hearing from pharmacists. This bill recognizes the expertise of pharmacists more specifically and constructively than any legislation ever has. It requires that drug plans establish medication therapy management programs for patients with chronic health conditions. Pharmacists must be paid adequately to provide their services. Pharmacists must be involved in developing formularies.

And access to local pharmacies is encouraged, not discouraged. To encourage face-to-face visits, all drug plans must provide convenient access to a "bricks and mortar" pharmacy in their network, as defined by Medicare; all drug plans must offer a point-of-service option that allows beneficiaries to go to any pharmacy they desire (for an additional charge); and no mail-order only plans are permitted.

Second, this bill provides better access to preventive health care by offering an annual physical on entry into Medicare, cholesterol screenings, and new choices in Medigap plans that have no co-payment for preventive care. In addition, the bill revitalizes Medicare+Choice plans that have the flexibility to cover far more preventive services than traditional Medicare, from simple, useful annual physicals to disease management programs.

Third, by strengthening the Medicare+Choice plans so that they can once again grow, this bill prepares Medicare to meet the growing challenge of helping seniors manage chronic illness—to dramatically improve their health and quality of life and manage their health care costs. As the majority of our seniors have multiple chronic illnesses and the M+C plans alone have the technology to offer disease management, this alternative must be available to seniors nationwide. Acute care coverage is simply no longer enough.

Fourth, passage of this bill will reduce medication errors that are causing injury and death, because it requires adoption of computerized prescription ordering that will flag drug interactions and provide health care professionals better quality data to improve clinical care.

Fifth, it will enable Medicare to compensate provider more realistically and fairly. Without action, Medicare will continue to follow the path of Medicaid, undermining both the quality of our health care system and access to services by underpaying providers and driving them out of serving our seniors.

Last, this bill will enable Medicare services to be delivered more efficiently and cost-effectively. At long last, in fact for the first time in Medicare's history, this bill will radically reform the bureaucracy that has grown substantially as our laws and payment structures have exploded in number and complexity. In fact, the Medicare bureaucracy is in crisis.

Medicare is governed by over 125,000 pages of regulations—more than the IRS regulations for the entire tax system. The error rate in carriers answering basic questions from physicians was 85%, dwarfing the problems at IRS. This problem is so great that it threatens

to force small providers out of Medicare, be they physician practices, small visiting nurse providers, small nursing homes, or small hospitals. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand the impact of such a consequence on rural America or our urban neighborhoods.

So while the words "regulatory reform" don't have the power over seniors' attention that "prescription drugs" have, in the long run they are equally important.

This is a good, solid, balanced bill. It modernizes Medicare to meet the future. It provides prescription drugs as an entitlement to all seniors under Medicare. It provides total benefits to those on Medicaid and—with states—will provide such total coverage to seniors under 175% of the poverty level, 44% of the population over 65. And for all others, this bill provides deep discounts, generous subsidies, and the peace of mind of catastrophic protection against high-cost drugs.

CONGRATULATING CORPORAL TOM
PENUEL AND AGENT FIRST
CLASS DREW AYDELOTTE FOR
HEROISM IN RESCUING THREE
BOATERS FROM DROWNING

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate two employees of the Delaware Fish and Wildlife Division for their heroic rescue on Sunday, June 30, 2002 of three boaters whose boat sunk in the Delaware Bay. Corporal Tom Penuel and Agent First Class Drew Aydelotte rescued Richard and Beth Owens and their friend, Beth Mariani, who were stranded in Delaware Bay for an hour after their boat sunk.

Mr. and Mrs. Owens and Ms. Mariani had been returning in a 17-foot Grady White boat from a fishing trip and stopped to check two crab pots a half-mile from Kitts Hummock. At that time, a wave crashed over the bow and filled up a live-bait well. Within 30 seconds, the boat sunk to the bottom of the Delaware Bay. Through quick thinking they were able to radio for help before the boat was lost. The Fish and Wildlife officers were dispatched from Bowers Beach 15 minutes later. This quick action was essential because as the boaters started to paddle toward shore on a boat seat, the seat became waterlogged and also sunk. Corporal Penuel and Agent First Class Aydelotte found them 1 hour later floating in the Delaware Bay a half-mile offshore. These two officers deserve our utmost gratitude and respect for their courageous efforts. Mr. and Mrs. Owens and Ms. Mariani also deserve recognition for their quick thinking and tremendous courage in surviving this tragic event. I wish them a full and speedy recovery.

Corporal Tom Penuel and Agent First Class Drew Aydelotte of the Delaware Fish and Wildlife Division serve as role models of dedication for all officials, not only in Delaware, but throughout the country. I commend them for their immense bravery in executing their life-saving training.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM F.
GUNN, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my fellow South Carolinian, Dr. William F. Gunn, Jr. Dr. Gunn is a graduate of Morehouse College, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education. He then continued his educational quest for knowledge at Indiana University receiving a Masters in Physical Education, and later a Doctorate in Education Administration at the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Gunn began his South Carolina teaching experience at Benedict College in Columbia in 1964, where he remained until 1999, when he retired as Professor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and the Chair of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department. While at Benedict his commitment to the school extended out of the classroom onto the athletic field as coach of the tennis, cross-country, and soccer teams throughout the years.

Dr. Gunn is also a member of the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, the American Association of University Professors, Phi Delta Kappa, the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations, and the South Carolina Parks Recreation Association. Dr. Gunn is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. He has also served as Chairman of the Saint Luke's Center Community Council, the Ethnic Minorities Committee for South Carolina Association of Health, Physical Education and dance, and the South Carolina Governor's Council on Physical Fitness from 1984–1987. Additionally, he has served on the United Black Fund of Midlands Board of Directors, and on the Richland County Board of the Tuberculosis Association.

Dr. Gunn's many accomplishments include being recipient of a United Negro College Fund Study Grant, 1972; University Year Academic Grant, 1976, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, 1976–1977, named Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity "Man of the Year" for South Carolina by the Ethnic Minorities Committee, 1985; and the recipient of a ten, fifteen, twenty, and thirty year awards for excellence in teaching from Benedict College.

Throughout his career, Dr. Gunn has also written and published numerous papers and books on community health related projects, the Health profession, and African American Education/Group Leadership. Some of his more notable publications include the Hip-Hop Culture: A Suggested Leisure Counseling Model for Young Clients," 1998; "Leisure and Spiritual Well-Being: Vital for Maximizing Human Potential," 1999; and "Healing the Body and Mind Through Cosmic Rhythms in Music and Dance," 2002.

Mr. Speaker. I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in honoring Dr. William F. Gunn, Jr., a man who's contributions to his community and the educational system will leave lasting impressions on the numerous lives he has touched. I wish him continued success and Godspeed!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EFFORTS
TO ELIMINATE THE WORST
FORMS OF CHILD LABOR IN
WEST AFRICA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform you and our colleagues about the progress that has been made toward ending a shameful practice of child slavery. Just one year ago on June 28th, the House of Representatives voted 291–115 to set aside funding within the Food and Drug Administration to develop a labeling program for products made with cocoa. The label was intended to distinguish between cocoa products made with child slave labor and those that were not.

As you may recall, last summer we all became aware of this problem through media reports, such as those in the Knight-Ridder Newspapers, that told the stories of children being kidnapped from their home countries, such as Mali, and then sold into slavery in the Ivory Coast. The stories were horrifying. Children as young as 9 years of age are being forced to work without pay, live in squalor, and fear for their physical safety.

Last year, the House of Representatives resoundingly said “This is not acceptable.” Chocolate is one of our most beloved treats, but it doesn’t taste as sweet with the bitterness of child slavery in its mix.

Since that day last year much has happened. I am pleased with and proud of the enormous progress that has been made toward ending this terrible situation. First, let me congratulate the chocolate industry for so quickly deciding to tackle this problem head on. The industry joined a number of non-governmental organizations in signing an agreement, now known as the “Harkin-Engel Protocol,” which set up a framework for dealing with the problem of child slavery in the cocoa fields. The protocol is a serious commitment by the stakeholders to create an historic effort to end child slavery in this industry.

This effort is not just the result of the United States Congress though. Our colleagues in the parliament of Great Britain have also been working on this issue. On May 20, 2002 the House of Commons held what we would call a special order on the specific issue of child slavery in the cocoa fields of West Africa. During the debate, the Honorable Tony Colman of Putney quoted his constituent who is an expert on the problems of child trafficking and slavery, Professor Kevin Bales, as saying “The Protocol . . . is a very good thing. It is the first time that an industry has taken social, moral and economic responsibility for their entire product chain. The Anti-Slavery movement has been seeking such an agreement for 160 years.”

Throughout the past year, the world’s cocoa producers and users have met and signed onto agreements that commit everyone to ending this practice. For example, on November 30, 2001 a wide array of organizations from around the globe signed a joint statement regarding their efforts toward eliminating child slave labor in the cocoa fields. The list of organizations is very impressive: the Association of the Chocolate, Biscuit, and Confectionary Industries of the European Union; the Choco-

late Manufacturers of Association of the USA; the Confectionary Manufacturers Association of Canada; the Cocoa Association of London and the Federation for Cocoa Commerce; the Cocoa Merchants Association of America; the European Cocoa Association; the International Office of Cocoa, Chocolate, and Confectionery; the World Cocoa Foundation; the Child Labor Coalition; Free The Slaves; the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations; the National Consumers League; and the Government of the Ivory Coast. The joint statement recognized the “urgent need to identify and eliminate child labour in violation of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182 with respect to the growing and processing of cocoa beans and their derivative products.”

Furthermore, in January of this year the Government of the Ivory Coast ratified two important international labor agreements governing child labor—Conventions 138 and 182 of the International Labor Organization. By becoming signatories to these conventions, the Government of the Ivory Coast took a huge step forward toward implementing responsible labor standards for children within its own borders. In part, because of this step, the Bush Administration in May 2002 granted the Ivory Coast eligibility status under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

Finally, last week the efforts of dozens of organizations and hundreds of people culminated in the creation of an international foundation that will “oversee and sustain efforts to eliminate abusive child labor practices in the growing of cocoa.” In future years, the foundation, with assistance from the governments of the world, will put in place “credible standards of public certification that cocoa beans have been grown without any of the worst forms of child labor.”

These are not easy problems to remedy. Many of these children do not speak French, the main language of the Ivory Coast. Many parents willingly let them go, believing their children will be learning a trade as part of an apprenticeship. Many children are orphaned. How we deal with these children on an individual basis will be difficult. Repatriating the children, reunifying the families, finding alternatives for orphaned and abandoned children all must happen. It will take hard work. It will not happen overnight. But we must try and we must succeed.

In declaring our own independence and throwing off the shackles of tyranny, our forefathers wrote “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Never once in the history of our great nation have we ever believed that these rights were reserved to the people of the United States. In fact at the core of our beliefs is that all people everywhere have the unalienable right to liberty. The problem of child slavery in West Africa is as much the responsibility of the governments there as it is our own.

Today, I am pleased and proud to report that we here in Congress are a part of the movement to put an end to one of the most egregious ills in the world today—child slavery.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KONRAD K.
DANNENBERG

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great member of the North Alabama community, Mr. Konrad K. Dannenberg. On August 6th, Mr. Dannenberg will celebrate his 90th birthday. Throughout his ninety years, Mr. Dannenberg has been a leader in our nation’s space program, retiring from Marshall Space Flight Center in 1973 as Deputy Director of Program Development’s Mission and Payload Planning Office. Today, Mount Hope Elementary School in Decatur, Alabama is honoring Mr. Dannenberg for his service to their school, the North Alabama community, and the nation.

Konrad Dannenberg, born in Weissenfels, Germany, worked with Wernher von Braun in Peenemunde, Germany and came to the United States after World War II under “Project Paperclip.” He later helped develop and produce the Redstone and Jupiter missile systems for the Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Redstone Arsenal. In 1960, he joined NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center as Deputy Manager of the Saturn program, where he received the NASA Exceptional Service Medal.

Mr. Dannenberg is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and was past president of the Alabama/Mississippi Chapter. He was the recipient of the 1960 DURAND Lectureship and the 1995 Hermann Oberth Award. Additionally, the NASA Alumni League, the Hermann Oberth Society of Germany, and the L-5 Society (now the National Space Society) have the benefit of Mr. Dannenberg’s membership. In 1992, the Alabama Space and Rocket Center created a scholarship in his name to allow one student to attend a Space Academy session.

Mr. Speaker, as you can tell, during Mr. Dannenberg’s career, he was a valuable player in the advancement of our space program and was appreciated by co-workers and important organizations throughout the industry. Following his retirement, he has remained a major influence in the North Alabama community and still serves as a consultant for the Alabama Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville. I want to congratulate Mr. Konrad Dannenberg on his 90th birthday and thank him for the important contributions he has made to our community in North Alabama and the entire United States.

H.R. 4623—CHILD OBSCENITY AND
PORNOGRAPHY PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill I cosponsored, H.R. 4623, the Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act. This bill marks a truly important step forward in protecting our Nation’s kids from the scourge of pedophiles and child exploitation.

Troubling headlines involving kids around the country are showing that there is a dark side to the Internet. The very technology that has wired the world, allowing information to flow like never before, also presents new dangers for our children, even in our small, safe hometowns. Parents used to worry about their kids talking to strangers. Now it seems commonplace for them to do so everyday online. I know the Internet helps our children with everything from schoolwork to applying to college to keeping in touch with their friends, but I also recognize that this more frequent contact with strangers exposes children to the dangers of pornographers and other exploitation. Worse yet, the prevalence of virtual child pornography—computer generated images that are indistinguishable from real children and only serve to whet the appetites of pedophiles and would-be molesters—has become more difficult to prevent as a result of a recent court decision.

In April, the Supreme Court, in *Ashcroft v. The Free Speech Coalition*, struck down as unconstitutional portions of the Child Pornography Prevention Act (Pub. L. 104–208) that made it illegal to create, distribute or possess “virtual” child pornography. In its opinion striking down the provisions of the law, however, the court ruled that extending the reach of child pornography laws to computer-generated and other images involving no real children was “overbroad and unconstitutional” and that the law would prohibit visual depictions, such as movies, art or medical manuals, that have redeeming social value.

The Court’s decision left our children vulnerable, so I am pleased to support this legislation to strengthen the laws to go after those who would bring harm to our children. By carefully crafting this bill to narrowly define the terms and scope of the law, we have addressed the concerns raised by the Court and will provide lasting protection for our children against would-be pedophiles and exploiters. Because of the many important freedoms our constitution guarantees, it is a delicate exercise to prohibit even the most vile forms of expression. I believe we have achieved a balance in this bill of clearly defining that which we seek to ban, while protecting the freedom of speech that the constitution intends, and I am confident that this legislation will stand up to challenge.

It is imperative that Congress act swiftly to restore the prohibitions in law that recognize this horrible use of technology for what it is: yet another way for pedophiles and molesters to exploit children. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

HONORING THE WETLANDS INSTITUTE ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the fine work of the Wetlands Institute of Stone Harbor, New Jersey on its 30th Anniversary. As an important haven for wildlife habitation and education, the Wetlands Institute deserves to be recognized and applauded.

Opened in 1972 by its founder, Herbert Mills, the Wetlands Institute has a clear mis-

sion to promote the appreciation and understanding of the vital role wetlands and coastal ecosystems play in the survival of life on this planet. This not for profit organization reaches out and educates the community by providing a fun learning experience for families, school groups and vacationers of all ages. Each year the Institute works hard to hosts thousands of visitors, supplying them with unforgettable views of countless species of birds, salt water aquaria and beautiful gardens.

The ambitious and honorable goals of the Wetland Institute include teaching the value of wetlands and coastal systems, sponsoring important research of these ecosystems and encouraging the stewardship of these habitats worldwide. Since 1972, this organization has involved students in several of its conservation projects. Many of these projects have garnered national attention, such as the diamond back terrapin research reported by ABC and National Geographic, as well as photographs of a horseshoe crab spawning census published in LIFE magazine in 1999.

Through tirelessly striving to educate the public on the critical need for wetlands conservation, the Wetlands Institute has demonstrated a strong commitment to the community. I wish this valuable organization further success and would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL THERAPEUTIC RECREATION WEEK IN SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of “National Therapeutic Recreation Week” in South Carolina as proclaimed by Governor Jim Hodges.

The purpose of this event, which begins today and is celebrated through July 14, is to increase public awareness of therapeutic recreation programs and services, and expand recreational and leisure opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Physical therapists from all over the state met and worked together to eliminate barriers to leisure activities for many with disabilities and educate people in leisure skills and attitudes. These therapists constantly stressed the importance and advantage of having a clear understanding of how involvement in leisure and recreational activities improves physical and psychosocial health, and how recreation can provide individuals with a sense of self-confidence and satisfaction.

The theme for “National Therapeutic Recreation Week” is “Therapeutic Recreation . . . Examine the Possibilities.” The theme suited the occasion perfectly, as the aim was to explore a variety of methods used by therapeutic recreation professionals to enhance the quality of life and well being of persons with disabilities.

This year’s “National Therapeutic Recreation Week” will hopefully generate more interest and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the positive benefits of leisure and recreation.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of South Carolinians devoted their time and energy to im-

prove their quality of life, and also the lives of others. Please join me in recognizing the gallant efforts of these individuals, and the wonderful accomplishments they made during “National Therapeutic Recreation Week.”

TRIBUTE TO DR. I. MILEY GONZALEZ

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. I. Miley Gonzalez who has been serving in the capacity of Interim Vice Provost of Research at New Mexico State University. Dr. Gonzalez will be leaving NMSU after an impressive record as an administrator, an academic, and public servant to the community of Las Cruces, the state of New Mexico and our Nation.

Dr. Gonzalez rejoined the university in 2001 after nearly four years as U.S. Under-Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education and Economics. Before accepting former President Clinton’s appointment to the Department of Agriculture in 1997, he served as assistant dean and deputy director of the Cooperative Extension Service from 1994 to 1996, head of the agricultural and extension education department from 1991 to 1994, and director of the college’s international programs from 1992 to 1994. He began his professional career as a high school vocational agriculture teacher in 1970.

Prior to Dr. Gonzalez joining the faculty at New Mexico State University he served as a State 4-H Specialist at Pennsylvania State University and participated in Extension Program activities. He taught numerous undergraduate and graduate courses including guest lectures in Spanish. He is a member of several academic and professional organizations, and has published journal articles and instructional materials in Spanish and English. Dr. Gonzalez received a B.S. and an M.S. from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University in Agricultural and Extension Education. In 1999 Dr. Gonzalez was one of six people to receive the Outstanding Alumni awards from Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences. The award recognizes outstanding graduates and provides opportunities for interaction among the college’s alumni, students and faculty.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gonzalez has had a prosperous career while at NMSU. During his tenure Dr. Gonzalez was always known for taking time to meet with any student who needed to talk with him. It is often said that if our children are our future, the quality of our schools and their teachers will largely determine the quality of the future that our children will or will not enjoy. Dr. Gonzalez’s interest in the well being of his students can be found in the communities throughout New Mexico, the country, as well as in the halls of Congress. Several of those former students, who worked with Dr. Gonzalez in either the academic or extra-curricular environment, have worked or are currently working in my office or in the offices of Representative SKEEN, Senator BINGAMAN, Senator DOMINICI, or members of the President’s Cabinet. He has also been named as one of the top 100 Hispanic Leaders in the country.

While serving as Under Secretary of Agriculture, Dr. Gonzalez was known for his strong efforts to forging a closer, more personal link between land-grant and research institutions and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, an agency that we all know provides funding for innovative research into the production of food and fiber, and the preservation of the environment. The Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics provides centralized organization and management of the research, education, and economic programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In his role Dr. Gonzalez oversaw the Agricultural Research Service, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the Economic Research Service and the National Statistics Service.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my best wishes to Dr. I. Miley Gonzalez in his future endeavors. The community of Las Cruces and New Mexico State University will greatly miss Dr. Gonzalez's presence—but the product of his work can be found in the faces of our current and future leaders. I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the achievements and contributions of this outstanding educator, administrator, public servant and New Mexican.

FEDERAL BILL TO MAKE SURVIVOR BENEFITS TO ALL BENEFICIARIES OF SLAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TAX FREE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to make benefits received by the beneficiaries (who are not a spouse or child) of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty tax-free. My bill amends the Officer Brian Gibson Tax Free Pension Equity Act that I introduced in 1997 after a District of Columbia police officer was killed in Ward 4, to relieve the spouses and children of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty from taxation on death benefits. The law now applies to all law enforcement officers in the United States. I wrote the bill after I discovered that officers received disability benefits tax-free while the death benefits of survivors were taxed. I decided to amend my bill after the Mychal Judge Police and Fire Chaplains Public Safety Officers' Benefit Act of 2002, allowing domestic partners to receive Federal death benefits, was enacted and signed by the President last month. That bill was stimulated by September 11th and the discovery that the domestic partners of police and fire officers killed in the Twin Towers tragedy were being denied death benefits.

The bill I introduce today is the logical companion bill to the 9–11 public safety officers bill that is now law because it simply allows the same exemption from taxation that other beneficiaries will now receive. Without this new bill, the very inequity Congress clearly intended to eliminate between the spouses and relatives of slain officers on the one hand and other beneficiaries on the other would be reintroduced. If the death benefits of these

beneficiaries of slain officers are tax exempt, it follows that the same benefits to other congressionally recognized beneficiaries should be similarly exempt. I believe that this remaining difference was not deliberate, but resulted from the fact that my earlier bill amended the tax code and was not immediately apparent to the authors of the recent bill.

I ask all of my colleagues to support this corrective measure.

CELEBRATING THE GRUNION GAZETTE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Grunion Gazette for providing Long Beach with an outstanding weekly newspaper for 25 years.

The Grunion, named after Long Beach's famous grunion runs, was founded by Tedi and Pat Cantalupo who began publishing the Grunion out of their home in the Belmont Shore area of Long Beach in 1977. In 1981, the Cantalupos sold the Grunion to Fran and John Blowitz who have built the paper into what it is today—one of the finest weekly newspapers in Southern California.

The Grunion Gazette has provided its readers with a sense of community and cohesiveness through its in-depth reporting on a variety of local topics. It keeps its readers well informed with news and information from city government, business, education, and the community, and provides a calendar of events, wedding announcements, obituaries, health and fitness advice, and a dining guide. Its opinion columns are based on local insights, along with a lively letters to the editor section and the witty commentary of Charlie the dog (aka Jacques Warshauer) in "Charlie's Corner," one of the Gazette's longest running features. All of this is combined with wonderful photos that capture the personality of the area and a website that opens the Gazette to readers around the world.

Fran and John Blowitz can take great pride in all that they have accomplished as owners of the Grunion Gazette, and as owners of the Downtown Gazette edition that they began 17 years ago. But that is not the whole story. Fran and John and their colleagues have also provided exceptional volunteer service to our community. They have served on numerous boards and committees and have helped to start such traditions as the Belmont Shore Christmas Parade. They also created the Gazette's Valentines' Date Night that draws thousands of people to the Queen Mary and raises more than \$50,000 a year for heart programs at Long Beach hospitals.

I salute Fran and John Blowitz, Associate Publisher and Executive Editor Harry Saltzgaver, Editor Kurt Helin, and all the fine staff and contributors for their commitment to the Grunion Gazette. Congratulations for 25 years of setting the highest standard for what a community newspaper can and should be.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUNE RENFRO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to bring to the attention of this House the inspiring accomplishments of June Renfro. June was recently awarded the Rifle (Colorado) Chamber of Commerce's 'Person of the Year' award for her dedication to her community. The selfless love with which she has promoted the betterment of the Rifle area has been a moving reminder of the affection many in my state have for their communities.

June Renfro was born on a ranch just north-east of Nunn, Colorado. She spent 18 years in the upholstery business in Greeley while actively pursuing a career with Home Interiors and Gifts, an at-home interior decorating service. However, when Mrs. Renfro's husband tragically passed away, June decided it was time to escape the cold winters in that area and moved to Rifle in 1997 to spend more time with her daughter Judy.

The joy with which June has embraced her new community later in life has been an inspiration to her new neighbors. At the age of 68 June threw herself wholeheartedly into the Rifle community, utilizing her love of people and inquisitive nature to become Rifle's biggest cheerleader. She became involved with the Chamber of Commerce ambassadors and began taping local business profiles for Rifle's Community Access Channel 13. June did everything in her power to share her talents and infectious spirit with her new neighbors in Rifle.

Mr. Speaker it is my privilege to pay tribute to June Renfro for her contributions to the rifle community. I applaud her receipt of the Rifle Chamber of Commerce's 'Person of the Year' award recognizing her significant achievements for the good of the community. At the age of 73, June's commitment to her neighborhood should be a lesson to all of us that we can continue to affect our communities for the public. For this unwavering dedication, as well as her infectious love of her newfound home, I bring June Renfro's example to the attention of this body of Congress.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GENE TAYLOR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to pay tribute to a model citizen of the Grand Junction, Colorado community. Gene Taylor has gained the respect and admiration of the community through his company, Gene Taylor's Sporting Goods, and has provided professional and quality service to the city for over forty years. Gene's secret to success is simple; he values the customer and is dedicated to providing quality products in his establishments. He is a pillar of the Grand Junction community and I am honored to bring forth his accomplishments before this body of Congress, and this nation.

As the market for sporting goods and competition for the community's business increased, Gene has managed to stay successful through his hard work and dedication to his community. As an active business and civic member and provider of financial assistance to worthy causes, Gene's stores are covered with banners from local schools thanking him for his help and support to their causes. His latest contribution to the city was the donation of five and one half acres for a new skating rink in Grand Junction, the Charlene Glebler Community Ice Arena. This donation, along with Gene's life-long belief in community service, is one of the many admirable qualities of this man and I am grateful for his service to the area.

As a family friend and admirer of Gene, let me point out that the entire family is involved in the operation and all carry Gene's commitment to excellence in their daily lives. Gene is well known as a loving husband to his wife Beverly, and a devoted father to his six children Roseanne, Duke, Marshall, Amy, Tony, and Jenny.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and satisfaction that I bring the life and accomplishments of Gene Taylor to the attention of this

nation today. Gene's success story serves as a model example of hard work and perseverance for a member of the business and civic community and I am honored to represent Gene and his family before this body of Congress. Gene and his family have been well-respected members of the Grand Junction community for many years and I am grateful for their service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HENRY H.
CAIRNS, SR.

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of Henry H. Cairns Sr. of San Diego, California. Henry Cairns, known as Hank, honorably devoted his life to defending the freedoms of our nation. He upheld America's liberty and has earned a place amongst our country's leaders. Today we mourn the

loss of a courageous father, grandfather, husband, brother, son, and soldier.

Hank moved to Colorado when he was six weeks old, and he spent most of his adolescent and young adult years in Montrose. When he graduated from high school, Hank with the help of his brother opened his own candy store. Hank found his place, honorably serving in our Air Force, and as the Captain of the 852nd Bombardier, 8th Air Force Squadron, Hank upheld liberty and freedom by bravely fighting and living through his detainment at a prisoner of war camp during World War II. Hank served our nation proudly, and after the war he respectfully returned to the United States. Hank has contributed greatly to our country by helping build roads, and runways around neighborhoods, military bases, and cities in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor an individual who contributed selflessly to the betterment of our nation, and although we will grieve the loss, we will rejoice over a man of great character and conduct. I express my sincerest condolences to his family and friends, and I salute Aaron Romero before this body of Congress and this nation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2002 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 10

9:30 a.m.
 Veterans' Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the continuing challenges of care and compensation due to military exposures. SR-418

Energy and Natural Resources
 Water and Power Subcommittee
 To hold oversight hearings to examine water resource management issues on the Missouri River. SD-366

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine railway safety. SR-253

10 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine Elder health issues. SR-485

Judiciary
 Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. SD-226

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 Business meeting to consider S. 710, to require coverage for colorectal cancer screenings; S. 2328, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure a safe pregnancy for all women in the United States, to reduce the rate of maternal morbidity and mortality, to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes, to reduce pre-term, labor, to examine the impact of pregnancy on the short and long term health of women, to expand knowledge about the safety and dosing of drugs to treat pregnant women with chronic conditions and women who become sick during pregnancy, to expand public health prevention, education and outreach, and to develop improved and more accurate data collection related to maternal morbidity and mortality; S. 812, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide greater access to affordable pharmaceuticals; S. 2489, to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a

program to assist family caregivers in accessing affordable and high-quality respite care; and the nominations of Richard H. Carmona, of Arizona, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service; Naomi Shihab Nye, of Texas, and Michael Pack, of Maryland, each to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities; Earl A. Powell III, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts; Robert Davila, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council On Disability; and Peter J. Hurtgen, of Maryland, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director. SD-430

11 a.m.
 Printing
 To hold hearings to examine federal government printing and public access to government documents. SR-301

2 p.m.
 Environment and Public Works
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposal to establish the Department of Homeland Security. SD-406

2:30 p.m.
 Judiciary
 Crime and Drugs Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine issues concerning white collar crime. SD-226

Energy and Natural Resources
 To hold hearings to examine the present and future roles of the Department of Energy/National Security Administration national laboratories in protecting our homeland security. SD-366

JULY 11

9 a.m.
 Judiciary
 To hold hearings to examine oversight of the Department of Justice and the impact of a new Department of Homeland Security. SD-106

9:30 a.m.
 Environment and Public Works
 To hold hearings to examine the progress of national recycling efforts, focusing on federal procurement of recycled-content products and producer responsibility related to the beverage industry. SD-406

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To hold hearings to examine the U.S. Climate Action Report concerning global climate change. SR-253

10 a.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 To hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy's Environmental Management program, focusing on DOE's progress in implementing its accelerated cleanup initiative, and the changes DOE has proposed to the EM science and technology program. SD-366

Judiciary
 Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. SD-226

Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine contemporary tribal governments, focusing on challenges in law enforcement related to the rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court. SR-485

2 p.m.
 Finance
 Social Security and Family Policy Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on S. 848, to amend title 18, United States Code, to limit the misuse of social security numbers, to establish criminal penalties for such misuse. SD-215

2:30 p.m.
 Foreign Relations
 African Affairs Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine implementing United States policy in Sudan. SD-419

JULY 16

9:30 a.m.
 Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Mark W. Everson, of Texas, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget. SD-342

Energy and Natural Resources
 To hold hearings to examine the Administration's plans to request additional funds for wildland firefighting and forest restoration as well as ongoing implementation of the National Fire Plan. SD-366

10 a.m.
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 To hold oversight hearings to examine the Semi-Annual Report on Monetary Policy of the Federal Reserve. SD-G50

JULY 17

10 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold oversight hearings to examine the protection of Native American sacred places. SR-485

10:30 a.m.
 Foreign Relations
 To resume hearings on the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions, Signed at Moscow on May 24, 2002 (Treaty Doc. 107-08). SD-419

JULY 18

10 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in Apache County, Arizona. SR-485

2 p.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings on proposed legislation to ratify an agreement to regulate air quality on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. SR-485

JULY 24

9:30 a.m.
 Veterans' Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine mental health care issues. SR-418

10 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings on S. 1344, to provide training and technical assistance to Native Americans who are interested in commercial vehicle driving careers. SR-485

<p>10 a.m. Indian Affairs</p> <p>To hold hearings on proposed legislation concerning the Department of the Interior/Tribal Trust Reform Taks Force; and to be followed by S. 2212, to establish a direct line of authority for the Office of Trust Reform Implementations and Oversight to oversee the management and reform of Indian trust funds and assets under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, and to advance tribal management of such funds and assets, pursu-</p>	<p>JULY 30</p>	<p>ant to the Indian Self-Determinations Act.</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Finance</p> <p>To hold hearings to examine the Report of the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security.</p> <p>10 a.m. Indian Affairs</p> <p>To hold oversight hearings to examine the application of criteria by the De-</p>	<p>JULY 31</p>	<p>partment of the Interior/Branch of Acknowledgment.</p> <p>10 a.m. Indian Affairs</p> <p>To hold oversight hearings to examine the Secretary of the Interior's Report on the Hoopa Yurok Settlement Act.</p> <p>2 p.m. Indian Affairs</p> <p>To hold oversight hearings to examine problems facing Native youth.</p>	<p>SR-485</p> <p>SD-215</p> <p>SR-485</p>
			<p>AUGUST 1</p>		