

her hours or lose more of her benefits to Social Security. This puts her in a particularly difficult situation because her health benefits are predicated on working a certain number of hours for the department store. Regulating her hours is also difficult during the busy holiday season at the end of the year. The store needs her more during these times, but she loses most of her benefits if her work puts her further over the Social Security limit.

MARY LOU LIVINGSTONE, SPRINGFIELD, IL

Mary Lou was divorced 19 years ago and worked ever since. She has no pension or retirement plan to draw from. She had to pay the Social Security Administration back \$549 in 1991, \$281 in 1992, \$935 in 1993 and \$730 in 1994 for earnings exceeding the Social Security earnings limit. During those years, her average Social Security check was \$288 per month. In 1994, Mary Lou cut back her hours to try to avoid the penalty, but still had to pay some money back. Mary Lou supplements her grocery bill each month through the Share Program sponsored by Catholic Charities. This program allows her to pay \$14 per month and receive \$35 worth of groceries.

Mary Lou works as an information receptionist at the visitors center of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, IL. She has worked there for nearly 12 years and has received numerous complimentary letters for her job performance. She was also featured as a staff star of the Springfield Bureau of Tourism.

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT AND SHIRLEY HICKEY, UNADILLA, NY

Robert and Shirley have both worked most of their lives. Shirley suffered a brain aneurism several years ago and is no longer able to work. However, Robert still works at a calendar factory as a kensole operator imprinting the lettering on the calendars. This is just to make ends meet. They have a 401(k) plan, but no other outside income.

Last year, Robert earned more than the earnings limit allows and was recently fined \$1,650 by the Social Security Administration. As a result, he and Shirley took out a personal loan against their 401(k) plan at a rate of 10 percent in order to pay their bill to Social Security. They can not afford the alternative, under which the Social Security Administration would cease payment of monthly Social Security benefits until the payment was complete. At the same time, Robert pays over \$3,000 a year in Federal income taxes for the privilege of working.

MARY LOU HAGAN, GROVILLE, CA

Mary Lou is a widow and is currently looking for part time work. She has been in the banking business for years, serving as a bank manager, loan officer and operations manager. She was earning a comfortable salary when the bank went under, with her retirement benefits with it. All of her retirement plan was in bank stock. After the bankruptcy, she recovered only \$1,000 from her retirement plan. In addition, much of her savings was invested in this stock, so she suffered further loss.

Mary Lou is an avid volunteer and serves on the hospital board, the Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Park, and Soroptimists International.

Nevertheless, Mary Lou wants and needs to get back to work, but the earnings penalty poses obstacles to gainful employment. A job she has recently applied for would require her to work all year at a salary that would exceed

the limit by about \$3,000. She could not take the job without agreeing to this work load, but she would not receive the benefits of the extra work.

JOSEPH O'BRIEN, RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA

Joe is an electrical engineer with 40 years of experience. He holds three patents for high speed counters. He has deliberately stopped working because he reached the earning limit after the first few months of the year. Society is being deprived of his considerable expertise because he is unable to keep his earnings if he works over the limit. He pays taxes to the Federal Government, which he feels are not adequately considered when the cost of the lifting the Social Security earnings penalty is calculated.

Joe feels that the optimum strategy is for a senior to work until hitting the limit, then quit for the rest of the calendar year. This makes it difficult for him to find a job fully utilizing his talents. His prospective employers know there must be limits on his commitments, so he ends up working on a contract basis, which means there are no benefits. In 1993, after reaching the limit, he made only 17 cents on the dollar after marginal tax rates were applied to his income. Joe realized he could have earned more on California unemployment.

Joe's father was also affected by the Social Security earning limit when he was alive. After raising three children alone—this wife died at age 42—and sending them through college, he was forced to work in his retirement years. Joe's father ended up taking money under the table through jobs that did not report his income to Social Security to avoid the law. While Joe does not advocate this, he knows it is a reality for many seniors.

THE SECOND ANNUAL SALUTE TO VIETNAM VETERANS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, a very special event will be taking place in my district later this month. The Hillsborough County Friends of the Parks and the Veterans Memorial Museum Committee are hosting the Second Annual Salute to Vietnam Veterans at Edward Medard Park.

This week-long salute is to honor all Vietnam veterans and will include the moving wall. This event is dedicated to Vietnam veterans and their families.

The moving wall is a one-half scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. It is 250 feet long and contains the names of 58,191 Americans killed during the Vietnam war. The wall also includes the names of American servicemembers still unaccounted for.

Eight women are listed among the names listed on the Wall. Seven of them were Army nurses and one was an Air Force nurse. There are also 16 chaplains listed on the Memorial. Two of these men were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The moving wall is a powerful symbol. Hundreds of thousands of people across the country have visited it in or near their communities. I am proud to say that on the previous occasions when it has been displayed in Florida,

approximately 300,000 Floridians have visited the moving wall.

As of January 1, 1993, the memorial has been displayed in 315 communities throughout the United States and Canada. In addition, it has been displayed in Puerto Rico and Guam. Requests to have the wall have come from as far away as Australia, Ireland, and Germany.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the organizers of this great event. It is a stirring reminder of just how blessed we are in the modern world to live in a free society, and will not allow us to forget that this blessing is due to the sacrifices of our friends, relatives, neighbors, and countrymen who served us all when duty called.

For as long as the American soldier stands ready to support his country and its allies, the forces of oppression and injustice will be held in check. For this, the American serviceman—the veteran—must never be forgotten.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROBERT A. BURT

HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to salute Robert A. Burt, a junior at Carson High School in Carson City, NV. Robert Burt was Nevada's winner of one of the 54 Voice of Democracy national scholarships awarded by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary. Along with 126,000 secondary school students, he entered the broadcast scriptwriting contest whose theme was "My Vision For America."

I believe his essay states an important theme and shows an optimism that we should all share, and I ask that it be reprinted in the RECORD.

MY VISION FOR AMERICA

(By 1994-95 VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship program Nevada Winner, Robert Burt, Post 3726, Carson City, Nevada)

America. My vision of this proud and glorious lady is not a dream of highways and skyscrapers, money and influence, but a scene of common, hardworking, honest people. A people who respect their neighbors, honor their families, and stand by their country. My vision of America is of a people and a land who are, as Alexandre Dumas phrased it, "All for one, and one for all."

My America is a place where people are not judged because of money and influence but through the work of their own two hands and intellect. My America is a land free of prejudice and ignorance. In my vision, a poor boy from Harlem will collaborate with the daughter of refugees and the son of white middle class workers in a scientific or on a medical breakthrough of the century. They will work not as individuals, but together as Americans. It will not matter what the participants' social background, or religious faith is, but their work as human beings that will be regarded. It will be a place where tolerance and acceptance of differences is not trampled by fear and hatred.

The America of the future is a place where we know and respect one another. It is a place where neighbors greet each other, a place where parents sit down with children and teach them to read.

America is not a place of "us" versus "them," it is a place of "we." The vision I

see is one of a place where people are willing to give of themselves. It is a place where the people carry the spirit of Lexington and Concord, Vicksburg and the Marne, Pearl Harbor and Omaha. The spirit of the men who fought at these hallowed places, is the spirit we must carry. That spirit is not something easily defined. It is part sacrifice, part unwillingness to give up, but mostly, . . . the desire to move forward through cooperation.

It is because of this spirit that the vision I see will surely come to pass. When the odds seem to be too great, we unite, not as blacks, not as Christians, not as refugees, but, as our forefathers did on those cold and distant battlefields so long ago, we unite as *Americans!* We help each other, we serve each other, and if necessary, we die for each other.

It will not take years for my vision to take place. It is happening right now: a teacher in the inner city helping a struggling student; a parent playing with a child; two friends talking, regardless of their race or background. America's future is not dim; it is just beginning to shine! The future lies before us. It is up to us to undertake the journey.

JOE D'ADAMO, WINNER OF THOMAS D'ALESSANDRO, JR. GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joe D'Adamo, the 1995 winner of the Thomas D'Adamo, Jr. Good Citizenship Award. Named for the late, great Mayor Thomas D'Adamo, this recognition is bestowed on Mr. D'Adamo for his contribution to the Italian-American community.

Joseph G. D'Adamo, Sr., was born in Baltimore 66 years ago. While growing up in Little Italy, he went to St. Leo's School. D'Adamo studied at both Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and the University of Baltimore.

D'Adamo worked at the Baltimore Evening Sun for 42 years before retiring in 1987. D'Adamo rose to the position of chief makeup editor where he was responsible for graphics and deadlines. As the Baltimore Sun's restaurant critic for many years leading to his retirement, D'Adamo enjoyed sharing his culinary finds with Baltimore. He still loves food and writing restaurant criticism for the East Baltimore Guide.

Sports has always played an important role in this sports writer's life. Currently, he is the Baltimore correspondent for Sports Illustrated, a position he has held for 25 years. Beyond writing, D'Adamo refereed basketball games for two decades in Baltimore city schools. As commissioner of the Maryland Wrestling Association from 1988 to 1993, D'Adamo was responsible for assigning referees to wrestling meets throughout Maryland. He also coached wrestling at Catonsville Community College and Catholic High.

D'Adamo's involvement with youth also has included 6 years in the Boy Scouts of America. He has served as Scoutmaster of Troop No. 177. These activities naturally led to D'Adamo's service as president and board member of parent-teacher associations at the Catholic High School and Archbishop Curley High School.

He has been active with the Holy Name Society and in 1967, he received the President's

Award. D'Adamo is a member of the Little Italy Lodge, OSIA. In 9 years, he has served in a variety of executive positions at the lodge. A proud achievement for D'Adamo is the very successful lodge cookbook, "Let's Cook Italian" which he conceived, edited, and compiled.

Joe is married to the former Anna Giorgilli, also a native of Little Italy and a member of the lodge executive council. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to salute Joe D'Adamo for the honor he has brought to the Italian-American community by his personal, professional, and civic accomplishments. He truly deserves this award for his contributions in the tradition of Thomas D'Alessandro, Jr.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY FOOD PROTECTION ACT

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce The Family Food Protection Act of 1995 along with my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. TORRICELLI. USDA's recently proposed rule to implement a mandatory Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point [HACCP] plan was a good first step toward modernizing our meat and poultry inspection system. However, we need to do more.

The meat and poultry inspection of this system needs to be modernized. There is broad consensus that our current system does not adequately address the most prevalent public health problem associated with our meat and poultry supply—microbiological contamination. The Economic Research Service estimates that microbial food contaminants and the foodborne illnesses that result from them cause between 6.5 and 33 million human illnesses and 6,000 deaths annually in this country. While we can debate the actual figures, it is clear that we can and should be doing a better job of preventing these illnesses and deaths.

The problem has been attributed to consumer's failure to prepare meat and poultry products properly. Consumer education is clearly an important way to minimize this problem. However, the problems that have arisen with institutional and retail food preparation and more recently in salami, a ready-to-eat meat product, illustrate the need for a much more comprehensive approach to the prevention of foodborne illness.

The Family Food Protection Act would require USDA to develop microbial testing procedures to control the presence of pathogenic microorganisms in meat and poultry products. It would enable the Secretary of Agriculture to require slaughter and processing plants to adopt processing controls that will ensure the safe handling and processing of these products. The bill also establishes voluntary guidelines for retail establishments to ensure that the food handled and served by retail stores and restaurants is safe for consumers. Under this bill, USDA will have the authority to recall products that are found to be unsafe if the products are not subject to an adequate voluntary recall process. In short, it represents a comprehensive farm-to-table approach to up-

grading our meat and poultry inspection system so that the quality and safety of these food products is assured.

Modernization of our meat and poultry inspection system is overdue. Consumer confidence in the quality and safety of our food supply is essential to maintaining a healthy meat and poultry industry, and public health should be protected by a modern science-based meat and poultry inspection system. I urge my colleagues to join Mr. TORRICELLI and I in co-sponsoring this legislation which will provide USDA with the statutory tools necessary to improve and modernize our meat and poultry inspection system.

SALUTE TO HERBERT F. (BERT) BOECKMANN II

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a selfless philanthropist, a successful businessman, a good friend, and recipient of the 1995 Horatio Alger Award—Bert Boeckmann.

A native Californian, Bert established early in life a commitment to hard work and a spirit of entrepreneurship that have served him well and have endured to this day.

In his early teens, when many of his peers were focused on the simple pleasures of youth, Bert began mowing the lawns, cleaning the basements, and washing the windows of local estates. He later put himself through the University of Southern California by working a weekend maintenance job and the graveyard shift at Lockheed Aircraft.

He took a job as a car salesman at Galpin Ford in 1957 and—less than 4 years later—was promoted to general manager of the company. His leadership ushered in an unprecedented period of prosperity for the struggling dealership, which he acquired in 1968.

Galpin has ranked first in profits among all Ford dealerships for 21 of the past 25 years, which is not surprising given Bert's dedicated leadership and the fact that he has created an environment that encourages his best people to stay with the company. Top Galpin managers have tenures ranging from 17 to 36 years, a nearly unheard of record of commitment in the industry.

But life for Bert has hardly been just about business. A husband and proud father, he has demonstrated time and time again that he cares more about others than he does about himself—that no demand is too great when there are people out there in need of assistance.

In 1991, Bert and his wife Jane joined Secretary of State and Mrs. James Baker in honoring Mother Theresa with the Prince of Peace Prize. Bert also helped raise \$1 million in medical supplies, food, and clothing for Mother Theresa's charities.

Two years ago, Bert responded to a desperate plea from Russian farmers for seeds needed to ensure an adequate harvest. Not only did he orchestrate the donation of 56,000 pounds of seeds from several American companies and arrange for their transport by the Department of Defense, Bert and Jane met