

health care workers help physicians make diagnosis, early, when cures are most likely to succeed. Test results may also help rule out certain conditions thereby avoiding unnecessary treatment, saving money, and most importantly, ensuring the proper treatment.

We all must take responsibility for our health, but ultimately, our well-being depends on the cooperation and coordination that exists between the many individuals devoted to maintaining health. Doctors, nurses, dietitians, teachers, parents, and the staff at our Nation's medical laboratories all play important roles.

The dedicated professionals who work in these laboratories save lives every day. They play a crucial role in the delivery of health care services in America and I am proud to join with the Michigan Society for Clinical Laboratory Science in recognizing this week, April 14-20, 1996, as National Medical Laboratory Week.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN ROBERT B.  
SHIELDS, U.S. NAVY

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 1996

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a dedicated U.S. Navy officer, gentleman and a friend as he prepares to take command of the U.S.S. *Vicksburg*, CG-69.

Most of you will remember Capt. Robert B. Shields for his tour as a deputy legislative assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Captain Shields served in this challenging position with honor and distinction until last year, when he returned to the fleet to prepare to take command on one of our finest ships—and *Aegis* Class cruiser.

He has been connected with the Congress in one position or another for over 5 years of his distinguished 23-year Navy career. Captain Shields' accomplishments are an integral part of the continuing saga of the U.S. Navy in its third century of service to the Nation as it fully realizes the talent and potential of men who ply the sea in the service of our great Nation. I would like to take a moment to highlight Bob's career milestones.

A native of Providence, RI, Captain Shields is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, class of 1972. Captain Shields also earned a master's degree in engineering acoustics from the Naval Post Graduate School. His military career began in 1972 with his first assignment to U.S.S. *Alwin* where he was first lieutenant and anti-submarine warfare officer. His second shipboard tour came when he commissioned U.S.S. *Nicholson* and served as her weapons officer. He then served his third shipboard tour as weapons officer in U.S.S. *Richmond K. Turner*.

Capitalizing on his demonstrated leadership skills, the Navy sent Captain Shields to attend the Royal Navy Staff College in Greenwich, England. This was followed by service as executive office in U.S.S. *Sterett*, then homeported in the Republic of the Philippines. Detaching from his executive officer tour, Captain Shields was assigned to the office of the director, research, development and acquisition and then completed a year as a Federal executive fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. His

first exposure to congress came when he was assigned as the congressional Liaison office for surface ship programs in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs. Upon conclusion of that assignment, Captain Shields took command of U.S.S. *O'Bannon*. With that successful tour behind him, Captain Shields was hand picked to be a legislative assistant to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Captain Shields has been awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, four Navy Commendation Medals, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation. He is married to the former Jennifer Reith of London, England, and has two wonderful children, Sarah and Robert.

Bob was one of the principal liaison officers to Congress for both General Powell and General Shalikashvili during momentous times in our Nation's history—the end of the cold war, Operations Provide Promise, Provide Hope, Provide Comfort, Southern Watch, Deny Flight, and Restore Democracy, among countless other military operations and exercises. During the restoration of democracy in Haiti, he accompanied Members of this House on a fact-finding delegation to that troubled country. He has served as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's principal liaison with the House National Security Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. I and many others of this body have often depended on him to be on top of the national security issues of the day, complete with timely, sound, and accurate information and advice.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor and personal privilege for me to pay tribute to Capt. Robert B. Shields before the Congress in honor of his taking command of U.S.S. *Vicksburg* on May 3, 1996. It is clear, through a record of accomplishment, Bob is someone dedicated to the peace and freedom this Nation enjoys today. We wish him every success as he assumes his new command and for what I know will be a bright future. May he always have fair winds and following seas.

INTRODUCTION OF SMALL  
BUSINESS OSHA RELIEF ACT

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 1996

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, today I and several of my colleagues are introducing the Small Business OSHA Relief Act of 1996.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 1 year ago, President Bill Clinton traveled to a small sheet metal plant in northwest Washington, DC, and declared that it was time to create a "new OSHA."

I certainly agree with the President on the need to change OSHA. OSHA, said President Clinton, needs to change so that its emphasis is on "prevention, not punishment," and so that the agency uses "common sense and market incentives to save lives."

Throughout the past year, no doubt largely in response to initiatives here in Congress to reform OSHA, the Clinton administration struggled to convince us and the American public that OSHA was being reinvented. Assistant Secretary Joe Dear, for example, said in congressional testimony last year: "If there is one single message you take away from this hear-

ing today, I hope it is this: that OSHA is changing the way it does business." The marks of the new OSHA, according to the Assistant Secretary, would be the elimination of inspection and penalty quotas; a less confrontation approach to enforcement, including reductions in penalties for employers who promptly correct violations; and commonsense regulations.

Whatever the genesis for this recognition of the need to change OSHA by the Clinton administration, I, and I know many of my colleagues as well, have applauded it. The direction of these changes is the same as we have pushed for in H.R. 1834, the Safety and Health Improvement and Regulatory Reform Act. Obviously what the Clinton administration has proposed does not go as far as H.R. 1834, and in my view does not go far enough. But they at least move OSHA in the same direction.

President Clinton announced that he would veto H.R. 1834 even before that bill was marked up in subcommittee. It was clear from the circumstances of that veto message that it had much to do with Presidential election politics and little to do with the legislation itself, but the promise of a veto effectively stopped realistic prospects for enacting comprehensive OSHA reform this year.

Nonetheless, I believe it is important to solidify the progress that has been made in changing OSHA in the direction that Republicans and many of my Democratic colleagues have called for for years, and which President Clinton called for 1 year ago. For that reason, I am introducing the Small Business OSHA Relief Act of 1996.

The Small Business OSHA Relief Act of 1996 is comprised of five provisions, each of which comes directly from policy pronouncements by the Clinton administration.

The first provision comes from statements made by Labor Secretary Reich in support of measuring and balancing the costs and benefits of OSHA standards, consistent with the administration's goal for OSHA of more "commonsense regulations."

The second provision adopts President Clinton's directive of April 21, 1995, granting a waiver of penalties for small businesses which correct violations within a reasonable period of time. As President Clinton said in announcing that directive, "We will stop playing 'gotcha' with decent, honest business people who want to be good citizens. Compliance, not punishment, should be our objective."

The third provision adopts and follows an OSHA compliance directive issued in November 1995 regarding citations for paperwork violations. In recent years, a majority of the most commonly cited OSHA standards are paperwork requirements. OSHA's compliance directive recognizes that these paperwork violations have often been technical and nitpicking, and don't address real health or safety problems. Including this change in the statute will give employers and employees assurance that this common sense change will be more permanent than is the case with a compliance directive.

The fourth provision codifies OSHA's State consultation grants program. The consultation grants program was created by OSHA to assist small businesses in improving safety and health in their workplaces. Historically, these grants, which are given to State agencies or colleges in each State to provide consultation