

loamy top soil and supporting sandy layer below provide a perfect base from which to grow vines. With an average growing season of 210 days, the Atlantic Ocean's moderating influences provide the East End with near perfect weather for growing grapes. Relatively mild winters help sustain vine growth, while the cool ocean breezes help temper summer's harsh heat.

As impressive as the industry's growth has been, the peripheral benefits of Long Island's still nascent wine industry are just as valuable. Though not as quantifiable, the impact the wineries have on the local tourism trade, the goods and services they purchase from local merchants, and the role the industry plays in marketing Long Island to the world are invaluable to the entire region.

On Sunday, July 14, Robert Palmer and Palmer Vineyards will commemorate its 10th anniversary with a special celebration at the winery's classically designed tasting house, an old English pub that was imported from Britain and rebuilt by Robert Palmer. To mark the event, Palmer will be releasing its special reserve 10th anniversary wine. Specially crafted by winemaker Dan Kleck, the special reserve is a limited production release made from select Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Pinot Blanc grapes. Like the many fine Palmer vintages before it, the special reserve is destined to earn the honors and admiration of the judges and public alike.

Here's to the second 10 years of excellent wine at Palmer Vineyards.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD VARLEY  
FOR HIS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE  
AS A FIREMAN

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 1996*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I rise today to express my congratulations to Edward Varley for his 50 years of dedicated service to the Washington, CT, Volunteer Fire Department.

The Washington Volunteer Fire Department was chartered in 1926 and on July 10, 1946, Edward Varley began what was to be the longest service of a volunteer fireman the town of Washington has ever had. As the first member of the fire department to earn this achievement, Mr. Varley deserves our praise and our gratitude for the courage he has displayed, putting his life on the line in situations where the risk was high. Mr. Varley also served his department as fire chief in 1965–1966. The community is forever indebted to him for his outstanding service throughout the last 50 years. The citizens of Washington can rest easier knowing that their homes, businesses, and loved ones are safe thanks to thoughtful neighbors like Edward Varley.

Today, I congratulate Edward Varley for his 50 years of service and I commend him on his dedication to his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT L.  
DEMMONS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 1996*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Robert L. Demmons for 22 years of dedicated service in the San Francisco Fire Department which culminated in his appointment as chief of the department on January 16, 1996.

The importance of his appointment goes beyond the fact that Chief Demmons is the first African-American to hold this position in San Francisco. What makes his appointment momentous is that Chief Demmons was the tenacious force behind the original complaint that brought about the consent decree which mandates the elimination of discriminatory practices and promotes the integration of minorities and women within the entry-level and promotional ranks of the San Francisco Fire Department. There are only a handful of men and women who challenge a system and are then given the privilege to rectify that process. I have no doubt that under Chief Demmons' leadership, both recruitment and the promotional system will meet or exceed the standards of the consent decree. I commend Mayor Willie Brown on this appointment.

Chief Demmons has devoted himself to improving the personnel practices of the fire department. When he served as the chief of management services, he ran two extraordinary recruitment drives. He also improved the EEOC complaint process which safeguards the rights of employees.

Chief Demmons has received numerous awards for his leadership in the fire department and in the community. One award that I would like to mention was the Meritorious Heroism Award that he received from the department. In 1985 when he was a lieutenant at the 33d Engine Company in Ingleside, he and another member of the department rescued a woman from a burning building and brought her outside to safety.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Demmons has demonstrated his courage both in the field and by his efforts to reform the system. I know that you will join with me in saluting him for the contributions he has made and will continue to make to the citizens of San Francisco.

THE SAFE MEDICATIONS FOR THE  
ELDERLY ACT [SMEA]

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 1996*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, each year tens of thousands of preventable health complications arise from inappropriate prescription drug use, costing billions annually. Yesterday, I introduced the Safe Medications for the Elderly Act or SMEA, a bill that seeks to correct this problem of inappropriate prescription drug use.

Over the course of the last year, I have worked on a solution to this problem. In an effort to curb the number of seniors being hospitalized or seriously injured—sometimes leading to death—SMEA shifts the emphasis of

pharmaceutical care from pharmacists who need to dispense drugs as rapidly as possible to pharmacists who will sit down with an elderly individual and provide adequate consultations with specific medications.

As health care enters the 21st century, it is time to empower pharmacists and encourage them to play a greater role in health care delivery. Some pharmacists are currently spending the time necessary to improve patient compliance, but many are not.

Senior citizens have special needs that require additional attention when it comes to taking prescription drugs. Pharmacists can be an important component of the health care puzzle making a significant difference in seniors lives.

SMEA provides senior citizens with Medicare coverage for carefully targeted pharmaceutical care services including: vaccine administration, consultation with physicians, and consultation with patients to improve prescription drug compliance. Pharmacists only receive compensation if they achieve results.

Numerous studies have confirmed the problems and high costs associated with inappropriate drug use, especially among senior citizens who are particularly vulnerable due to their higher rate of prescription drug usage for multiple health problems.

Last year, the General Accounting Office [GAO] report that hospitalizations due to inappropriate prescription drug use cost about \$20 billion according to FDA estimates. The report added that inappropriate use of prescription drugs is a "potential health problem that is particularly acute for the elderly."

Another study cited in the Archives of Internal Medicine in October 1995, stated that:

Prescription-drug related problems—often caused by patients not taking their drugs properly—cost an estimated \$76.6 billion in medical bills and cause 119,000 deaths a year.

A recent Wall Street Journal article (April 12, 1996, by Frank Bass) reported that a program under the H-E-B Grocery Co. and Nueces County's Memorial Medical Center in south Texas found that "pharmacist counseling can both benefit chronically ill patients and reduce health-care costs." The Wall Street Journal cited an H-E-B spokesman saying that "among the people in the program, emergency-room trips have declined 23 percent, hospital admissions 33 percent, and physician visits 41 percent."

These are just a few of the studies and stories that exist to illustrate the problems that the elderly encounter with prescription drug misuse and positive benefits of proper pharmacist counseling.

Under the vaccine administration provision, pharmacists would be compensated for administering certain vaccines to elderly individuals. This would only apply to States where pharmacists are authorized to provide such services. Typically, States with large rural populations certify pharmacists for vaccine administration, because in many instances, a pharmacist is the most accessible health care provider in a rural community.

SMEA would provide one more opportunity for seniors to receive preventive medicine—a simple vaccine—that can save lives and Medicare dollars. Vaccines have a proven record as a cost savings to the health care system.

The second section of SMEA involves physician consultations. A pharmacist would only be reimbursed when consulting a physician about a senior citizen's prescription drug regimen which resulted in the physician taking action on the pharmacist's advice. In other

words, if a pharmacist advises a physician that a particular drug that was prescribed would harm the senior and the physician agreed and wrote a new prescription, then the pharmacist would be reimbursed. Many times physicians are unaware of other drugs being prescribed to patients for other conditions or being human, make mistakes.

Under this provision, a pharmacist would receive reimbursement only in instances that will benefit the health of the patient, but at the discretion of a physician. This provision is narrowly focused to provide the biggest bang for the buck in preventing elderly Medicare beneficiaries from becoming unnecessarily hospitalized or severely injured.

This legislation encourages pharmacists to spend more time reviewing the patient's prescription drug regimen, instead of racing to dispense prescription drugs quicker. Under current pharmacy care, even pharmacists can overlook possible drug prescribing mistakes. SMEA provides more opportunity for adequate review.

The final section of SMEA concerns consultations with a patient. A pharmacist would only be reimbursed when consulting a senior citizen which results in improved compliance with regard to specific drugs for six specific high-risk diseases or when a senior is on a drug regimen that requires four or more drugs.

Here, senior citizens will receive counseling from pharmacists for treatments that necessitate extra concern with compliance. Again, this legislation is carefully constructed to maximize Medicare savings, minimize hospital visits, and improve health care delivery for the elderly.

Pharmacists would be required to do more than just tell a patient to take two tablets a day with meals. SMEA would require pharmacists to do much more to improve patient compliance. Patient consultation sessions would involve increased pharmacist interaction with seniors about drug side effects, proper intake, and better drug regimen management with multiple prescriptions. These are just a few of the additional responsibilities that SMEA would require.

The end result is America's seniors living longer and remaining healthier without undue hospitalization and excessive costs. The elderly win. Medicare wins. And smart health care prevails.

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#### FACING THE FUTURE CHALLENGES OF MANKIND

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 1996*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention and submit for the RECORD a letter I recently received from Henry Chrystie of Yucaipa, CA, that raises some intriguing ideas and questions relating to the challenges mankind will face in the future. As Congress strives to make wise and prudent decisions to guide our country, Mr. Chrystie's thoughts will give all of us a little more to think about.

To the powers that be.

Ever since I was 14, in 1927, I have understood that, in my lifetime, men would be on the Moon and Mars, and I knew how it was

going to be done. I now understand why. It is because we humans are expanding our population at such a rapid rate that in the future we are going to be hard pressed to provide space and food for ourselves. We will convert sea water, and we will convert the deserts to provide more livable land. We will also get into some real knockdown drag-out fights over who has what. We will wish we had laid the groundwork for the human race to expand outward toward the universe, which is our destiny. This is the massive problem we will be forced to face. If this sounds dire, then show me that I am wrong.

It takes a lot of foresight to be in a position of responsibility, such as a Congressperson. Some of you have it but, unfortunately, some of you do not. You killed the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence even though any mathematician knows that it has to be out there because of the huge numbers that establish that probability. Now you seek to cut off funds, such as to NASA, etc. because you don't seem to understand how important long-range research and planning is.

Are we going to stall around until we are in a real bind, or are we going to continue our long-range research and studies so that we will be able to cope with our needs as they develop? It is up to you, the powers that be, to very carefully consider this problem because the future of the world's population is in your hands. I for one, hope you have the brains to make the right decisions.

All I can say to you is—think—very carefully. You must continue to support NASA, Mars Surveyor, Galileo, New Millennium, and related activities.

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#### THE MARCH OF THE LIVING

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 1996*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call the attention of my colleagues to a critical program which I am proud to say is based in my New York City district—The March of the Living.

The March of the Living is a yearly journey in which thousands of Jewish teenagers gather from around the world in Poland and in Israel. During this unforgettable trip, these young people learn first hand about two 20th century events that changed the history of mankind forever—the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel.

While in Poland, March participants tour various cities where there had been vibrant Jewish communities before World War II, including Warsaw, Krakow, and Lublin. After seeing communities where Jewish life flourished, the teens are taken to the death camps where these lives were destroyed. The teens participate in a march from Auschwitz to Birkenau on Holocaust Memorial Day, the same day that Members of Congress gather in the Capitol Rotunda to honor the memory of those who were murdered in this genocide. I believe that this "march of the living"—young people retracing the steps of countless innocent victims who marched to their deaths—is one of the most creative and meaningful Holocaust remembrance programs ever enacted.

After showing the world that they will never forget the horrors of the Holocaust, the teenagers travel to Israel, where they visit the magnificent and vibrant Jewish homeland.

Created out of the ashes of the Holocaust, the State of Israel stands as a great triumph, not only for the Jewish people, but for the cherished ideals of democracy, compassion, and enlightenment.

Mr. Speaker, the March of the Living has changed the lives of over 20,000 young people. It has proved to be an effective way of teaching the lessons of the past to our next generation of leaders. At this particular moment in time, I would like to join others in the Congress in appealing to the Government of Austria to become involved in this program.

Half a century after the Nazi era, it is in Austria's best interests to show the world that it is committed to Holocaust remembrance and the preservation of Jewish heritage. A few weeks ago, the world was once again saddened to hear former Austrian President Kurt Waldheim's distorted views of World War II and his denial of his own facilitation of war crimes. Waldheim's autobiography, "The Answer," is not the right answer to those who survived the Holocaust and those who lost their loved ones.

In my view, this would be an opportune time for Austria to commit itself to participating in the March for the Living. For this nation to assist such a worthy effort to teach the lessons of the Holocaust would be the best answer anyone could give to Kurt Waldheim's tragic assertions.

Let me conclude, Mr. Speaker, by congratulating the March of the Living on its outstanding work. I want to especially praise my constituent Ernest Goldblum for his tireless efforts on this and many other worthy causes, and to thank him for bringing these important issues to my attention.

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#### H.R. 3675 STAFF RECOGNITION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 1996*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and thank those staff members who supported the Members of this House in the preparation and passage of the fiscal year 1997 Transportation and related agencies appropriations bill, H.R. 3675: The Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee staff: John Blazey, Rich Efford, Stephanie Gupta, and Linda Muir. The Appropriations Committee staff: John Mikel, Dennis Kedzior, Elizabeth Morra, and Ken Marx of the majority staff; and Cheryl Smith of the minority staff. The associate staff to the committee: Lori-Beth Feld Hua of my office, Monica Vegas Kladakis of Majority Whip DELAY's office, Connie Veillette of Mr. REGULA's office, Kevin Fromer of Mr. ROGERS' office, Bill Deere of Mr. LIGHTFOOT's office, Ray Mock and Eric Mondero of Mr. PACKARD's office, Todd Rich and Sean Murphy of Mr. CALLAHAN's office, Steve Carey of Mr. DICKEY's office, Paul Cambon of Chairman LIVINGSTON's office, Kristen Hoeschler of Mr. SABO's office, Jim Jepsen of Mr. DURBIN's office, Christy Cockburn of Mr. COLEMAN's office, Barbara Zylinski-Mizrahi of Mr. FOGLIETTA's office, and Paul Carver of Mr. OBEY's office.