

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PRESERVING PATIENT ACCESS TO METERED DOSE INHALERS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. CLIFF STEARNS, my good friend from Florida, and I are introducing legislation aimed at helping those who suffer from respiratory conditions, particularly children with asthma, and preserve their access to medicines they rely upon to breathe—metered dose inhalers (MDI's).

Our legislation calls upon the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] and the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] to delay their plans to remove chlorofluorocarbon-based MDIs from the marketplace before 2005. The resolution implores the FDA to continue to allow these critically important medicines to remain on the market while environmentally safe alternatives are developed and manufactured.

As many of you know, nearly 30 million Americans suffer from respiratory diseases of one kind or another, including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD], and cystic fibrosis. When the symptoms of these diseases strike, patients reach for the safe, effective, and proven medication delivery systems that have kept them alive for years—metered dose inhalers. Quite literally, metered dose inhalers enable patients to breathe freely and often mean the difference between life and death.

These inhalers are generally powered by chlorofluorocarbon [CFC] propellants. Under the 1987 Montreal Protocol, CFC's are to be phased out globally because of the damage they are believed to cause to the ozone layer. I believe it is important to point out, however, that the signatories to this Protocol explicitly recognized that certain uses of CFC's—such as MDI's—pose relatively small environmental risk yet generate tremendous health and safety benefits, and consequently, MDIs were given a temporary Essential-Use exemption from the treaty.

Despite this global exemption and the internationally recognized health benefits of MDI's, the U.S. FDA has unilaterally decided to accelerate the phase-out of CFC containing metered dose inhalers. Under the proposed framework, CFC containing inhalers—used safely and regularly by millions of asthmatic children, adults, and senior citizens—would be banned and consumers would be forced to purchase alternative products, even if there was but a single alternative on the market. I believe that this proposal is outrageous and totally unwarranted at this time.

Although pharmaceutical companies are working diligently to develop CFC-free MDI's, the FDA proposal will force patients to abandon their existing medications and could place them at the mercy of a single supplier in certain cases. This is fatally flawed in two important respects: first, each patient is unique and responds differently to asthma medication—even to the same medication—so the one-size-fits-all approach that FDA is pursuing will

harm many of these patients; and second, consumers will be charged higher prices due to the lack of competition in alternative MDI products.

Mr. Speaker, it is a well known fact that asthma is currently the No. 1 reason for school absences, and that roughly 5,000 Americans die each year from asthma-related complications. Furthermore, for millions of asthma sufferers, the single most important part of successful treatment is maintaining a steady medication routine. Disrupting this routine, which is a certain byproduct of the FDA's proposal, will needlessly put the lives and health of our children and senior citizens at risk.

I am also dismayed that the FDA, by seeking to ban CFC MDI's even when only a single alternative MDI is on the market, is making the erroneous assumption that all significant patient subpopulations—such as children and the elderly—will be equally served by the alternative product. This assumption is not only incorrect, but it violates the FDA's very own procedures and rules. All products that wish to obtain a pediatric indication must be reviewed separately by the FDA to determine whether the effect of a drug on children is the same as an adult. Yet, in its zeal to phase out CFC products before the United States is even required to do so, the FDA is trampling on this principle.

An additionally egregious aspect of the FDA's proposed rule is that it is an answer in search of a problem. The United States is in absolutely no danger of missing the Montreal Protocol's compliance deadline (2005) for completely eliminating CFC's, and there is no need to abruptly ban MDI's that have been widely and safely used for years.

Furthermore, the amount of CFC's used in metered dose inhalers is so small—less than 0.025 kg per inhaler—that the marginal environmental improvement in the ozone layer that would result from the FDA plan would be virtually undetectable.

To put these amounts into perspective, consider that in 1996, transitional stockpiles of CFC's for use in air conditioners and refrigeration equipment totaled between 36,000 and 72,000 tons. The total production of CFC's used for MDI's that year was only 2,600 tons, and MDI's are responsible for less than 1 percent of the risk to the ozone layer, as measured by atmospheric chlorine levels.

In addition, while the United States and developing countries must eliminate all CFC's by 2005, developing nations can continue to produce CFC's until 2010. Unless the FDA drastically modifies or delays its plan, asthma patients in the United States will have their dependable and effective medications taken away from them while consumers in China and Indonesia continue to use CFC's in hair spray and cosmetics.

It seems incomprehensible that anybody could support a proposal that secures negligible environmental benefits at a very steep cost to human lives and health. Notwithstanding, the FDA continues to move forward with its plan despite overwhelmingly negative public comments. I understand that the magnitude

of the public reaction to the FDA's advance notice was among the greatest—in terms of the numbers of letters received—in recent history. This is even more remarkable considering that the ban on metered dose inhalers has received very little media coverage.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say there is no doubt that pharmaceutical companies should be encouraged by the FDA to develop, test, and bring alternative products to market before 2005. However, it is absurd and downright dangerous to put asthma patients—including children whose very lives depend on adhering to familiar medical routines—at risk by pulling effective and safe products from our shelves in order to meet a self-imposed standard. There is absolutely no reason to disrupt the lives of asthma and cystic fibrosis patients in the manner FDA has proposed. That is why I have joined my friend Congressman STEARNS in introducing this resolution today.

The alternative approach that we suggest to the FDA is very straightforward: allow the existing products—proven safe and effective over years of use—to be used until 2005, and encourage the development and use of alternative [CFC-free] metered dose inhalers so that asthma patients can gradually become accustomed to the different medications without undue disruptions and risks. Rather than forcing patients to switch medications suddenly and involuntarily, our approach would allow environmentally safe products to flourish and attain widespread acceptance.

I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reject the FDA's cold turkey policy—Australia has already rejected that strategy. The United States can achieve its goal of zeroing out CFC production in 2005 without the heavy-handed, one-size-fits-all approach that the FDA has proposed. The children and senior citizens who depend on metered dose inhalers to breathe and live normal lives surely deserve better than that.

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE O'CONNOR DOLLAR

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the activities of Jackie O'Connor Dollar, the director of the Head Start Program in Napa and Solano Counties, which I represent. Last week, Jackie was presented with the Head Start-Johnson & Johnson Excellence in Management Award for her outstanding work on behalf of Napa and Solano Counties' children.

In September 1995, the Napa and Solano County Head Start programs were consolidated into one. Although this merger increased her area of responsibility by 400 percent, Jackie handled the change in stride and

• 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.

went ahead with her plans to begin new programs in the Heat Start classroom.

One of her most notable accomplishments is the implementation of an inclusive school project in which preschool children with severe disabilities are integrated with regular classroom students. By working closely with the county education offices and unified school districts, 90 students who would have normally attended classes for severely mentally and physically disabled children were, for the first time, to join mainstream classes.

I have personally visited the sites that Jackie has set up and have been impressed time and again with her hard work and commitment to the education of children with special needs.

Programs like Head Start work because of people like Jackie O'Connor Dollar. Her hard work, innovation, and accomplishments on behalf of northern California's children should be held up as a model for others.

TRIBUTE TO PETER C.
CAMPANELLI, PSY.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Peter Campanelli provides vital clinical services to individuals afflicted with mental illness. In his capacity as president and chief executive officer for the Institute for Community Living, Inc. [ICL], he is confronted with a difficult task.

He has organized and directed a private not-for-profit corporation for the purpose of development and operation of community residences for the mentally ill within the catchment areas of two large State psychiatric hospitals. ICL currently provides approximately 560 residential beds within various levels of care. Truly, Dr. Campanelli provides vital services to a constituency desperate for health and social services.

Dr. Campanelli's career of commitment and dedication is exemplary. He combines his passion with pragmatism. Additionally, he passes on the breadth and depth of his experience through the process of teaching in the university environment. It is my distinct pleasure to introduce him to my House colleagues.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND
WILLIE T. BARROW WELLNESS
MEDICAL CENTER

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Reverend Willie T. Barrow Wellness Medical Center of the Doctor's Hospital of Hyde Park that is being dedicated today in Chicago, IL. Originally founded in 1916 as the Illinois Central Railroad Hospital, the Doctor's Hospital of Hyde Park proudly serves more than 7,000 patients a month with a range of comprehensive community health services. And today, the hospital officially names The Wellness Center in honor of an electrifying community and spiritual leader, Dr. Willie T. Barrow, chairwoman of Operation PUSH.

The dedication of the Reverend Willie T. Barrow Wellness Medical Center marks a victory for residents of the first congressional district and the south side of Chicago. As the health care industry grows more complex and costly, and community hospitals are shuttered, it is vital that poor and working people, the very young and the very old, continue to have access to quality, preventive health care. And in a community where the infant mortality rate soars above 20, this is critical.

The hospital and the center are models of what community health care should be. Open 7 days a week, the hospital serves all in need. People without insurance, walk-ins, the homeless—all walk through the doors and receive quality care by a hard-working, well-trained staff.

The hospital and center are truly committed to the community. When the Hyde Park Community Hospital faced financial difficulties a few years ago, the leadership and perseverance of Dr. James H. Desnick assured that the hospital remained in the community, preserving more than 500 jobs and preserving health care services for residents.

Today, Dr. Desnick and the community officially name the Wellness Center in honor of Rev. Willie T. Barrow. Reverend Barrow exemplifies dedication in her life's work. As chairwoman of Operation PUSH, a founder of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, copastor of Mount Vernon Church of God in Chicago, and a long-time resident of the south shore community, Reverend Barrow truly serves the people. And in Chicago, she will be long remembered for her tireless work to elect Harold Washington, Chicago's first African-American mayor. Her commitment to human rights, civil rights, women's rights, and workers' rights inspires people across the Nation and across the globe.

As Congressman of the first congressional district, I send my heartiest congratulations to Dr. Desnick, the hospital board, the Community Advisory Board, and the 700 staff members, on the occasion of the dedication of the Reverend Willie T. Barrow Wellness Medical Center.

I am honored to represent the district that is home to the Reverend Willie T. Barrow Wellness Medical Center and to my good friend, Rev. Willie T. Barrow. And I pledge to continue my fight both in Congress and the city of Chicago to protect the survival of health programs like the center that promise to be a model for comprehensive community health care for people in need.

I am proud to offer these words of congratulations.

TRIBUTE TO LOLETA, CA, ON ITS
CENTENNIAL

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the centennial of the beautiful community of Loleta in Humboldt County, CA, which I am privileged to represent.

I visited Loleta, which overlooks the picturesque Eel River Valley, just 2 weeks ago. The origin of its name is credited to the Wiyot Indians of the valley as a name for a pleasant

landmark. In this case, we are told, a quiet slough.

A.J. Doolittle made a map of Humboldt County in 1860, and it was adopted by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. There was no Loleta then, nor much of anything else. But from the gentle slope of the last of the foothills now occupied by today's Loleta, the map shows a nearby road from Dungan's Ferry, past W.J. Wing's, W. Ellery's, T.H. Foss', to L.H. Hawk's, en route to J.A. Sawyer's on Table Bluff.

An old Humboldt County Great Register for 1888 indicates Samuel Swauger, a 59-year-old native of Pennsylvania, ranched on what is now Loleta and registered to vote the previous year.

The late historian M.A. Parry, who wrote his masters thesis at Humboldt State University on Loleta, said Eel River & Eureka Railroad built Swauger's Station, now Loleta, in 1886. "From 1884 to 1886 the station amounted to no more than an uncovered loading platform standing beside a short length of track," he wrote. In 1898, as traffic increased, a new and larger depot was constructed. Swauger Station had been on the old structure, while "Loleta" appeared on the new.

Parry had this to say about the name of Swauger and Loleta: "In 1897, a faction of the community not satisfied with the name of the town, settled on 'Loleta' as what they wanted in place of 'Swauger's Station.' The word was of Indian origin and was said to mean 'pleasant place.' Actually it was three Indian words, 'Lo-le-tah,' meaning, 'pleasant place at the end of the water.' Loleta was just that; a pleasant place at the end of Hawk's Slough which no longer extends so far inland."

By adopting Loleta as the town name, the community did no more than adopt the name the community's Indians had used for years. The name became official in February 1897 when Will Perrott filed a map with the county recorder entitled "Loleta—Amended Map of Swauger's." The railroad company and the post office followed suit the following year.

And now, beautiful Loleta, famous for its fine dairy farms and livestock ranches, prepares for the centennial celebration. I congratulate Robert Laffranchi, president of the Loleta Chamber of Commerce, and all the people of Loleta for what I'm sure will be a wonderful day of festivities.

TRIBUTE TO YASHPAL ARYA, M.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Yashpal Arya. Dr. Arya is chief of gastroenterology/endoscopy at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center. He has worked at Wyckoff since 1976.

Born in India, and medically trained in his homeland, Dr. Arya has established an impressive portfolio of professional achievements. He is a member of numerous committees and organizations, including the American College of Gastroenterology, the New York State Medical Society, and the Queens Medical Society. Additionally, he has been the recipient of the Isadore Caputo Memorial Award from Wyckoff Medical Center, and the Teaching Excellence Award from Wyckoff Medical Center.

I am pleased to recognize the contributions of Dr. Arya, and wish him continued success in the medical profession. The community of Brooklyn is fortunate to have a medical practitioner with Dr. Arya's background and commitment working at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.

NATIONAL GUARD HONORED

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the brave men and women of the National Guard were honored at the world premier of Charles Gabriele's "National Guardian's March" presented in Venice, FL, on May 19, 1997, at a concert of the Venice Concert Band directed by Bill Millner. The National Guard in recent years served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Florida in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew and Hurricane Opal.

During the concert, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Steven Solomon, Commander of the 83d Troop Command, presented the Venice Concert Band and Professor Gabriele each with a framed Certificate of Appreciation "for exceptional service to the National Guard." Gabriele is noted worldwide for his classical compositions and patriotic marches, such as "Korea Veterans March," which was performed by the U.S. Army Band for the dedication of the Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC. Also during the program, Sarasota County Commission Chairman Robert Anderson presented the Venice Concert Band and Dr. Gabriele with commendations; and city of Venice Vice Mayor David Farley, Councilmen Earl Midlam, Burt Brown, and Virginia Warren presented them with commendations and a flag of the city of Venice.

Members of the band who performed in the historic premier of the "National Guardian's March" were: Renee Arata, Marilyn Bay, Jan Bonds, Henry Busche, Russell Byron, Fred Capitelli, Harokl Chase, Rogers Cumming, Carmelo Cuscina, Vicki Elmora, Mary Ann Farrell, Jay Fish, Judson, Vincent Gigliotti, Harry Gilmore, Les Gowan, Ed Grep, Charles Heidorn, Willie Jacus, Bob Kaltlenbaugh, David Leath, Carl Linden, Mary Lipton, Julie Mahler, Robert McMullen, Les McRea, Alex Meldrum, Bill Meyer, Rex Morse, Shirley Morse, Mary Mullen, George Olisar, Stanley Ovaitt, Fred Ploch, Marilyn Sexton, Jane Sibole, Larry Shields, Ken Sotherlund, Bob Spangle, Missy Thornley, Connie Timm, Michael Torino, Basil Wanshula, Agnes Warfield, Roger Wolfe, and Don Yasso.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this well-deserved tribute to the National Guard.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK LONARDO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Frank Lonardo for his vast contributions on behalf of organized labor. Mr.

Lonardo is a 40-year veteran of the International Longshoremen's Association, AFL-CIO. He is the president of ILA 1814 and was reelected International General Organizer at ILA's 1995 convention.

To his credit, Mr. Lonardo has worked his way through the ILA organization. He started working on the docks of Brooklyn as a teenager and throughout his career has served in a number of capacities, including assistant treasurer of the Brooklyn Longshore Credit Union, and as assistant to the president of Local 1814.

Among his other duties, he has served on the executive board of the New York City Central Labor Council and is a trustee of the New York Maritime Ports Council of the Maritime Trades Department. Frank and his wife Patricia are the parents of four children, Jeanine, Frank Jr., Joseph, and Alicia.

COMMEMORATING INDIA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join with me today in commemorating the upcoming 50th anniversary of Indian independence.

On August 15, 1947, India gained its freedom from British colonial rule and became an independent nation. The Indian peoples struggle for democracy mirrored very much our Nations' own experience. We share a kinship because we believed, then and now, in the same principals and notions of democracy for our citizens. India's great national leader, Mahatma Gandhi, studied American thinkers, such as Emerson and Thoreau, for their ideas, inspiration, and courage to press on with the struggle for democracy. And leaders in America looked to his example of nonviolence in guiding our Nation during its most turbulent civil rights period.

On August 15, 1997, we celebrate half a century of democracy in India which has developed into the largest democracy in the non-Western world. This populous democracy is home to 950 million people and represents a true multiethnic state where 18 major languages and over 100 dialects are spoken. Let us celebrate their commitment to human rights, the rule of law and the principals of peace, and the successful transition of power in that country's most recent parliamentary elections. It is clear to me, as it should be to all here today, India's democratic institutions remain quite strong and we can look forward to many more years of democratic growth and independence.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. SIMPSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Charles E. Simpson for his consistent and competent efforts in the field of corporate reorganizations, divestitures, and workouts.

Presently, Mr. Simpson is in charge of bankruptcy/creditors' rights department of the firm of Windels, Marx, Davies and Ives in New York City. During his professional career, Charles has developed an impressive track record on behalf of clients such as Bancorp, Pantry Pride, Central Railroad, Braniff, Vanguard Oil & Service, and a host of other companies.

Mr. Simpson is a member of numerous boards, including the Brooklyn Red Cross. He served in the U.S. Army, attended Harvard Law School, and received his undergraduate degree from Pepperdine University. I am pleased to highlight Mr. Simpson for his tireless and persistent endeavors.

ALMOR WEST AND PIONEER PARK SCHOOLS EARN AWARD

HON. J.C. WATTS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, recently the Department of Education announced the selection of elementary and middle schools which were awarded the prestigious Blue Ribbon School Award. I am proud to announce that two schools from Lawton, OK, have been recognized.

I am delighted to congratulate Pioneer Park Elementary School and Almor West Elementary School on this great achievement.

These schools display the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century. Blue Ribbon School status is awarded to schools which have strong leadership; a clear vision and sense of mission that is shared by all connected with the school; high quality teaching; challenging, up-to-date curriculum; policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning; a solid commitment to parental involvement; and evidence that the school helps all students achieve high standards.

This is an honor that is vigorously sought by thousands of schools across the Nation. We are so very proud of the students and teachers, the parents and administrators, and all at Pioneer Park and Almor West Elementary Schools who have been selected for this distinguished recognition.

TRIBUTE TO DE COSTA HEADLEY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to honor Mr. DeCosta Headley for his contributions in the community of Brooklyn. Mr. Headley is the founder of the Rosetta Gaston United Democratic Club and a dynamic player in the political and economic affairs of the communities of Brownsville and east New York.

DeCosta was raised in Brownsville and east New York, and has been instrumental in providing college scholarships for youth, jobs for community residents, and full services for senior citizens.

As an entrepreneur, Mr. Headley is the president of Diversified Flintlock Corp., a general contracting company. His company has built numerous medical centers, low-income affordable housing units, and has just recently completed a senior citizen housing unit of Berean Missionary Baptist Church in Brooklyn's east New York neighborhood, and a branch of the Carver Federal Savings Bank in Harlem.

DeCosta has been widely recognized for his civil, political, and corporate endeavors. I am pleased to commend his efforts and recognize his vast contributions.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER WILLIAM
COLEMAN COOK AND OFFICER
ROBERT VARGAS

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a distinct honor to join with our community on July 11, 1997 to pay tribute to two of Dade County's finest, Officer William Coleman Cook and Officer Robert Vargas, who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

When he responded to a domestic disturbance on Wednesday May 16, 1979, 25-year-old Officer William Coleman Cook was already a 6-year veteran of the Metro-Dade Police Department. Officer Cook was shot and killed in the process of apprehending a U.S. Army deserter who had shot his wife, another woman, and critically wounded two other Metro-Dade officers.

Officer Robert Vargas had just celebrated his 28th birthday on February 4, 1997 when he was assigned to a robbery task force as part of Dade County's Operation Clean Sweep. On February 7, he responded to a call for assistance from fellow officers in pursuit of fleeing robbery suspects. While en route to assist his colleagues, Officer Vargas collided with two vehicles as he attempted to avoid a wheelchair bound individual along the way. His car was struck head-on by another vehicle, and he died instantly on the scene.

Officers William Cook and Robert Vargas represent the best and the noblest of our Dade County Police Department. They put their lives on the line on behalf of our community and risked their own safety. Their ultimate sacrifice truly exemplifies the willingness and readiness with which they served and protected us—above and beyond the call of duty.

The dedication and commitment to duty shown by Officer Cook and Officer Vargas is a great legacy they have forever bequeathed to our community. We owe a debt of gratitude to them and the loved ones they left behind.

Public servants to the very core, Officers Cook and Vargas truly epitomize the genuine bravery and heroism of which the great soldier, Gen. Douglas McArthur, spoke when he said, "They only are fit to live—those who are not afraid to die."

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY WATSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Anthony Watson for his outstanding contributions to the health care community. Mr. Watson is the president and chief executive officer of the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York [HIP], one of the largest health maintenance organizations [HMO's] and the largest HMO in the northeastern United States.

HIP is celebrating its 50th anniversary and Anthony Watson has played a pivotal role for HIP since 1985. Anthony has almost 20 years of experience in major public health agencies. He was formerly the supervising public health adviser at the Centers for Disease Control [CDC], the former deputy director of the New York City Comprehensive Health Planning Agency, in addition to having served as an instructor in health planning at the Herbert J. Lehman College of the City University of New York. Anthony has received numerous accolades and awards. He serves on various boards.

Mr. Watson resides in New York City with his wife, Desiree, and their two children, Alayja and Sheridan.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID MAYER

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, David Mayer of Franklin, WI. On July 5, 1997, David was honored by the Franklin Civic Celebrations Commission with a moving recognition ceremony highlighting his many years of dedicated service to his community.

David was born in the town of Franklin in the fall of 1918. For many years he was a partner with his brothers in a business founded by his father, Robert Mayer. He is a World War II veteran who has raised four children with his wife, Doris.

David was first elected as a Franklin supervisor in 1948 following the retirement of his father. He was responsible for many of the early accomplishments in the growing community. The town's first fire truck was brought to Franklin with David's help. That same truck was in Franklin's Fourth of July Parade this year.

David was a vital part of Franklin's city incorporation in the mid-1950's, going house to house to collect signatures from supporters of the incorporation. In the city's first election on October 2, 1956, he was elected as an alderman, and for the next 40 years he would serve under 7 mayors until his retirement in 1993.

As an alderman, David was active on many boards and commissions. He served as the council president and was also a member of the 4th of July Commission, the board of public works, and the library board. David was also an active member of the Franklin Historical Society.

I am proud to say that I know David Mayer. He has always been a man of integrity, warmth, and sincerity. Congratulations, David, on this ceremony. You truly deserve it.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN DOUGLAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Brian Douglas of Cablevision of New York City has been a vital contributor in the field of telecommunications. As the public affairs manager for Cablevision he is responsible for government relations, community affairs, and public relations.

His duties include administration of the company's franchisee requirement with the city of New York, dealing with elected officials, educational outreach, and responding to the public and the press.

Brian has been employed by Cablevision since 1988 and is formerly a sales representative for Time Warner's Brooklyn Queens Division. He holds a B.A. in television and radio from Brooklyn College and graduate degree in mass communications from Drake University. Brian is also a member of the National Association of Minorities in Communications [NAMIC]. I am pleased to commend Brian for his numerous contributions and to introduce him to my House colleagues.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. MINA
SARA BARRETT

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and the students and faculty of SUNY College at Old Westbury, NY, as they honor Mina Barrett for outstanding professional and public service. Dr. Barrett was born in New York City in 1948 and at a very early age established her academic credentials. She was an honor student at Ocean-side High School and received her graduate and undergraduate degrees at the State University of New York at Stony Brook in the field of psychology.

In 1975, Dr. Barrett came to SUNY College at Old Westbury and became one of the founders of the Psychology Department. Rising to the position of associate professor, Dr. Barrett immediately became active on a variety of academic committees. Yet to the great benefit of both the academic and general communities of the greater New York metropolitan area, Dr. Barrett embarked upon a course of community service that would serve as a model for effective community activism.

Recognized for her deep understanding of the human mind, Dr. Barrett was appointed as a Red Cross Disaster mental health psychologist and became codirector of the Nassau County Chapter of the Red Cross for mental health. It was in 1994 that she was called upon by the city of Los Angeles to serve in an assisting office in the city's tragic earthquake. For her service rendered to the city of Los Angeles she received the Henri Dunant Humanitarian Award. Her services were again utilized

by the residents of Long Island in 1994 during the east end fires for which she received a service citation. During the tragic crash of TWA flight 800, she served as coordinator of mental health, rescue and relief working 18 hours a day training and directing health teams.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Barrett's activities in human relations and women's issues have given her an international reputation. I ask my colleagues to join with me and rise to salute Dr. Mina Barrett for her devotion and for all she has done to enhance our world.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN L. EDMONDS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to highlight the accomplishments of Mr. John L. Edmonds, a prominent real estate developer in New York City. Mr. Edmonds and the Edmonds Group specializes in the development and rehabilitation of housing units for low- and moderate-income families.

It is the dream of every American family to own their own home. The Edmonds Group has been directly responsible for making home ownership a reality for many families in New York. The group utilizes a combination of sources to achieve home ownership, including Federal funds, HUD tax credits, and State and local loan guarantees.

As the largest minority developer in the city of New York, Mr. Edmonds has recently developed five low-income housing projects in Manhattan. Despite fierce competition, the Edmonds Group has been able to prosper and has a 100 percent completion rate of projects it has undertaken in New York City.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND WORLD
FINALS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, today, I come before you to recognize a few very special and talented young people from my district. On Wednesday June 6, the opening ceremonies for the Odyssey of the Mind world finals were held at the University of Maryland. This competition challenges the intelligence, creativity, and team work of those participating. Competitors came from all over the world to be a part of this wonderful event.

Among those who placed were 13 young men and women from the 48th Congressional District of California. Palmquist Elementary School in Oceanside and Aliso Viejo Middle School in Aliso Viejo won top honors. Both schools won first place in the Odyssey of the Mind State competition and earned their way to the world competition this summer.

It is refreshing to see programs like Odyssey of the Mind, that challenge the young people of this country to get involved. These men and women hold the key to the future of America. It is encouraging to see their young minds at work, bettering themselves and this country with each new challenge they take on.

I congratulate each of these young people for their accomplishment. With that in mind, I would like to close with the Odyssey of the Mind's pledge: "Let me be a seeker of knowledge, let me travel uncharted paths, and let me use my creativity to make the world a better place in which to live." This is a motto we could all live by.

TRIBUTE TO SETH EDWARDS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Seth Edwards for his valuable contributions in the banking industry. Mr. Edwards is a vice president in Chase Manhattan Bank's Community Development Group, and is the manager for Chase's community affairs in Brooklyn.

During his 28 years of service with Chase, he has performed a variety of duties at international posts in Greece, the Middle East, Canada, and the Dominican Republic.

Seth was born in Oklahoma and grew up in Liberia, West Africa. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Liberia with degrees of anthropology and sociology. He joined Chase after a year of graduate study in France, and a tour of duty in South Vietnam with the United States Army. He is presently on the board of the HOPE Program and on the business advisory council of community school district 13. I am pleased to acknowledge Seth Edwards' contributions.

DISAPPROVAL OF MOST-FAVORED-
NATION TREATMENT FOR CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. VINCE SNOWBARGER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 1997

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, during the past several months, I have listened carefully to the residents of the third district who took the time to contact me about renewal of most-favored-nation status for the People's Republic of China.

To those who passionately oppose renewing MFN because of China's treatment of dissidents, let me say that we agree on everything but the solution. I have heard from many of my constituents that China's human rights record is an abomination—and I agree. Many have pointed out that China's repression of Christians and members of other faiths is an outrageous assault on the most basic of human liberties—and I agree. Others have suggested that the Chinese Government's policy of forced abortions and sterilizations cries out for condemnation from every civilized country—and I agree. Still others have expressed grave concern about China's involvement in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction—and I agree.

We disagree on one point. I do not accept the notion that the United States can effectively deal with human rights abuses in China by raising taxes on Americans. And that is what this issue is about.

I have enormous respect for those, like Dr. James Dobson, who point to the need to address China's human rights violations. However, I also note that others whose moral vision I hold in equally high esteem, such as Dr. Billy Graham and many Christian missionaries in China itself, argue just as passionately against disengagement with China. The persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in China is appalling. Yet those that preach the gospel in China say that if America were to revoke MFN Christians would face even greater persecution.

It seems to me the key test of the effectiveness of any sanction, such as withholding MFN, is whether the sanction is likely to produce the desired effect. Does anyone believe that a government that is willing to commit heinous crimes against its own people will be moved to reform its system as a result of a sanction aimed more at Americans than at China? Clearly, there is legitimate difference of opinion on how best to support those who suffer under the Chinese Government's oppression. I would hope that those who differ on the means would not vilify each other when they share the same ends.

I have co-sponsored a bill that would target tough sanctions at the elements of the Chinese Government that are responsible for atrocities against their own people and threats to our country. Under this proposed bill, the Chinese companies responsible for the illegal importation of AK-47's into California would be prohibited from exporting to the U.S. and the Federal Government would be required to publish a list of all companies affiliated with the Chinese People's Liberation Army [PLA]. It would prohibit the granting of U.S. visas to Chinese government officials involved in the Tiananmen massacre. The United States would be required to reduce assistance to organizations that support China's so-called family planning program and to vote against all loans to China from international organizations to which we belong. Finally, the President would be required to encourage our allies to join us in these sanctions.

Many Members of Congress—on both sides of this issue—have taken stands for their beliefs. It would have been easy to voice my outrage at China's transgressions by voting against renewal of MFN, regardless of whether doing so would have any impact on China's behavior.

But I believe I owe it to my constituents to base my vote on the merits of the issue, not on the politics. My vote is based on what revocation of MFN would do to Americans. First, we should understand that most-favored-nation status is the normal trade treatment we extend to nearly every country in the world. In fact, there are only six countries that the United States does not extend MFN to: Cuba, Laos, Vietnam, Afghanistan, North Korea, and what's left of Yugoslavia. Even Iran, Iraq, and Lybia, on which the United States has imposed a total embargo on trade, technically have most-favored-nation status.

Revoking MFN means that imports from that country are subject to dramatically higher taxes—taxes that are paid not by China, but by American companies and passed on to American consumers. A cut-off of MFN would increase the average tariff on Chinese imports from about 6 percent more than 44 percent, resulting in \$27 to \$29 billion in higher costs to American consumers. The shoes Kansas

families buy would jump in price from \$11 to possibly \$20 to \$25. This is the kind of sudden price increase that can blow a big hole in a family's budget

I did not come to Congress to raise taxes—even import taxes—on American citizens, especially not a 74-percent increase.

Moreover, China would likely retaliate against a loss of MFN status by restricting U.S. exports to and investment in China. Hong Kong and Taiwan would also be especially hurt: Hong Kong would lose at least 61,000 jobs.

But more important would be the effect on my Kansas constituents. One out of every seven Boeing 737's built in Wichita is sold to China and subcontractors in the Kansas City area would lose jobs if this trade were interrupted. China always has the option of buying Airbus; Boeing cannot so easily sell its airplanes somewhere else. And if Boeing can't sell its planes, many of my constituents will lose their jobs. And, of course, China is also a prime customer of Kansas farmers.

There is also the question of what China would do to make up for the loss of hard currency that removal of MFN would cause. What else does China make that finds an international market? Arms—and technology that can be used for producing weapons of mass destruction. If China were to increase these sales, our security interests would be directly threatened.

I do not intend to defend the Clinton administration's policy—if indeed it even has one—toward China. In fact, the many allegations involving illicit Chinese involvement in the American political system and how that involvement might be related to administration policy toward China has been a major concern of mine about the renewal of MFN. This administration's reluctance to address the potential security threat that China's military buildup could pose to the United States in the future has contributed greatly to the public's unease about trade relations with China.

But I do not agree with those who believe this vote represents appeasement of an obviously hostile power. Unlike the case of the Soviet Union in the late 1940's, I do not see evidence that the Chinese Government has resolved to proceed with an aggressive military strategy to achieve their goals. What is certain is that our allies, both in East Asia and Europe, will not treat China as a military treat.

Americans—especially farmers in Kansas and elsewhere—learned a painful lesson during the Carter administration about the futility of unilateral sanctions. Since clearly the United States cannot at this time—especially under the present administration—rally the rest of the world into an anti-China coalition, any move by the United States to isolate China would instead isolate us.

I was frequently asked during my campaign last year about my position on this difficult issue. I responded then that I favored MFN not for China's sake, but for America's. Having weighed carefully the substantial evidence on both sides, I continue to believe that it is in this country's interest, and in the interest of the moral principles we represent, to maintain a normal trading relationship with China.

TRIBUTE TO MORTI HIRSCH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Mr. Morty Hirsch, a long-time resident of Brooklyn, for his outstanding civic contributions. Morty is the owner of Active Fire Sprinkler Corp., the largest fire sprinkler company in Brooklyn. His company employees several hundred Brooklynites.

A professional engineer, Morty Hirsch is affiliated with the American Society of Sanitary Engineers, of which he is a past president. He has also been the past president of the New York Fire Sprinklers Contractors Association. Active in many professional arenas, Mr. Hirsch also founded the Brooklyn Navy Yard for Foreign Business, of which 200 small- and medium-size companies are members.

Mr. Hirsch was born in Brownsville, Brooklyn, where he has lived for over half of his life. For the past 27 years he has worked at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and is the father of three children, Eve, Joseph, and Ann. I am pleased to acknowledge the contributions of Mr. Morty Hirsch.

BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 1997

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives passed the Budget Reconciliation Spending Act, H.R. 2015, a bill to reduce spending programs. I voted to protect seniors, children, low income workers, and Texas. While I strongly support the goal of the legislation to balance the Federal budget, and while I voted for the balanced budget agreement of 1997, I could not support this legislation.

I support Medicare reform to extend the solvency of the Medicare Program. However, this bill cuts Medicare by \$115 billion and still only extends the program for only 8 years, not the 10 years called for in the budget agreement. The proposed changes saddle health care providers with over \$100 billion of the cuts, potentially leading to a deterioration in the quality of care. In addition to these cuts, Medicare premiums for the average beneficiary would rise by over \$15 per month, placing an unbearable burden on many seniors vulnerable to rising costs.

In addition to higher premiums for Medicare beneficiaries, this bill also hits another senior group by cutting veterans' benefits. The legislation reduces veterans' benefit cost of living adjustment [COLA] by rounding down and by limiting future increases.

We have created laws to protect workers from abuse in our society. However, the Budget Reconciliation Spending Act specifically exempts from these laws workers who are trying to leave the welfare rolls for jobs. These workers would be denied worker protections against discrimination and sexual harassment and not allowed time off for family and medical leave to be with their families in times of need.

We should be giving these workers more reasons to find a good job, not giving them more reasons to stay on welfare.

Workers in my district would be further harmed by this legislation because of provisions to privatize food stamp and Medicaid eligibility. Aside from concerns regarding a profit-seeking company determining the Medicaid eligibility of an impoverished family, this provision would jeopardize the jobs of State employees everywhere. These people work hard at their jobs, do an excellent job, and do not deserve to lose their jobs in order to reach a questionable goal.

Finally, the State of Texas bears a disproportionate share of Medicaid savings under the House reconciliation proposal regarding disproportionate share hospital [DSH] payments. Texas alone represents over 13 percent of the cuts to the DSH program, and will have DSH payments cut by 40 percent in the year 2002. Texas has the third largest Medicaid population in the country and is disproportionately affected by legal and illegal immigrant populations. DSH payments to Texas are used to serve the uninsured population, especially in rural areas. Many people in this population, with no other options for health care, could be denied basic health care services if this provision is included.

I want to see a balanced budget. I have made a pledge to the people of east Texas to work for a balanced budget. Unfortunately, I cannot support a balanced budget that balances the budget on the backs of seniors, children, workers, and Texas health care funds. This bill is bad for the American working families, bad for the American economy, and bad for America. I urge my colleagues on the conference committee to compromise on a bill that benefits working Americans instead of one that harms them.

THE BOROUGH OF PHILIPSBURG— 200 YEARS OF HISTORY AND SPIRIT

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the founding of one of the great boroughs in my congressional district, the borough of Philipsburg in Centre County, PA.

Philipsburg is located in the Moshannon Valley, a region rich in history and spirit. The area was a dense wilderness in 1794 when two Englishmen, one by the name of Henry Philips, decided to settle on a tract of land in a mountainous region beside Moshannon Creek. The only road into town was a footpath, a far cry from modern Philipsburg's transportation network. In 1797, Philips and his partner attracted the first 12 settlers by offering them each a house lot in town and 4 acres of land. These 12 individuals faced a formidable task in carving out a settlement from the thick forest. Nevertheless, by winter of that same year, signs of civilization appeared in the form of cabins and mills, and the first use of the word "Philipsburg" appeared in the daybook of the Philips' store. Over the next 67 years, the settlement matured into a thriving community, finally being incorporated

as the town of Philipsburg by petition on November 29, 1864.

Although the face of Philipsburg has changed in its evolution, its most basic tenets have not. Since its formation, Philipsburg has been a growth-oriented community well-known for its residents' strong work ethic and sense of family values. Residents truly appreciate the value of an honest day's work and take great pride in their efforts. These characteristics make the town and the Moshannon Valley as a whole very attractive to business and industry. Indeed, the success and expansion of several local businesses offers testimony to the caliber of the work force. The fact that several national corporations have chosen Philipsburg as home also reflects their overall confidence in the region.

Nevertheless, there is more to a community than its history and development. For some, the most important component of a community is its character, especially for those individuals seeking an exception quality of life. True to form, Philipsburg does not disappoint in this category either. The beauty and serenity of the surrounding hills truly make it an ideal place to live. Each season distinctly enhances the town's natural beauty, whether it be the colorful fall foliage of the peaceful blanket of winter's snow. Recreation and other activities abound within the area. Festivals, parades, church suppers, and youth sports are embraced by the community as a whole and evoke a sense of hometown atmosphere to native residents and newcomers alike. Visitors are not viewed as strangers as is so often the case today, but treated as family.

Mr. Speaker, I am indeed privileged to serve such an idyllic and distinguished community. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing the citizens of Philipsburg a very happy 200th anniversary with positive outlook for another 200 years of continued growth and prosperity.

AMITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CELEBRATES ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the Amity Presbyterian Church's 200th anniversary. It has served the spiritual needs of the people of the Warwick township in Orange County, NY for 200 years, and God willing, it will serve the people for many more years to come.

The Amity Presbyterian Church has grown as America has grown. It was organized when our Nation was just 21 years old under the name of the Presbyterian Society of Amity. At the time of the organization, John Adams was President, and our Nation was in its first year without the father of our country, George Washington. As our Nation grew so has the church. The Amity Presbyterian Church has been there during our Nation's moments of triumph, and during our darkest times. For 200 years, the Amity church has heard the prayers, and problems of Americans. It still stands, much like our Nation, strong, proud, and glorious.

The Amity church moved into its present building just after the conclusion of the War

Between the States, and was remodeled in 1931. The church is presently undergoing a renovation, which started in 1994, which will hopefully restore it to its former glory.

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join with me in extending our congratulations to the congregants of the Amity Presbyterian Church as they celebrate this significant milestone.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT (BUTCH)
BEMMES

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge to many outstanding contributions of a good friend and constituent, Robert (Butch) Bemmes, who is retiring as a member of the city council of Reading, OH, on July 15, 1997.

A lifelong resident of Reading, Butch Bemmes has spent years giving back to his community. He is a carpenter by trade and owned the Butch Bemmes and Sons Construction Co. He volunteered for years with the Valley Youth Organization, coaching Little League baseball. For 30 years, he volunteered by carrying down markers at Reading High School football games. This year, he personally collected donations to purchase a wheelchair lift for Veterans Stadium in Reading to allow the disabled to enjoy the Friday night football action. He also served as president of the Reading athletic boosters during the 1970's.

Butch has also been active in public service. He served two teams on the Reading city council, where he served as chairman of the recreation committee; chairman of the zoning, planning and environment committee; and a member of the laws and contracts committee. He also served as Reading's city representative to the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, city representative for the Mill Creek Watershed committee and liaison for council and the school board committee.

Even with all these accomplishments, his first love has always been his family. Butch and his wife, Paula, raised nine children to whom they are devoted. And their family now includes 26 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his life, Butch Bemmes has worked to make his city and his country a better place to live. I salute his many contributions and wish him well.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1119) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, for military activities of the Department of

Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I rise alongside my colleagues from the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee in strong support of the amendment to H.R. 1119 offered by my good friend, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

Mr. Chairman, the Delaware Bay, which stretches across the width of the second district, is a high-traffic area for tankers transiting to and from Philadelphia. From Cape May Point, watching the tankers on the horizon, I am reminded that a disaster like the *Exxon Valdez* spill could happen again at any time—so I am thankful for the much-needed safeguards put in motion by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 [OPA 90].

The double hull provisions in OPA 90 were created expressly for the purpose of preventing another disaster like the *Valdez spill*. Anyone who doubts the wisdom of these requirements should visit the bayside communities in the second district. It would be plain to see the amount of wildlife and coastal vegetation that would be affected by a spill is too staggering to comprehend. Commercial and recreational fishermen who rely on the Delaware Bay would face certain losses as well.

That is why I strongly object to shippers attempting to remeasure or reduce their vessels' gross tonnage in order to evade the double hull requirements. Each year that owners or operators extend the life of older vessels only increases the chance of a disastrous hull breach. Mr. Chairman, we can close this loophole in OPA 90 now, or agonize over why we did not after the next spill occurs.

While I am a strong supporter of American cabotage, and believe that international shipping is vital to the commerce of the United States, we cannot have shippers abusing the law. Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN'S amendment is a commonsense improvement, and I urge its support to all my colleagues.

TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2014) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to subsections (b)(2) and (d) of section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998:

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, east Texans are overburdened by taxes. They work hard and take home too little of their paycheck. I understand that the deficits of the 1980's have limited the amount of tax relief we can offer to the people, but I feel strongly that we must offer what we can. Families need help covering the expenses of raising their children. They need help paying for the expenses of higher education. They need to be able to keep more of the money they earn from their long term investments. And they need to be able to pass family farm or a family business to their children without having to sell it to pay taxes when they pass away.

East Texans need tax relief, and that is why I voted for H.R. 2014, the Taxpayer Relief Act.

No legislation is without flaws, and I hope to see a slightly different bill when it comes back from conference committee. Tax relief should be directed toward working middle class families—the backbone of our Nation—and I am concerned that the current bill gives too great a tax break to those with higher incomes at the expense of hard working families. However, this bill is an important step in reducing the tax burden of the people in east Texas.

The budget agreement crafted by Congress in 1993 put us on a path for tax relief. Our deficits have fallen significantly over the past 4 years, and it is now time to reward the people for shouldering their share of the load. Today, we passed legislation to give families \$500 for each child they are raising, to offer tax breaks on tuition for students in higher education, to reduce the capital gains tax, and to increase the exemption for the estate tax.

As I said, this bill is far from perfect. For example, the legislation does not adequately protect worker's rights and fails to immediately raise the estate tax exemption. The exemption, now \$600,000, would increase to \$1 million with this bill, but not until 2007. Many families in east Texas who own farms or small businesses could end up losing significant portions of their family property waiting for this provision to be implemented. The exemption should be \$1 million now, not 10 years from now.

I voted for this bill in spite of its imperfections which must be corrected in conference committee. I voted for this bill because I want tax relief for working families in east Texas. Over the next several weeks, I will be working with my colleagues to improve the bill so that we offer tax relief in a fair and equal manner; today, however, I am proud to say that I voted to save the taxpayers \$85 billion in taxes over the next 5 years.

BLENHEIM CELEBRATES 200
YEARS

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the true character of America was shaped, not in its largest cities, but in countless small towns and villages.

The spirit of pride, patriotism, and voluntarism is alive and well in these smaller communities, where everybody knows and cares about everybody. I'd like to say a few words this morning about one such community, one of my favorites.

The town of Blenheim was the largest of six towns formed in Schoharie County on March 17, 1797. Its most famous landmark is the Blenheim Covered Bridge, the longest single span wooden covered bridge in the world and a national registered landmark. The town's most famous son was Hezekiah Dickerman, who built a large tannery after moving there in the 1840's.

Another famous figure was Capt. Jacob Hager, who, along with his brothers fought in the Revolutionary War and had several encounters with the Iroquois Indians in the Schoharie Valley. Some of the present-day Hagers still live on part of the original Hager property.

The town of Blenheim is also home to Lansing Manor, home of Judge John Lansing's daughter and her husband. Lansing played a role in developing our Bill of Rights. The Lansing Manor is currently home to the New York State Power Authority Visitors' Center.

The town still has a one-room school house which has been reopened as a museum. Every year, third and fourth graders visit the school to learn about the Revolutionary War heroes who came to Blenheim to lease land on the Blenheim patent. The museum is also used for collecting, preserving, interpreting, and promoting interest in the art, history, and culture of the town of Blenheim and surrounding area.

In the period immediately after the Revolutionary War, the area was primarily agricultural. The town of Blenheim has adjusted to the modern era, but not at the expense of its small-town charm, which present-day residents have been careful to preserve.

On Saturday, July 12, the town of Blenheim will celebrate its 200th birthday. The celebration will feature the New York State champion fiddler and many exhibits on the theme of the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Speaker, let us today express our own birthday wishes to this most American of small towns, and wish her and all her residents best wishes in the future. Better yet, Mr. Speaker, come up and visit the town of Blenheim some time for a good glimpse of what made this Nation great.

HONORING NORMAN L. GEISSLER

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a heroic and selfless man, Mr. Norman Geissler. Mr. Geissler is a valuable citizen in the Elkins Park, Montgomery County community, and a keystone of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Geissler devoted most of his life in service to the people of Montgomery County. Starting at the age of 18, Mr. Geissler progressed through the ranks and became a chief figure in the fire-fighting force of Pennsylvania. His positive leadership and heroism make him a role model in the eyes of both the citizens of Pennsylvania and its most elite firefighters.

Mr. Geissler grew up in Abington Township. In 1946, shortly after his 18th birthday, he joined his father's fire company and he soon advanced to assistant chief. In 1950, he joined Elkins Park Fire Company in Cheltenham Township and became the chief engineer and secretary of the active crew.

Advancing yet again in 1957, Mr. Geissler became the secretary of the Montgomery County Fireman's Association. This role was especially significant because he followed in his father's footsteps, and he remained in this leadership rank for 26 years.

In 1970, Mr. Geissler advanced to the president of the Fireman's Association of the State of Pennsylvania and in 1971 he chaired their convention in Erie.

Elected president of the Keystone State Fire Chiefs in 1987, Mr. Geissler continued to put forth effort and dedication to his duty for the next 2 years. On February 24, 1985, he was

inducted into the Chapel of Four Chaplain and given their award for heroism. Mr. Geissler was also honored with the prestigious James A. Miller Award for Meritorious Service at the Firemen's Association convention, the highest award given by this eminent association.

Mr. Geissler holds several highly ranked leadership positions. He is the parliamentarian emeritus of the Firemen's Association, as well as the parliamentarian of the Montgomery County Firemen's Association and their representative to the Firemen's Legislative Federation. In addition, he is the chairman of the by-laws-committee for the Keystone Fire Chiefs.

Mr. Geissler received his 50-year award in March 1990 by the Elkins Park Fire Co. at their annual banquet. Paul Ditzel, a renowned historian of the fire service, gave special recognition to Mr. Geissler in his book, "A New Look at the Old Firehouse."

In addition to well deservedly receiving all of these awards and prestigious positions, Mr. Geissler is a dedicated fireman in practice. The most exemplary incident occurred on April 21, 1963. Mr. Geissler heroically rescued Sharon, Laurie, and Paul Newman from suffocation from a fire in the kitchen. Despite the potential danger to himself, Mr. Geissler entered the dwelling, crawled to the second floor, gathered the children, and carried them downstairs. In recognition of this life-threatening and heroic act, the commission awarded him a well-deserved bronze medal and \$500 award.

The fact that Mr. Geissler progressed all the way through these prestigious positions and the multitude of well-deserving awards illustrates his dedication to his job as well as to his State. Not only do his neighbors think highly of him, but across Pennsylvania he is thought of as a man with integrity, heroism, and extreme loyalty to the Commonwealth.

In addition, Mr. Geissler is devoted to the many fire-fighting organizations of which he has been a part or a leader. His genuine heroism, desire and ability to improve, and dedication to task combines to provide him as a positive leader, ideal role model, and keystone in the fire-fighting force of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

As Mr. Geissler and his family have just celebrated his 75th birthday, I extend to him my personal warm wishes and ask that the Congress of the United States honor him for a lifetime of devotion to his family, his community, and his Nation.

NO TAXATION WITHOUT
RESPIRATION

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, taxes on inheritance ought to be abolished, and the sooner the better.

In Congress, we are moving toward our goal of eliminating the tax on property and savings when inherited by descendants.

Even though total elimination of the tax may take several years, we have already approved a measure to protect more Americans from the ravages of inheritance taxes.

The tax, often called the death tax, currently attacks individual estates of more than

\$600,000, and twice that for couples. I'm working hard in Congress to raise the threshold to \$1 million then index that figure for inflation thereafter.

The death tax is wrong, plain wrong. It comes at the wrong time and hurts the wrong people. It breaks up family farms and small family businesses. It robs families of the fruits of their labor and the earnings of their investments.

For the Government, there is little value in the death tax since it brings in only a sliver of the Nation's revenues. Yet, it's very expensive to administer.

The only people helped by the death tax are lawyers, accountants, and IRS tax agents. For example, the Center for the Study of Taxation found compliance and enforcement costs total 65 cents for every dollar collected.

Every IRS field office maintains a separate death tax unit to deal with 380 pages of rules and laws associated with the tax. Federal courts are now backlogged with 10,000 estate-tax cases.

Although led by Republicans, our death tax relief proposals enjoy bipartisan support. Finally, Congress is realizing that a pro-family, pro-agriculture, pro-business tax policy entails death tax relief.

Taxing people after they die just doesn't seem fair. As I've often stated on the floor of the House, "no taxation without respiration."

ON PHILIP ALBERT PLANTNER'S
ATTAINMENT OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Philip Plantner of North Olmsted, OH, who will be honored on August 10, 1997 for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, 12 of which are required, including badges in: Lifesaving; First Aid; Citizenship in the Community; Citizenship in the Nation; Citizenship in the World; Personal Management of Time and Money; Family Life; Environmental Science; and, Camping.

In addition to acquiring and proving proficiency in those and other skills, an Eagle Scout must hold leadership positions within the troop where he learns to earn the respect and hear the criticism of those he leads.

The Eagle Scout must live by the Scouting Law, which holds that he must be: trustworthy, loyal, brave, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and reverent.

And the Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle Project, which he must plan, finance and evaluate on his own. It is no wonder that only 2 percent of all boys entering scouting achieve this rank.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize and praise Philip for his achievement.

STATE APPROVING AGENCIES—50
YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE
TO VETERANS

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that July 1997 marks the 50th anniversary of State approving agencies [SAA's] and their representative organization, the National Association of State Approving Agencies [NASAA]. With the enactment of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 and the subsequent implementation of the World War II GI bill, Congress recognized that each State has a right, and responsibility, to monitor the quality of education within its borders. Congress also acknowledged the Federal Government's responsibility to ensure that the readjustment benefits provided by our grateful Nation to our veterans effectively assist in the adjustment to civilian life following military service. Accordingly, Congress established a triangular alliance that has been uniquely successful. Within this three-sided partnership, the SAA approves education and training programs; the Department of Veterans' Affairs administers veterans' education programs; and the institutions and their approved programs provide the training for our veterans—be it educational, professional, or vocational.

The philosophy of State approving agency [SAA] personnel can best be described in the Creed of NASAA that was written in 1960 and still stands today—

We believe the veterans education and training program is an important aspect of a free, democratic society, deserving of the rights and benefits bestowed by the Congress of the United States.

We believe the security of the country to be vested in the young men and women in our armed forces—that they are the guardians of our people.

We believe such sacrifice on their part can and should be offset with opportunities for education and training and other necessary adjustments to help them to a better life for themselves, their families and their communities.

We believe that as the Approving Agencies for the education and training programs, we are the working partner of the veteran.

We believe most firmly in the future of this partnership—in its ability to grow and prosper in the pursuit of its acknowledged goal—and we believe that goal to be the proper utilization of the natural abilities of the veterans.

We believe that belonging to this partnership we are charged with certain responsibilities and that among these are:

maintaining a working knowledge of local and national conditions, methods and problems,

providing the trained personnel necessary in giving prompt and efficient service,

being always ready and willing to offer guidance on problems, and

being always ready and willing to offer guidance on problems, and

maintaining high standards to insure each veteran of the best possible training.

We believe, finally, that belonging to this partnership is a trust, a trust to be constantly exercised by being at one time a good citizen, a conscientious worker, and by making ours the best program possible—and, if we do this, we believe we will have accomplished our purpose.

The contributions of NASAA and its individual member SAA's have been tremendous. SAA personnel have not only worked to ensure the integrity and the success of the various GI bills, but also have been instrumental in the creation and refinement of the programs. They were at the table during discussions about how best to serve the education and training needs of returning Korean war veterans, Vietnam veterans, Desert Storm veterans, and all the others who have served our country through military service. Of special note, SAA's worked side by side with our former colleague and chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Honorable G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, to ensure that the Montgomery GI bill would provide the broadest possible education and training opportunities. With their assistance, we were able to expand the Montgomery GI bill to include apprenticeship and other on-the-job training; vocational/technical training, graduate school, and flight training programs. All of this, Mr. Speaker, has been for the purpose of ensuring that our Nation's veterans are never forgotten or disadvantaged because they took time out of their lives to serve their country.

Before closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment NASAA and the member SAA's on the outstanding job that they do in protecting the best interests of those who are serving or have served their country. The world of education and training is changing at lightning speeds. The many new fields of knowledge and the new and innovative ways to deliver instruction have received the immediate and thoughtful attention of SAA personnel because they work diligently to stay in the forefront of education and training. The SAA national training curriculum ensures internal and interstate consistency and a high level of professionalism. A new reporting system provides a common data base of shared information. Additionally, SAA's actively engage in outreach to encourage usage of the MGIB by veterans.

In short, NASAA is a progressive organization whose membership works hard—and succeeds—in their efforts to ensure that the education and training programs available to our veterans are the very best that can be offered.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
SCHOOL IN ST. JOHN, IN, CELEBRATES ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate St. John the Evangelist School, in Saint John, IN, on the completion of its recent sesquicentennial celebration.

St. John the Evangelist School is a parochial elementary school under the jurisdiction of the Catholic Diocese of Gary. Upon its founding in 1846 by the Brothers and Sisters of the Holy Cross from Notre Dame, IN, St. John the Evangelist was the first school opened within the town of Saint John. With the beginning of the Civil War, the parochial school was closed, and was reopened after the war as a public school. In 1903, the school returned to its Catholic origin and was in use

until the building of the present school in 1969. Due to increased enrollment, a second floor addition was built in 1988. St. John the Evangelist has a current enrollment of 351 students.

The Saint John community began commemorating the 150th anniversary of St. John the Evangelist School on Friday, April 18, 1997, with an all-day celebration, entitled "150 Years of Quality Catholic Education." The day's events, which took place in the school gymnasium, included a prayer service, a giant birthday cake, and a program put together by the St. John the Evangelist students. The student program depicted the theme "Eras of Education" with costumed, musical presentations of past decades. Eighth-graders in turn-of-the century garb portrayed the construction of the Panama Canal, a malaria outbreak, and such inventions as the airplane, toaster, and Model T. Ford. Each class within the school researched an assigned era and similarly presented their interpretations. School Principal, Sister Angela Mellady, commented that the students learned a great deal about American history, as well as the heritage of their school, while planning the event.

Some celebration activities which will take place throughout the year, include the wearing of St. John the Evangelist birthday celebration shirts each Friday in place of the student uniform, and an appreciation luncheon for local businessmen who have supported the school throughout the years. The anniversary celebration will close with a 150th birthday reunion this coming Saturday, July 12, 1997. Approximately 1,000 St. John the Evangelist alumni have been invited to the reunion, where past experiences and memories will be shared.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to St. John the Evangelist School on achieving its sesquicentennial anniversary. Everyone involved in the school's growth and success over the years should be commended, as the values and quality instruction provided to students have undoubtedly served as a cornerstone of education in the Saint John, IN community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. VIRGIL
KOECHNER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a distinguished gentleman from the Fourth Congressional District of Missouri, Virgil Koechner. He recently retired after more than 44 years of dedicated service for the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

Mr. Koechner, from California, MO, served for 5 years in the United States Navy before beginning work for Southwestern Bell in 1952. He was not only an employee of Southwestern Bell, but was also elected local president of the Communications Workers of America for 32 consecutive years. In retirement, Mr. Koechner plans to stay active in the labor movement.

Mr. Koechner and his wife Mary Jane have been long time friends of mine. It is dedicated people like Virgil Koechner who are the heart and soul of what makes this country great. I

know that other Members of this body join me in congratulating Virgil Koechner on his retirement and wish him the very best in the days ahead.

FARMERS CELEBRATE NEW
FREEDOM

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, last year Congress passed a farm bill which provided farmers with the freedom they need to respond to market forces and more effectively compete in the global marketplace. This legislation represents a very fundamental departure from previous farm policy and allows much greater flexibility in planting decisions. Farmers have responded favorably to this new independence which places the decisions where they belong—with the farmers, not the Federal Government. This Member would like to commend to his colleagues the following editorial from the July 4, 1997, edition of the Lincoln Journal-Star, which highlights the positive changes brought about by the 1996 farm bill.

By the way, this editorial viewpoint represents a turnaround in views by this Lincoln newspaper—apparently based upon the results obtained.

[From the Lincoln Journal Star, July 4, 1997]

FARMERS GET MORE FREEDOM, WHICH WILL
BENEFIT EVERYONE

This Fourth of July, many farmers are celebrating their newfound independence.

In a front-page story in the Journal Star this week, Associated Press writer Robyn Tysver drew this telling image:

"Free at last. Free at last," Minden farmer LaMoine Smith warbled one morning from the field on his cellular phone."

The celebration is because this year, for the first time in decades, farmers are free to plant what they want, thanks to the Freedom to Farm Act. No more government restrictions. No more trips to the Farm Service Agency in town to submit a farm plan. No more certification of acres.

The Journal Star joins in the celebration. Putting decision-making in the hands of the farmers will, in the long run, benefit them and the taxpayers who have been subsidizing them. The change puts incentives before farmers to become better business managers. There are rewards to stay on the cutting edge.

The picture of farmer Smith in the field cheering on his cellular phone is an accurate one, for city folk who have lost contact with agriculture. Farming ain't like the reruns of "Green Acres." Farming today is cellular phones, commodity prices by computer modem, fertilization by Global Position System and more.

The farmers who learn to use those hi-tech tools most efficiently will be the ones reaping the greatest rewards under the new system. Under the new system, there are real decisions to be made. The best decision-makers are the ones who will prosper.

In the initial year of the Freedom to Farm Act, there have been some changes in planting patterns, but farmers generally were cautious.

Because land no longer must remain idle under government regulation, farmers put more into production. For example, the num-

ber of acres planted in corn went up by 600,000 in comparison with last year.

Other responses were more directly market-driven. This spring, soybeans were at \$8.50 a bushel, prompting Nebraska farmers to plant 650,000 acres more than last year.

There was also a little experimentation. Farmers in Kansas planted 12,000 acres of cotton. Farmers in Mississippi planted 550,000 acres of corn.

It's easy to celebrate this year, we acknowledge, because for now farmers have the best of both worlds. They have both freedom and a safety net, because the farm payments still exist. The payments will be reduced gradually over a seven-year period. This year, farmers still have a fallback if they made the wrong decisions last spring.

By 2002, when price-support guarantees are scheduled to end, there will no longer be a safety net. Freedom has its price.

Even now, support for the Freedom to Farm Act is far from universal. A majority of farmers favor it, but there is a minority who were happy with old regulations and the comfort they brought.

Their ranks could grow if the weather puts bumper crops of soybeans and corn on the markets this fall, which would depress prices.

Farmers might have more freedom this Fourth of July, but not from worrying about the weather. Some things never change.

PETER M. WEBER—A DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF SERVICE TO THE CITY AND PEOPLE OF ROLLING HILLS ESTATES

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Councilman Peter M. Weber for 23 distinguished years of service to the city of Rolling Hills Estates and to the citizens of the 36th Congressional District.

No Councilmember in the history of Rolling Hills Estates has served the City Council for more years than Peter Weber. He has served six 4-year terms as councilman, including 5 1-year terms as mayor. Marked by his affection for and dedication to preserving the city's unique character, he stood behind the critical decisions that have preserved its rural atmosphere and fostered its financial strength. To provide for the city quality recreation, Councilman Weber lobbied in favor of bringing the city stables under Rolling Hills Estates management. Also during his tenure, the annual Tracy Austin Tournament was brought under the auspices of the city's Park and Recreation Commission. Further improving the scenic qualities of the city, both Ernie Howlett and Highridge Parks were developed. In addition to parks, Peter Weber successfully prioritized the establishment of nature preserves. During his tenure, George F. Canyon and the Chandler Preserve were acquired and dedicated as open space in perpetuity, and the George F. Canyon Nature Center was conceptualized and subsequently opened to the public. These assets of Rolling Hills Estates remind us of the dedication and vision Councilman Weber had for the community, and they should be sources of great pride for Peter Weber.

Councilman Weber was instrumental in the creation of the Peninsula Emergency Response Team [PERT], an information-gather-

ing network to assist the Sheriff's department in times of civil unrest or natural disaster. As mayor, Peter Weber helped to establish the city's Economic Development Commission to enhance the city's commercial area. These agencies will help to ensure the future safety, success, and stability of Rolling Hills Estates.

Peter Weber will always hold a place in the hearts of the citizens of Rolling Hills Estates. I am proud to join them in extending sincere admiration and appreciation to Peter and his family.

"INVENTORS OF THE YEAR"

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's efforts against AIDS have taken a major step forward with the development of a new class of antiretroviral drugs known as protease inhibitors. One of the corporate leaders in this field is Abbott Laboratories, which is headquartered in my district.

Recently, some of the scientists at Abbott responsible for this pharmacological breakthrough were named "Inventors of the Year" by the Intellectual Property Law Association, and the National Intellectual Property Owners Association. They are Dale J. Kempf, Ph.D., Daniel W. Norbeck, Ph.D., Hing L. Sham, Ph.D., and Chen Zhao, Ph.D. I join with these organizations in strongly commending their efforts.

The Abbott protease inhibitor, NORVIR, was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in March 1996 in one of the fastest pharmaceutical approvals ever issued by that agency. This drug, like other protease inhibitors, prevents the human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] protease enzyme from carrying out its essential tasks during viral maturation and reproduction. For this reason, protease inhibitors have been found to provide significant anti-viral activity when used with other anti-HIV drugs in combinations known as cocktails.

Since their introduction, numerous studies have demonstrated that protease inhibitors, in combination with other drugs, were able to reduce the level of circulating HIV to less than currently detectable concentrations in some patients. There is also hope that the emergence of drug resistant HIV strains will be more hindered with protease inhibitor treatment as compared to the level of inhibition known to occur with older drugs. Both the scientific and popular press have hailed the development of protease inhibitors as one of the most important scientific breakthroughs of the decade.

Mr. Speaker, it is in this context that I rise to recognize these national heroes for their very significant contributions to our Nation's war against the disease known as AIDS.

PATHFINDER

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues the following editorial supporting the Pathfinder mission which appeared in the Lincoln Journal Star on July 7, 1997.

[From the Lincoln Journal Star, July 7, 1997]

PATHFINDER MISSION EXAMPLE OF FEDERAL FUNDS WELL SPENT

The Web site operated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is logging as many as 40 million hits a day as the six-wheeled Sojourner rover explores the surface of Mars.

There's a bit of irony in the statistic.

Many of the cybersurfers hitting the site are using computers with more brains than the rover itself. Sojourner has a mere 8,500 transistors in its brain, compared with millions in the Pentium models. The vehicle's designers were on a tight budget.

Spending for the U.S. interplanetary space program in the 1990s contrasts sharply with the Viking missions of the 1970s. Those missions cost \$3 billion in today's dollars. The Mars Pathfinder mission's cost is pegged at \$266 million.

It's money well spent.

Humanity has an inherent need to push into the unknown. It's biologically wired into our makeup. Evidence abounds, from the migration of humans across the Bering land bridge into North America to the curiosity of children exploring a new campground.

Humans have been fascinated with Mars since Cro-Magnon tribes watched the movement of the night sky's only red object. When the medieval invention of telescopes revealed lines on the planet's surface, theories sprang that they were a system of canals.

Today, the fascination with extraterrestrial matters borders on the obsessive. The popular television show "File" is based on a premise that aliens are among us; last summer's megahit movie "Independence Day" was about an alien invasion. Roswell, N.M., has turned into a tourist destination because of rumors that aliens landed there 50 years ago.

The question is not whether humans will spend money because of their fascination with space. They already are plunking down dollars for books, movies and travel about the subject.

Spending tax dollars in pursuit of facts on the subject is a far better use of society's resources. The imagination of authors and filmmakers are diverting entertainment. At a deeper level, however, people want scientific fact, not unsubstantiated storytelling.

When man landed on the moon in 1969, the popularity of the space program and NASA was at an all-time high. From that high point, public support declined. NASA's rep-

utation plummeted because of the Challenger explosion. Pressure built to reduce the program's bloated expenses.

The low-budget, unpiloted Pathfinder mission is the result. When Daniel S. Goldstein was appointed NASA director in 1992, he approved a low-cost plan developed by Donna L. Shirley, who now heads the Mars exploration program at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

Shirley has been a proponent of finding low-cost ways to explore Mars since the 1980s, when she headed a panel that said if the dream of exploration were to become a reality, ways had to be found to do it on the cheap.

Now her dreams are being realized. They are dreams shared universally by people across the globe. Finally, there may be answers to questions that have existed since prehistoric humans watched the red planet dance across the night sky.

Funding the Pathfinder mission to Mars is a worthwhile use of tax dollars.

TRIBUTE TO HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 926TH ENGINEER GROUP, USAR

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring to the attention of the House, the accomplishments of a fine group of dedicated citizens that serve in both a military and civilian capacity in this great Nation. I am pleased to inform you that the Headquarters and Headquarters Company 926th Engineer Group, U.S. Army Reserve [USAR], Montgomery, AL, received the company size unit award for the training year, 1996. The group was presented the award at the ROA National Convention in Kansas City on June 21, 1997.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 926th Engineer Group was selected from hundreds of Army Reserve companies across America, based on stringent criteria of readiness, training, drill attendance, and personnel strength. The 926th Engineer Group has conducted, in a superior manner, a meaningful and effective training program throughout the training year. They have demonstrated to the highest degree, the ability to accomplish their wartime mission.

As a member of the Committee on National Security, promoting strong national defense, I wish to congratulate Cap. Joseph K. Roberts, company commander, and all the members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 926th Engineer Group from my congressional district for their achievements and adherence to the highest standards.