

now, or will be, available to almost every other American. By offering an MSA, Federal employees and their families will have the opportunity to take control over their health care dollars by choosing their own doctors.

The FEHB Program is the largest employer-sponsored health insurance system in the country. The program is often cited by both the private and public sector as a model of efficiency and effectiveness, controlling costs through private sector competition with limited governmental intervention. Participants choose from roughly 400 competing health plans nationwide, with anywhere from 10 to 30 health plan options available in any particular area. With a fixed dollar amount contributed by the Government, Federal employees can decide which health plan best meets their specific health needs. We strongly believe that the FEHB Program can be further enhanced by allowing enrollees the opportunity to choose an MSA option.

Under our legislation, MSA's combined with a high deductible plan will be available to all FEHP Program enrollees, including active workers, dependents, and annuitants, at the beginning of 1999. The annual deductible limits are identical to those currently in law for private market MSA's: \$1,500–\$2,250 for individual coverage with an annual out-of-pocket cap on expenses of no more than \$3,000, and \$3,000–\$4,000 for family coverage with an annual out-of-pocket cap on expenses of no more than \$5,500. Contributions made to the MSA and any interest on the account will build up tax free. Distributions from MSA's are exempt from Federal income tax to the extent that the distributions are used to pay for qualified health expenses. Should the worker retire prior to age 65, he or she can continue coverage through the high deductible health insurance plan and will continue to have contributions made to his or her MSA.

I believe that there are many advantages to using MSA's. One of the most important advantages of MSA's is that it provides individuals maximum freedom of choice regarding their health care. Rather than putting the power to choose in the hands of the Government, employer, insurance company, or provider, MSA's keep the power to choose in the hands of the patient. In addition, MSA's have been shown to be cost effective. Under the current third party system consumers have little incentive to limit spending or weigh the cost-benefits of services. However, when individuals realize that the money in the MSA's belong to them, they are much more cost-conscious purchasers of health care and make much more informed judgments about their own health care needs. And, as a result of more cost-effective use of health care resources, health care costs are reduced not only for the individual, but ultimately for the Government and the taxpayers.

Over the past few years, many of us in Congress have fought hard to provide MSA's to Americans. We have succeeded in providing MSA's to both individuals in the private sector and Medicare beneficiaries. It is now time for us to turn to our Federal employees and empower them to control their own health care decisions.

Adding MSA's to the FEHB Program will expand choice to Federal workers, improve their health coverage, and reduce health care costs for Federal employees, the Government, and taxpayers. Furthermore, they will further

strengthen and improve the FEHB Program by expanding the array of choices in the program. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this essential legislation.

HONORING THE 75TH "DIAMOND"  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF  
SOUTH GATE

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 5, 1998*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I rise today to recognize the 75th "Diamond" Anniversary of the City of South Gate, California.

Founded on January 20, 1923, the City of South Gate is a proud community where families and industry flourish together. South Gate's successful blending of the needs of the community and industrial base provides residents with a safe community where families can prosper, industry can succeed, and diversity can thrive. Fittingly, South Gate has consistently ranked among the best cities in Southern California for its quality of life, and in 1990, won the "All America City" award from the National Civic League.

South Gate's motto, "Opportunity," is fitting for this thriving community. Throughout the city's history, it's opportunity that gave Amelia Earhart a place where she first learned to fly; it's opportunity that gave rise to the spectacular transportation and industrial base the city grows from; and it's opportunity through the city's ethnic diversity, safe communities, and positive youth outlets that allows South Gate to prosper. Whether it be religious cooperation or community volunteering, abundant parks or growing industries, South Gate has always promoted opportunity for its diverse population in order to give rise to success.

To the casual observer, South Gate is seen as a place with a strong history of support for the promotion of the "ideal community" through individual and collective opportunity. Look deeper and one sees that "opportunity" has always been a way of life for South Gate's citizens. Industries are thriving because of targeted incentives and investments in the commercial districts; residents are prospering because of the city's nationally recognized schools, parks, churches, civic groups, and recreational facilities; and the community is flourishing because of the unequalled protection provided by the police, fire, and public-works services.

Over the past 75 years, South Gate has persevered because of its innovative spirit, community vitality, and diverse population. But most importantly, South Gate has excelled because of the opportunities given to its people. I congratulate South Gate on their 75th anniversary and for being a city whose vision and character reflect the best of America.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 5, 1998*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, we have been back in session for several days now and still no

word on campaign finance reform. With almost daily editorials and articles in newspapers across this country, how can we sit back and ignore a call to action? There may be different ideas promulgated and different reservations expressed about the problem but until those ideas and reservations are debated on the House floor, we are getting nowhere fast. The American people deserve a response to their concern.

This week the members of the House of Representatives were in town for a very light schedule. This would have been a perfect time to consider campaign finance reform. I hope that next week, with another light schedule, we may take up this important issue. The people of my district refuse to accept "no" for an answer.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
RONALD V. DELLUMS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 1998*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, February 6, 1998, the House of Representatives and the California Delegation will bid farewell to RON DELLUMS, a man who will go down in history as one of the most effective legislators ever sent to Washington. I rise today to pay tribute to this man who has served this country and this body with great distinction, valor, integrity, and honor.

He has been a faithful servant on a long journey. When he came to Congress in the early seventies, he came with a mission—to ensure civil rights and social justice for all mankind. His record speaks for itself. From leading the fight against apartheid in South Africa to providing comprehensive solutions to a myriad of problems that this country has faced over the last 27 years.

RON's presence in Congress will surely be missed. His wisdom and hard work have provided a solid foundation on which the Congress continues to build. It has been a pleasure working with him throughout the years. He has all always been fair and equitable in his approach. I am pleased that I have been able to build a lasting professional and social relationship with RON. He has given me sound advice and has provided a legacy for legislators such as myself to emulate.

He has worked tirelessly to provide the people of the Ninth District of California with a sound, reasonable, and effective voice in Washington while providing the entire country with superb statesmanship. His accomplishments are innumerable.

I would like to thank RON for his commitment, wisdom, and guidance to our great nation. His work ethic has been and will continue to be the measure by which all legislators should be judged.

As he leaves this body to pursue new interests and endeavors, I want him to know that our prayers are with him and his family. I know that God will continue to bless and keep him as he moves into yet another phase of life.

H.R. 2846—NATIONAL TESTING

**HON. FRANK D. LUCAS**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 5, 1998*

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker. During the first session of the 105th Congress, nearly 300 members of the House rejected the President's federal testing plan as part of the FY 1998 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriation Act. A compromise was reached that prohibited the President from moving forward with national testing in FY 1998. However, no agreement was reached regarding national testing activities in FY 99 or beyond. Therefore, President Clinton is at it again.

For some reason the Clinton Administration thinks people inside the beltway know what is best for my children and my constituent's children in Western Oklahoma. The Department of Education is moving forward to write a national test to be voluntarily administered to fourth and eighth graders in reading and math respectively. How can a huge bureaucracy such as the Department of Education know how to test the students of Hollis, Oklahoma? Has anyone from the Clinton Administration ever been to Hollis, Oklahoma? Is it appropriate to give fourth and eighth grade students in Boise City, Oklahoma population 1,509 the same national test as the students in Boston, Massachusetts? What is the Clinton Administration hoping to accomplish with the results of these beltway developed tests?

Many questions still need to be answered regarding the manner in which the Administration is moving ahead with test development. During consideration of the FY 98 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Act, I head from hundreds of parents who were irate with the proposal of national testing. Parents, local PTA's, and local school boards know what is best for their local students. Let's support the parents in our districts by voting in support of H.R. 2846 and insuring that Congress will have a voice in developing any sort of voluntary testing. Parents need to know that their children's best interests are being protected.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN H.  
HARLAND CO. IN GURABO, PR**HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 5, 1998*

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to call attention to an important American success story. This past December 1997, the John H. Harland Co., headquartered in Atlanta, GA, celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Gurabo, PR, printing plant.

The Gurabo plant opened in 1972. During that quarter of a century, Harland's employees have played a crucial role in helping the company meet the needs of its customers. Today, the 52 employees at the Gurabo facility fill approximately 31,000 check orders each month for customers of financial institutions in Puerto Rico, Antigua, the Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, and throughout the Caribbean. The financial institutions represented include

Banco Popular, Banco Santander, Citibank, Scotia Bank of Puerto Rico, and Banco Bilbao Vizcaya.

Based on their experience with Harland's Gurabo facility, many of these financial institutions now also use other Harland products and services, including the company's database marketing software which help them to better understand the needs of their customers. They have served as a fine example of entrepreneurship, demonstrating over the past 25 years their commitment to the development of quality products and services. As the needs of their clients expanded or varied, so did their services.

The John H. Harland Co. was founded in 1923, and is the second largest check printer in the United States. It is also the Nation's leading provider of database marketing to financial institutions. Harland is understandably proud of the Gurabo plant and its employees. And Mr. Speaker, we are proud to have such a good corporate neighbor in our community. John H. Harland Co. has preserved and enhanced a great tradition during its first 25 years in Puerto Rico. I offer my congratulations to the John H. Harland Co. and its employees on the occasion of its 25th anniversary in Puerto Rico. It is my hope that their fine example proves to be a catalyst for other companies to make similar commitments. May the company's endurance and prosperity serve as positive lessons to future generations of Americans.

JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ PARTICIPA-  
TION IN THE WINTER OLYMPICS**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 5, 1998*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today, just one day before the Opening Ceremonies at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan to congratulate Jennifer Rodriguez, the first Cuban-American to participate in this most important event. Ms. Rodriguez, who will compete in the women's speedskating tournament, also has the distinction of being the first Hispanic athlete and the first Miamian to participate in a Winter Olympics. As a Hispanic, a Cuban-American and a resident of South Florida, I am immensely proud of Ms. Rodriguez great accomplishment.

We are blessed to be the heirs of an extraordinary tradition of athleticism, competition and camaraderie which began over 2,000 years ago in Ancient Greece and lives on in our modern Olympic games. These celebrations bear witness to the best in the human spirit—the Spirit of the Olympiad. As elected officials, we too partake of an arena which itself is marked by conflict. All too often, however, we forget to play fair—the old cliché that it is not just about winning. These games should remind us of the inherent value of sportsmanship.

I salute Ms. Rodriguez for her dedication. Her effort serves as testimony that those virtues the Ancient Greeks so valued are alive and well, so much so that they have driven a young woman from the warm, semi-tropical climate of her native South Florida to the ice-cold weather of Milwaukee where she has

been training rigorously since 1996 for this upcoming event.

Good luck Ms. Rodriguez and best wishes to your family! They, like me, must be very proud.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
RONALD V. DELLUMS

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 1998*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it saddens me today to say goodbye to Congressman RONALD V. DELLUMS of the 9th District of the State of California. He has brought a great conscience to this body during our debates over military spending and the role of the modern U.S. military. He is as thoughtful and passionate on issues to protect the opportunities for children as he is on reducing a massive military budget. Mr. Speaker, on those issues of advocacy of children, he reminds many of a mutual friend of both of ours, Congressman Mickey Leland of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that Congressman DELLUMS is a staunch opponent of weapons funding, specifically the funding of the B-2 bomber, an issue where he and I have disagreed on sharply. However, as with all his dealings with opponents, I never experienced a slight or an unkind word.

Although he opposes many weapons funding initiatives, he is not an enemy of our military or the ideas of the country it is sworn to protect. Rather, he is outspoken when in times of peace, our military spending takes more importance than feeding our children.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that Congressman DELLUMS and Congressman Leland lead the effort to end U.S. support for the apartheid regime in South Africa by introducing legislation calling for economic sanctions. Fifteen years later, that legislation passed the House, imposing the sanctions that would eventually lead to the dismantling of apartheid and begin the creation of a new South Africa.

Congressman DELLUMS was born in Oakland, CA, on November 24, 1935. However, he has deep Texas roots. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps for 2 years, he received an A.A. degree at Oakland City College, A.B.A. from San Francisco State University and his master's in social work from the University of California at Berkeley.

Throughout his career in the Berkeley City Council and Congress, his education background and experience in social work helped draw attention to the plight of the poor and influence the implementation of policies like the National Health Service Act and the Head Start Program.

Mr. Speaker, among all his legislative accomplishments and contributions to this body, all Americans, particularly African-Americans are proud that in 1973 he was the first African-American appointed to the formerly known House Armed Services Committee. He made another historic first in the 103rd Congress, becoming chairman of the committee. As chairman, he articulated a progressive and alternative vision of the military, beginning an honest debate over the possibilities of reinventing our military forces without threatening national security.