

Right in our own backyard here in the nation's capital, the Washington Blue Cross plan recently merged with the Maryland plan headquartered in Baltimore. This followed passage of HR 3025 at the end of the last session of Congress, facilitating the merger by amending the Federal charter of the DC Blues, which is the only Blue Cross plan nationwide to have been chartered by Congress rather than by a state. The merger is being challenged in two court actions brought by the Blue Cross policyholders and by a national patient advocacy foundation, who claim that the merger involves an illegal shift in control of charitable assets away from the intended beneficiaries. Lawyers for Blue Cross are citing congressional action on HR 3025 as a defense in the lawsuits.

While HR 3025 modified the DC Blues' charter to change its provisions for membership, the legislation was silent on all issues involving the plan's charitable and benevolent status and the charitable nature of assets. A review of the last minute consideration of this legislation in November 1997 that Congress took no action to diminish the charitable status of the Blues plan, nor did Congress contemplate the effect of HR 3025 on the DC Blues' obligations arising from its charitable status.

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HONORING LAURA BERMAN

**HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 1998*

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor a young Rhode Island student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Laura Berman of North Kingstown has just been named one of my state's top honorees in the 1998 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state.

Ms. Berman is being recognized for creating a library awareness program for third graders in her community of North Kingstown. Laura had read about a project in the New York City school system and decided to base her program on that. Working with a fellow volunteer, the local library system, and the elementary school teachers, Laura designed a classroom presentation that would impress upon children the joys of reading and the activities offered by the public library. Laura also distributed personal library cards to every child, along with a t-shirt purchased with donations that read, "Your library card . . . don't leave home without it!" The program was so successful that Laura has recruited additional volunteer help and plans to offer it at two more elementary schools this year.

In addition to Ms. Berman, I am pleased to tell you that there were four Distinguished Finalists. Ryan Arruda of Wickford Middle School in North Kingstown initiated a program to collect recyclable aluminum cans to benefit the local food pantry. Mariah Northrop also of Wickford Middle School participates in "Make a Difference Day" to clean up her community. Janaina Stanley of North Kingstown High School started a program called Breaking Down Barriers to prevent racism, prejudice

and hostility in her community. Finally, Erin Conti or Warwick Veterans Memorial High School volunteers as a "buddy" on a baseball team for physical and mentally challenged children.

All of these students should be very proud of themselves for having been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud each and every one of them for his or her initiative in seeking to make Rhode Island a better place to live, and for the positive impact they have made on the lives of others. Each one has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young people can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

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IN TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLYS  
FRANCIS MUELLER, JR.

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 1998*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize a most distinguished member of our community, Dr. Willys Francis Mueller, Jr., of Flint, Michigan. After devoting 33 years of his life to the medical profession, Dr. Mueller has decided to retire from his position as Chairman of the Department of Pathology at Hurley Medical Center in Flint. Throughout his many years of dedicated service, Dr. Mueller has worked as an honorable physician, a selfless civic volunteer and a devoted family man.

Dr. Mueller attended the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and graduated with a degree in pre-med. He continued his education at U of M, and received his Medical Degree in June of 1959. To complete his education, Dr. Mueller did his internship and residency, and later became certified in pathologic anatomy, and clinical and forensic pathology. In September 1966, Dr. Mueller joined the United States Army and became Captain of Medical Corps Assignments. He served as a Staff Pathologist and as a Chief of the Accident Pathology Branch in the Military Environmental Division at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

As a member of various medical organizations, Dr. Mueller has made immeasurable contributions to the lives of people throughout the State. He is a member of the Michigan Association of Blood Banks, the Michigan State Medical Society and the Michigan Association of Medical Examiners, to name just a few. He has served as a Clinical and Adjunct Professor at Michigan State University, Northern Michigan University and Michigan Technical University.

Dr. Mueller's work as a physician is only to be outdone by his involvement in several civic organizations. These include the American Red Cross, The Hurley Clinic, St. John Catholic Church and Delta College. Also, he has been involved in numerous speaking engagements at local high school career days and service clubs.

Mr. Speaker, Willys Mueller's spirit of volunteerism combined with his lifetime commit-

ment to healing makes him truly worthy of praise and recognition. It is indeed a pleasure to stand in front of this House and speak of Dr. Willy's Francis Mueller, who through his thoughts, deeds, and actions has provided the community with an invaluable resource and an indomitable spirit. The City of Flint is a better place because of Dr. Mueller's selfless service to humanity. Our community owes him a tremendous debt of gratitude. We wish him well in all his future endeavors.

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MARY ANN KIRK, "MARYLAND  
AMERICAN MOTHER"

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 1998*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Maryland's 1997 "Maryland American Mother," Mary Ann Kirk. A resident of Rockville, Md., and my constituent, Mrs. Kirk was honored last year for her devotion to her wonderful family and for her tireless efforts as a community volunteer. Mrs. Kirk has been active in promoting character and citizenship education in Maryland's schools. She has long been an active volunteer with the American Heart Association and with area school tutoring programs. In all her activities, she underscores the important roles of mothers in shaping our society.

The "Maryland American Mother of the Year" is sponsored by American Mothers, Inc., an organization founded in 1933 to strengthen the home and family and to provide support to mothers in a sometimes troubling, always challenging, world. AMI, the official sponsor of Mothers' Day, provides outreach programs that include parenting workshops, tutoring and literacy programs, providing clothing and shelter for needy families.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me in saluting Mary Anne Kirk, who by her contributions to her own family and to her state and community, richly deserves the title "Maryland American Mother of the Year." She truly makes a difference.

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TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY SEELEY,  
SOUTHSIDE ADVANCEMENT AS-  
SOCIATIONS' WOMAN OF THE  
YEAR

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 1998*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mrs. Dorothy Seeley, who will be honored Sunday, February 22, 1998, as the Woman of the Year by the Council of South Side Advancement Associations, Incorporated, of Milwaukee.

The Council of South Side Advancement Associations is a network comprised of delegates from south side Milwaukee veterans, scholarship, business, civic and senior citizen organizations. Its members, from many diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds come together in a coalition to educate themselves on local matters, to provide support to each other and address issues involving the South Side community.