Managing the largest single contract case in Air Force history, with claims of nearly $2 billion (Anthony Perfilio, Director, Air Force Materiel Command Law Center).

Creating a multi-media workstation used by students in schools around the world to make environmental observations as part of global information systems (Dr. Alexander MacDonald, Director, Forecast Systems Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

Selected the ''Best Boss in America'' by Redbook magazine (Steven Winnick, Deputy General Counsel, Program Service, Department of Education).

Perfecting the MK 48 Advanced Capability torpedo, widely acknowledged as the world's best (Dr. John Sirmalis, Technical Director, Naval Undersea Warfare Center).

Creating a national campaign to stop telemarketing fraud—which costs American consumers over $40 billion a year—result in the conviction of almost 50 telemarketers (Eileen Harrington, Associate Director, Marketing Practices, Federal Trade Commission).

Publishing two of the ''100 Most Cited'' papers in the life sciences, one of which has become a Citation Classic (Dr. Kenneth Olden, Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Department of Health and Human Services).

Coordinating the massive mobilization of on-site relief for the Oklahoma City bombing, while managing daily operations of the largest industrial complex in the Defense Department (Gerald Yanker, Executive Director, Oklahoma City Air Logistic Center, Department of the Air Force).

Restoring the Hubble Space Telescope to its anticipated capability, on schedule and within budget, while improving its observing powers beyond original specification, with spectacular results (Joseph Rothenberg, Director, Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA).

Serving as both Chief Financial Officer and Chief Information Officer, the only career executive in whom both of those statutory functions have been placed (Stephen Colgate, Assistant Attorney General for Administration, Justice Management Division, Department of Justice.

Establishing a cooperative effort with Walt Disney World to share technologies, including advanced animation techniques, to develop a virtual reality environment for soldiers (James Skurka, Deputy to the Commander, U.S. Army Simulation, Training & Instrumentation Command).

Coordinating the government's response to a terrorist plot to bomb 11 U.S. planes flying Asian-Pacific routes, resulting in capture of the conspiracy's leader, the mastermind of the World Trade Center bombing (James Reynolds, Chief, Terrorism and Violent Crime Section, Criminal Division, Department of Justice).

Designing and presenting a departmental budget of over $350 billion, the fourth largest budget in the world (Dennis Williams, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Budget, Department of Health and Human Services).

Serving on a 14-nation board of directors governing development of a joint air command control system in Europe (Spain Woodrow Hall, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary and Chief Information Officer, Information Management, Department of Energy).

Having the primary responsibility for an investigation and prosecution which resulted in a fine of $100 million—nearly seven times the highest fine ever previously imposed in a criminal antitrust case (Gary Spratling, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice).

Directing the co-invention of the implantable Ventricular Heart Assist Device, which could eventually eliminate the need for heart transplants (Leonard Nicholson, Director, Engineering, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, NASA).

Serving as Chief Operating Office of the only national mint in the world that can produce its lowest denomination coin at a cost below face value, and which scored an American Customer Satisfaction Index rating equal to such giants in customer satisfaction as Maytag, FedEx and Mercedes-Benz (Dr. Andrew Cosgarea, Jr., Assistant Director and Chief Operating Officer, U.S. Mint).

Personally handling negotiations concerning disposition of President Nixon's White House tape recordings (Neil Koslowe, Special Litigation Counsel, Federal Programs Branch, Civil Division, Department of Justice.)

Leading the development of a program to generate the technologies to design and build an environmentally compatible and economically competitive supersonic airliner for the 21st century (Robert Whitehead, Associate Administrator for Aeronautics, NASA).

Overseeing information processing and international voice and data communications systems which provide services for 40 million beneficiaries, with an agency home page recognized as one of the Internet's ''101 Best Bets'' by PC Magazine (Martin Baer, Regional Commissioner (Seattle), Social Security Administration.)

Being recognized as an international authority on animal health and foodborne diseases with discoveries on the epidemiology and genetics of trichinosis (Kenneth Murrell, Deputy Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, Department of Agriculture).

Serving as principal staff director for six Commanders-in-Chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, the world's largest naval base, with $10 billion in operating and manpower accounts (Dr. Roger Whiteway, Director, Warfare Program and Readiness, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Department of the Navy).

Transforming an organization of 152 domestic and 26 foreign locations operating with a deficit to one operating with a surplus, achieving $37 million in savings and increased overall performance (Waler Biondi, Former Assistant Commissioner, Office of Investigations, U.S. Customs Service).

Being responsible for protecting the President and his family, a President whose foreign visits have included countries that presented significant terrorist threats and/or hostile combat zones (Lewis Merletti, Special Agent in Charge, Presidential Protection Division, U.S. Secret Service).

Directing the largest and most complex medical center serving the highest concentration of veterans anywhere in the United States (Kenneth Clark, Medical Center Director, West Los Angeles VA Medical Center, Department of Veterans Affairs).

Providing the leadership and dedication which were essential elements of the teamwork that returned the Apollo 13 Spacecraft and crew safely (Tommy Holloway, Manager, Space Shuttle Program, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, NASA).

INTRODUCTION OF THE REINSTATEMENT OF REHABILITATION BENEFITS FOR SENIORS ACT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of important legislation for Medicare beneficiaries who require outpatient therapy, the Reinstatement of Rehabilitation Benefits for Seniors Act. This bill repeals the Balanced Budget Act provision that imposes an arbitrary cap on outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services as of January 1, 1999.

Section 4541(c) of the Balanced Budget Act places annual caps of $1,500 per beneficiary on all outpatient rehabilitation services except those furnished in a hospital outpatient department. I am deeply concerned about the impact this limitation will have on Medicare beneficiaries who require necessary rehabilitation services.

If this cap is implemented, senior citizens suffering from medical conditions common to the elderly such as stroke, hip fracture, and coronary artery disease will have diminished access to rehabilitation care they require to resume normal activities of daily living.

The $1,500 cap is arbitrary and, according to BBA, cannot be adjusted for the medical condition of the patient, or the health outcomes of the rehabilitation services. These caps are, by definition, insensitive to patients suffering from diseases or chronic injuries or who have multiple episodes of care in a given calendar year.

The $1,500 cap dramatically reduces Medicare beneficiaries' choice of provider. Congress has committed to offering beneficiaries greater health care choices. However, a senior citizen who has met the $1,500 cap will have no choice but to seek care in a hospital outpatient department. More convenient provider choices such a rehabilitation agencies, physical therapists in independent practice, and Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities will be foreclosed to them. Beneficiaries in rural areas will have a particularly difficult time obtaining needed services.

Furthermore, absolute dollar limitations on outpatient rehabilitation services are unnecessary. Effective January 1, 1999, the same date the $1,500 cap goes into place, all outpatient rehabilitation services will be reimbursed according to a fee schedule based upon the Resource Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS). The movement from cost-based reimbursement to a fee schedule obviates the need for an arbitrary fixed dollar limit on beneficiary services. The screens and edits within the existing fee schedule are designed to control utilization of services.

Confusion has surrounded the interpretation of how the $1,500 cap is to be applied. While the $900 cap that exists for physical therapists and occupational therapists in independent practice today applies separately to both physical therapy and occupational therapy, discussions with HCFA indicate the $1,500 cap may be applied differently. HCFA has indicated the new provision of law could be interpreted as establishing two separate caps. The first cap of $1,500 would be for occupational therapy services, while the second cap would be split between physical therapy and speech-language pathology. Speech-language pathology is not currently capped in outpatient settings.

Finally, Congress held no hearings on the imposition of an arbitrary cap prior to adopting this provision last year. As a result, we have been unable to consider the potential problems that may arise with implementation. In comparison, multiple hearings were held on new payment mechanisms for skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, and managed care plans.

Passage of the Reinstatement of Rehabilitation Benefits for Seniors Act, which I am proud to cosponsor, is necessary to ensure that seniors have sufficient access to necessary physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services under Medicare. I am proud to say that this bill is also fiscally responsible, requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services to implement a new methodology for payment of rehabilitation services by January 1, 2000, to ensure budget neutrality. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

HONORING NEIL RHODES WINNING ESSAY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, please include the attached text in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

''MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY''

1997–98 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

(By Neil Rhodes, Colorado Winner)

A few years ago, when I was about eleven years old, I was profoundly affected by the chronicle of a young Jewish girl during the second world war: a girl who, while hiding out from the Nazis, wrote in the red-checkered diary she had received for her thirteenth birthday; a martyr who was eventually discovered and sent to her death in a concentration camp; a visionary whose diary writings encompassed the plight of millions around the world. That little girl was Anne Frank.

One of the final entries in Anne's red-checkered diary proclaimed the desperation of a nation without democracy. It read: ''ideals, dreams, and cherished hopes rise within us only to meet the horrible truth and be shattered . . .

At the young age I was, this was the first real connection I had ever experienced with the evils of tyranny. Since then I've encountered a multitude of other stories and situations that have increased my awareness of democracy.

Like the time I visited a small holocaust museum and spoke with Mr. Kelen—a survivor of the holocaust himself; or the time I traveled just across the Mexican border, and witnessed first-hand the crippling poverty caused by government corruption; the time I sat glued to the television, my eyes locked on the image of a young Chinese boy facing certain death as he stood in the path of an oncoming military tank.

Every new experience helped shape my thoughts, mold my perspective, and strengthen my voice as an American citizen. I have come to realize just how fortunate I am—how fortunate we all are—to possess the light of democracy.

I've learned that democracy is priceless and powerful. Priceless, because our basic rights are stained with the blood of millions who fought to gain them. Democracy also has boundless power: quite simply, the power to shatter the chains of bondage forever.

But as we live our lives in freedom we must remember the horrible truth that Anne Frank wrote about. The horrible truth is that there are still millions of people living in the darkness of oppression. For those not yet experiencing liberty, we must continue the battle. If we believe in our own sovereignty, that is our duty. The Declaration of Independence does not say ''All Americans are created equal'' but that ''All men''—all around the world—''are created equal.'' Thus, we cannot simply work to continue our own democratic system; we must bring that system to the rest of the world. Only then will the visions of our forefathers be completed.

In the social and political arena every American has a voice—a platform from which to speak. In many parts of the globe that could not be farther from the truth. Anne Frank never had a voice. I, however, do. I stand before you now, and I speak on behalf of those who couldn't and those who still cannot.

My voice in our democracy is the reflection of a free person; my voice pays tribute to the thousands who died for the cause of liberty; my voice cries out an urging for the respect of our nation and an offering of hope for the future.

Yes, even in the midst of the cruelest oppression, hope is one thing that can never be destroyed. Because, you see, I never finished the quotation by Anne Frank that I gave earlier. Here is the quote in its entirety: ''ideals, dreams, and cherished hopes rise within us only to meet the horrible truth and be shattered . . . yet in spite of everything I still believe that people really are good at heart.''

Anne Frank's devotion to the human spirit should serve as an example to all of us, and especially to Americans. Progress in the world must begin with you and me. I would hope that one day all Americans would understand that with strength, compassion, diligence, and the fortitude of our voices, we have the ability to change democracy from an ideal, a dream, and a cherished hope . . . into a powerful and permeating reality.

IN MEMORY OF BISHOP JUAN JOSE GERARDI

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep condolences to the people of Guatemala on the brutal murder of Bishop Juan Jose Gerardi on April 26th.

Bishop Gerardi played a leading role in establishing and directing the Catholic church's human rights office in Guatemala. Just two days before his death, his office made public its report, entitled ''Guatemala: Never More,'' which documented over 55,000 instances of violence and human rights violations in that country's 36-year civil war. His death reminds us that despite the strides Guatemala has made since peace accords were signed in December 1996, the process of building peace, reconciliation and respect for human rights remains fragile. For that reason, I have joined several of my colleagues in writing a letter to President Arzu of Guatemala expressing our condolences on the death of Bishop Gerardi and urging him to maintain a clear and strong commitment to implement the peace accords.

Bishop Gerardi was truly a martyr to the cause of truth. The best way that we in the Congress can honor his memory is to pass the Human Rights Information Act, H.R. 2635, which would require all federal agencies charged with the conduct of foreign policy to declassify and disclose records on human rights violations in Guatemala and Honduras after 1944. The survivors of human rights violations in these countries, and the relatives of those who did not survive, have a right to know the truth. If we are serious about our commitment to democracy, peace and human rights in Central America, then we should do no less.

IN HONOR OF KENTUCKY NURSES WEEK

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the nurses of Kentucky, as well as throughout this nation. Nurses are a strong component of our health care system and are known for providing health care with a human touch.

In my home state, nurses are celebrating Kentucky Nurses Week and they have every reason to be proud. Working hard and achieving professional and personal goals, many nurses in my community have proven themselves time and time again. Continually striving to upgrade standards of care and improve services, Kentucky nurses have shown that they are committed to providing the best quality health care possible for their patients.

I hope you will join me in recognizing this noble professional during this week, and throughout the year. Certainly, they are deserving of this acknowledgment.

THE NATIONAL GUARD IN A BRAVE NEW WORLD

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

[From the Economist Newspaper Limited, May 13, 1998]

THE NATIONAL GUARD IN A BRAVE NEW WORLD

ANYTHING USEFUL TO DO, BESIDES FIGHTING THE ARMY?

It was one of the sweetest victories in the 350-year history of the National Guard. the citizen-soldiers of Nevada left their factories, farms and investment banks for a battlefield in California, where they disguised their American tanks as Russian T–80s and donned the colours of an imaginary country called Krasnovia. Within a few hours they had pierced the defences of the adversary, a mechanised brigade of full-time soldiers from Georgia (the American state, that is). Guardsmen across the nation rejoiced at their Nevadan comrades' success. They had given the Pentagon sceptics a bloody nose—and proved that ''weekend warriors'' are perfectly capable of engaging in full-scale armoured combat whenever Uncle Sam needs them.

Unfortunately, not every battle in the relentless conflict between the full-time American army and the Army National Guard, a mostly part-time force with strong local roots, has such a rapid and decisive outcome. Most of the time, the two institutions are locked in an inconclusive war of attrition which makes it impossible for Pentagon