

Southern Illinois University and from the University of Virginia. He also served his country in the U.S. Army, having been stationed in Germany for three years.

His ability to develop strategic visions for the many companies he ran, also benefited the meat and poultry industry as a whole, during Lee's five-year term as an officer of the American Meat Institute. A long-time AMI director, Lee was selected by his industry colleagues and competitors to help lead the industry's national trade association and was elected AMI's Chairman of the Board in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Lee Lochmann. His leadership has undergirded his successful career and made him a widely respected and admired leader in the food industry. I only hope that Lee and his family derive as much satisfaction from his retirement years, as he has given to the food industry during his forty-five year career.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 4090—PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL OF VALOR

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in October of 1996, Captain Brian Alkire of the Sheffield Township, Indiana Fire Department ran into a raging structure fire to warn seven other firefighters of a fire burning in the attic above them. Before he was able to escape with the last firefighter, the roof collapsed, trapping him and Firefighter Louis Lawson in the burning building. Even though he lost his protective headgear in the collapse, Captain Alkire continued to search the toxic, superheated, and smokey room for his colleague before emerging from the structure completely on fire. He saved the lives of those seven firefighters, but as a result of his efforts he received several weeks in the Wishard Burn Unit, numerous skin-grafting surgeries, and months of occupational therapy.

In May of 1998, Baltimore Police Officer Marc Camarote rushed into a working structure fire protected only by his service uniform to rescue two people from a blaze that demolished the entire house. February 1, 1997 found Firefighter Martin Gotte in a burning building across the street from his firehouse, his arms around a little girl whom he rushed from certain death to the skilled hands of first responders who resuscitated her back to life. Lieutenant Walter E. Webb from Washington, D.C.; Lieutenant Earnest B. Copeland from Dallas, Texas; Firefighter Anthony Glover, Nashville, Tennessee; the list goes on and on.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I could fill the RECORD today with names and stories about first responders who have showed such great valor that it might rival the volume of the federal tax code. Every day across America the story is the same, public safety officers, be they firefighters, emergency services personnel, or law enforcement officials, leave their families to join the thin red and blue line that protects us from harm. They put their lives on the line as a shield between death and the precious gift of life.

It is proper then, if not perhaps a bit late, that we should commemorate their dedication

and sacrifice with a Medal of Valor that carries the full weight of the Congress and the President of the United States. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support our military and our dedicated soldiers, sailors, and marines, but I think we must constantly be reminded that we have a corps of domestic defenders who are deserving of the same level of support and attention. As our military defenders are honored for gallantry above and beyond the call of duty, so too should we honor our corps of domestic defenders.

Of course, any of you who are familiar with the first responder community will remark that they are probably the last group of people to stand on formality and decoration. Most of them would, on their day off, put their lives at risk to save even a cat in a tree, and they would do so without hesitation. Earlier this year, Mr. Speaker, our District of Columbia Fire Department lost a firefighter, Sergeant John Carter. It is both tragic and typical of the first responder community that Sergeant Carter came in to work before his shift started to respond to that fire. Mr. Speaker, this kind of dedication is beyond our power to adequately commemorate even on the House Floor.

In my own Congressional District in October, Mr. Speaker, the Malvern Fire Company will dedicate a monument to their fallen first responders. Across the country, communities will recognize the 94 fire and emergency services personnel who have lost their lives in connection with their duties as a public safety officers this year. This number I'm sure, is supplemented half-again by fallen law enforcement officers. I am pleased then, Mr. Speaker, to give my full support to H.R. 4090, the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor. While we cannot, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, with our poor power add or detract from the gallantry of their work with our actions, we can honor first responders with a Medal that will identify them as heroes to all Americans.

While it would be impossible to name every first responder deserving of this award let me, Mr. Speaker, conclude my remarks by offering the names of fourteen first-responders, in addition to those already mentioned, who would be a good place for the newly formed committee to start: Louis Giancursio—Rochester, NY; Mark E. Gardner—Baltimore, MD; Anthony W. Rivera—San Francisco, CA; Robert Crabtree—Carboro, NC; Jeffery A. Barkley—Phoenix, NY; John Barrett—Bronx, NY; William Benevelli—Boston, MA; Eric Britton—James Island, SC; Myles Burke—Philadelphia, PA; William Callahan—Bronx, NY; Robert Foster—Fort Worth, TX; Landon West—Fort Worth, TX; Mike Lachman—Fort Worth, TX; and Cody Stilwell—Fort Worth, TX.

TRIBUTE TO THE LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS, THE TOMS RIVER EAST LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Little League World Series Champions, Toms River East Little League team.

The 11 and 12 year olds from Toms River, New Jersey sailed through the Little League

tournament at Williamsport, Pennsylvania undefeated and won its first Little League World Series championship. Additionally, Toms River East became the first New Jersey team to win the championship since 1975 and the first U.S. team to win since 1993.

Toms River East secured the championship from the team from Japan by a score of 12–9. Chris Cardone, who was 1 for 10 coming into the final game, slugged home runs in consecutive at bats to propel Toms River East to the title.

Also starring in the game was Todd Frazier who had four hits in four at bats including a home run and earned a save in the championship game.

This past weekend, 40,000 fans, friends and family members gathered to welcome the champions home at a parade in their honor. After the speeches were concluded, a question was posed to team manager Mike Gaynor on his feelings about the magical run to the championship. Coach Gaynor summed up the experience "as the time of his life."

Mr. Speaker, I salute the Toms River East Little League team in winning the Little League World Series and to all Little Leaguers around the world who participated and upholding the Little League Pledge of "win or lose, I will always do my best."

THE MEDICARE REHABILITATION BENEFIT EQUITY ACT OF 1998

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Equity Act of 1998. This bill will ameliorate the impacts on seniors needing outpatient rehabilitation services of coverage limits on those services imposed by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA). Dollar limitations on services will be replaced by a patient classification system effective July 1, 2000.

Between 1990 and 1996 Medicare expenditures for outpatient rehabilitation therapy rose 18 percent annually, totaling \$962 million in 1996. During that time, outpatient rehabilitation spending shifted substantially away from hospitals and toward rehabilitation agencies and comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities (CORFs). Payments to agencies and CORFs rose at an average annual rate of 23 percent and 35 percent, respectively.

The BBA enacted substantial changes in Medicare's payment policies for outpatient rehabilitation services. Two limits are imposed on outpatient rehabilitation services—coverage for physical and speech therapy is capped at \$1,500 per beneficiary per year; coverage for occupational therapy is subject to a separate cap of \$1,500. The limits will become effective for services rendered after January 1, 1999. Rehabilitation services furnished in hospital outpatient departments are excluded from the caps.

Unfortunately, these dollar limits do not take into account patient characteristics such as diagnosis or prior use of inpatient and outpatient services. Implementation of the limits will have a disproportionate effect on the most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries and may place a financial burden on some beneficiaries.