

willingness to roll up his sleeves and get to work resolving many of the nation's problems that face lawmakers. He is a man of his word and his character defines the meaning of integrity.

As the senior Republican member of the House Appropriations Committee, JOE MCDADE led the fight for a strong national defense. As the ranking republican of the Defense Subcommittee since 1985, Mr. MCDADE has been a key architect of the annual defense and national security legislation during much of the strengthening of the military during the 1980s. He played a key role in crafting compromises which preserved weapons programs and gave the United States leverage in negotiating arms control treaties like the START treaty with the Soviet Union and the 1989 United Nations Agreement to totally eliminate chemical weapons by the year 2000. He has supported military programs which emphasize a high-quality force, with emphasis on training and readiness for combat.

He also served the House of Representatives with distinction as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, which has jurisdiction over most programs of the Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works programs, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, and several other agencies.

On the Interior Appropriations panel, I was proud to work with Congressman MCDADE in helping our nation address national energy problems. Because of his work promoting parks and recreation, he has been honored by the National Parks and Recreation Association.

Mr. MCDADE served from 1978 to 1991 as the top-ranking Republican on the Small Business Committee. On the Small Business Committee, Congressman MCDADE focused on measures to stimulate the nations small businesses and industries, and to create new opportunities for small businesses to compete in the international marketplace. Over 98 percent of New Mexico's businesses are classified as small businesses, and many of these owners are extremely grateful for the Congressman's positive work on their behalf.

I wish Mr. MCDADE and his family all the best and look forward to his continuing dialogue and conversations with members of Congress who need advice from time to time in addressing and resolving the challenges that face our nation.

#### THREAT OF NUCLEAR MISSILE ATTACK

### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would ask his colleagues to consider carefully the following editorial from the October 6, 1998, edition of the Norfolk Daily News, entitled "Defense System is Needed in U.S."

[From Norfolk Daily News, Oct. 6, 1998]

DEFENSE SYSTEM IS NEEDED IN U.S.

1972 TREATY DOESN'T BAR UNITED STATES FROM  
DEVELOPING ANTI-MISSILE WEAPONS

A bipartisan commission headed by Donald Rumsfeld, a former U.S. Secretary of De-

fense, recently concluded that nuclear missiles from rogue nations would strike American cities with "little or no warning" in just a matter of a few years.

At the same time, U.S. intelligence agencies are saying that the United States has nothing to worry about from such missile attacks.

What is one to believe?

The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based public policy research institute, thinks Americans would be wise to heed the findings of the Rumsfeld commission and take the steps necessary to ensure the United States has an effective missile defense system. We agree.

The Soviet Union may be no more, but the threat of a missile attack on the United States is as real as ever. China is a bona fide nuclear power with missiles already aimed at the United States, and India and Pakistan have detonated nuclear devices as well. In addition, North Korea and Iran have been developing missiles that soon may be able to reach the United States. And a number of countries already possess missiles capable of striking U.S. allies and troops stationed abroad.

All of this prompts Edwin Feulner, president of Heritage Foundation, to make two points:

1. Those who argue that the 1972 ABM Treaty bars the United States from having a military defense system are mistaken. The treaty, which the United States signed with the Soviet Union, was designed to prevent the deployment of missile defenses. But the Soviet Union no longer exists. That makes the treaty null and void.

2. A missile defense system doesn't need to spur flashbacks of Star Wars and President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative that was proposed in 1983. Since then, defense experts have been able to devise an effective missile defense system that could be operational simply by upgrading the U.S. Navy's existing fleet of guided-missile cruisers.

Those two points should help further the cause of establishing a missile defense system. For if even one nuclear missile reached the United States, millions could die within minutes. As Mr. Feulner has said, building such a defense system is not just a defense consideration, it's a moral imperative.

#### TRIBUTE TO SISTER IRENE KRAUS

### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to consecrate the memory of a woman whose life was spent treating the sick in my state of Michigan and throughout the nation, Sister Irene Kraus, a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

Sister Irene was a pioneer in the health care industry. She was the first woman to chair the American Hospital Association, she also chaired the Catholic Health Association and was inducted into the Healthcare Hall of Fame of the American Hospital Association. The number of honors bestowed upon this extraordinary woman are too great to list in full. Sister Irene's many accolades include: the American College of Healthcare Executives Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Hospital Administration, the B'nai B'rith International National Health Care Award, and the American Hospital Association Distinguished Service Medal.

I became personally acquainted with Sister Irene while serving on the Lay Advisory Board

at Providence Hospital in Southfield, Michigan. As President and Chief Executive Officer of Providence Hospital, Sister Irene provided the leadership and vision necessary to implement a health care policy and value system based on respect, advocacy for the poor, quality care, simplicity and inventiveness. It was this literally divine combination that made Southfield's Providence Hospital, and the many other institutions guided by her hand, so valuable to their respective communities.

Underlying her many professional accomplishments, however, was her ability to look beyond organizational structures, to recognize every individual's need for medical and mental health care, and find practical avenues toward prevention and treatment. She did not hesitate to seek answers beyond the conventional wisdom of the day. Her combination of functional command, common sense and diplomacy often persuaded her colleagues to support her ground-breaking approach to policy.

Her rare combination of compassion, clear thinking and spirited leadership will be sorely missed by all those whose lives she has touched. Our family will miss her as a person whom we had the privilege of knowing and working with; like with so many others, she left an indelible imprint on our lives.

On Friday, October 9, a Memorial Service will be held to honor Sister Irene at Providence Hospital, Southfield, Michigan. Only the session in Congress will prevent my joining in this observance. I will be there fully in spirit.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE AUTISM STATISTICS, SURVEILLANCE, RESEARCH, AND EPIDEMIOLOGY ACT OF 1998 (ASSURE)

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to improve the quality of research on pervasive developmental disorders like autism. My legislation—The Autism Statistics, Surveillance, Research, and Epidemiology Act of 1998 (ASSURE)—will provide critical support for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) ongoing efforts to better quantify the incidence and prevalence rates of autism and its related developmental disorders.

This legislation was crafted in close cooperation with the National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR), the developmental disabilities experts at CDC, as well as with service providers from my district. It is an important health care and medical research bill which I urge all members to support.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "autism is a serious life-long developmental disability characterized by impaired social interactions, an inability to communicate with others, and repetitive or restrictive behaviors." It is estimated that autism affects one out of every 500 children, although precise rates are unknown. There is also a general consensus that autism rates seem to be increasing, although it is not known whether these increases represent a better understanding the developmental disability (i.e., better diagnosis), or an actual increase in developed cases of autism.

The story behind the creation of this legislation is in many ways illustrative of why we need to pass and enact the ASSURE act when Congress reconvenes next year. For it was only after I had a meeting with a pair of courageous parents of autistic children in Brick Township that I realized the pressing need for better autism research. Mr. and Mrs. William and Bobby Gallagher, the parents of two beautiful children with autism, met with me in the summer of last year to share their concerns that Brick Township seemed to have an abnormally high number of children diagnosed with autism. After presenting me with preliminary data suggesting that as many as 27 children may have been diagnosed with autism in Brick over the last decade, I relayed their concerns personally to Len Fishman, Commissioner of New Jersey's Department of Health and Senior Services. I asked him to initiate a preliminary inquiry to determine if an autism "cluster" investigation was warranted.

Commissioner Fishman was very receptive to the concerns of the Brick parents, particularly since the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) and the Ocean County Department of Health, in conjunction with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and disease Registry (ATSDR), have been conducting a very comprehensive investigation of a cancer cluster in Toms River, New Jersey.

However, after a few weeks of preliminary research by state officials, it became apparent that the current level of scientific knowledge in the United States about autism was inadequate and no one knew for certain what the national rate of autism was. Although there were rough estimates of autism rates from studies in foreign countries, CDC and the NJDHSS did not have enough information that an epidemiologist could use to determine if the alleged autism "cluster" in Brick was a real public health problem or an illusion of chance.

As a result, an intensive effort by CDC and ATSDR is underway to try to derive national autism rates and try to determine if an autism "cluster" exists in Brick. The study is one of the first of its kind ever undertaken in the United States, and the results of the investigation will prove invaluable for other communities that may be affected by similarly high numbers of autism cases.

That is where the ASSURE act comes in. Under my ASSURE legislation, CDC will uncover and monitor the prevalence of autism as a national level by establishing between three and five "Centers for Research in Autism Epidemiology" across the country. These Centers would conduct population-based surveillance and epidemiologic studies of autism. Periodic screenings of the population (5 to 7-year old children) would be undertaken to examine prenatal, perinatal, and postnatal factors that contribute to autism development.

These Centers would combine data from multiple sites to gain a better understanding of how autism differs from other, related, developmental disabilities and disorder. Because autism is suspected to be caused by a combination of both genetic and environmental factors, the ASSURE legislation would help CDC track the trends of autism and determine which factors are responsible for the apparent rise in autism cases nationwide.

More importantly, the collaborative efforts by CDC and State health departments will help

public health officials to possibly prevent autism once scientists better understand which environmental exposures are most likely to cause children to develop autism in the womb. The idea is that each Center established under this legislation would develop a certain niche of autism expertise. Such areas could include: specific genetic markers, early prenatal maternal drug and other exposures; and investigating other autism spectrum disorders.

Mr. Speaker, CDC has already established a pilot program—an autism epidemiology center—near Atlanta, Georgia. The limited but promising results from this initiative points to the fact that current understanding of autism is woefully inadequate and that better surveillance and monitoring of developmental disabilities like autism are critical to providing answers and hope to the parents of nearly 500,000 autistic persons in America.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
JERRY SOLOMON

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE SKEEN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 1998*

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) who announced retirement from Congress at the end of the 105th Congressional session earlier this year.

I am pleased to have served with Chairman SOLOMON throughout most of his career in the House of Representatives. Working together, we have served as members of the minority and majority party in Congress and have always held principle over politics.

We're going to miss Mr. SOLOMON next year. Under his tenure as Chairman of the Rules Committee since 1995, he has conducted himself and his panel with the utmost of duty and respect for all colleagues in the House of Representatives. Prior to being selected to serve as Chairman of the House Rules Committee in 1995, he served with distinction as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Veterans Affairs panel.

I would also like to commend Mr. SOLOMON for his steadfast support and active leadership for a strong national defense throughout his entire membership in the House of Representatives. We're all proud of his service with the United States Marines during the Korean War.

Prior to coming to Congress, Mr. SOLOMON served five years as supervisor of the Town of Queensbury and five years as a Warren County legislator in the New York State Legislature, before being elected to Congress in 1978.

As an active member of the House Task Force on National Defense Policy, Mr. SOLOMON is the former chairman and is still a member of the Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Task Force. Since 1982, Congressman SOLOMON has served as a congressional delegate to the North Atlantic Assembly, the political arm of the NATO Alliance. Presently, he serves as Vice President of that Assembly.

I send my heartfelt thanks for your leadership in the House of Representatives and best

wishes to you and your family during your days of retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
SIDNEY R. YATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 1998*

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague, a truly great Member of Congress, SID YATES, who will be leaving this House after forty-eight years of distinguished service.

SID began serving his country like I did, the Navy in World War II. He was then elected as the Assistant Attorney General and as the commerce commissioner of the State of Illinois.

First elected to Congress in 1948, before many of us had even started our political careers, SIDNEY served proudly through the 87th Congress until former president John Kennedy appointed him as ambassador to the United Nations. SIDNEY resigned his U.N. position shortly afterwards to regain the title he truly loved, and will hold until next January, Congressman from the ninth congressional district of Illinois.

SID is an exemplary Member of the House Appropriations Committee and a great cardinal. As the Chairman and later the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee for the Department of the Interior and related agencies, he has single-handedly done more to protect the National Endowment for the Arts than just about any member of this House. He kept the NEA going during the late eighties and early nineties and it is thanks to him that arts in America is what it is today.

As a member on the Subcommittee for the Department of Interior and related agencies, SID has gotten funding for dozens of national parks, seashores, and wildernesses.

All of us here in Congress will miss SID as our champion for the arts and for the protection of the environment. His successor will have a hard time living up to the legend of SID YATES. His calm, reasoned thinking and stalwart defense of the environment will be long remembered after his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure and an honor to serve with SIDNEY YATES and I wish him a long and happy retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, in order to attend the funeral services for former Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, I was not present for roll call votes 480, 481, and 482. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on roll call 480, and yea on roll call votes 481 and 482.