

We have all heard the stories of classes being held in spaces not intended as classrooms. Students are being taught in trailers, gyms, lunchrooms, and closets.

Statistics show there is a national school infrastructure backlog of needed repair totaling \$112 billion. We now know that nearly one-third of all schools are in need of extensive repair or replacement.

As this need for school repair continues to mount so does the pressure on our students to succeed and compete with their peers internationally.

To level the playing field we must provide our students with the tools of success. They need computers with access to the Internet, smaller classes, well-trained teachers, and modern schools. We should never again hear tales of learning in closets or trailers in parking lots.

We have the opportunity in this Congress to help our future. Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can enact meaningful legislation that will give American children a chance to soar.

In closing I ask:

We want the best for our children, the best for our country, and the best for our future. Why then do we not get our house, or school house, in order?

CACHE LAPOUDRE ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers and parents of Cache La Poudre Elementary School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty of the school as well as all the students, parents, and individuals who contributed to their special canned food drive. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to families in Colorado. That the school produced so much from their food drive for the benefit of local families through the Salvation Army is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let the children's example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

TRIBUTE TO J. MICHAEL COOK

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to J. Michael Cook, who is stepping down as chairman and chief executive officer of Deloitte & Touche, one of the world's largest professional services firms.

Mike has led D&T since 1989, making him the longest-standing chief executive of all the Big Five accounting and consulting firms. During his tenure, the firm has experienced phenomenal growth. Today, D&T has revenues of more than \$9 billion and an annual growth

rate of 22 percent, putting the firm first among its competitors. Equally significant has been Mike's emphasis on recruiting and retaining talented professional—especially capable women. That initiative, along with other creative incentives has earned D&T national recognition and the #8 position on Fortune's list of best places to work.

Mike has also been active in promoting worthy causes. Most recently, he served as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the United Way of America.

As one of the few accountants currently serving in Congress, I commend Mike on his many accomplishments, which have earned him the respect and admiration of so many in the profession. I wish him, his wife Mary Anne, and their three children my sincerest best wishes.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. GERALDINE M. CHAPEY AND DR. GERALDINE D. CHAPEY

**HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the members of the Emerald Society of the New York City Board of Education in honoring and saluting the accomplishments of Hon. Dr. Geraldine M. Chapey and her daughter, Dr. Geraldine D. Chapey on the occasion of their Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance.

Dr. Geraldine M. Chapey possesses a wealth of administrative and teaching experience and serves as a leader in the field of education not only in New York City, but throughout the United States. Her research in gifted education, communications, administration, supervision, business partnerships, and special education has been widely published and she is the editor of the national refereed journal, *Leadership in Education*. Her contributions to our community are not limited to the field of education, however: she is the founder and chairperson of the community based Trinity Senior Services, an organization that raises money to provide services to over 1,500 senior citizens. She has also served for 9 years as a member of the Board of Outreach Project, a rehabilitation program for children ages 8 to 16, with alcohol and drug problems.

Dr. Geraldine D. Chapey's accomplishments rival those of her mother. She is currently a member of the NY State Board of Regents and of School Board 27. She presently serves on the Governor's Advisory Council and on the Board of Directors of the Association of Teachers of New York. For her significant contributions to education, she has received a number of honors including Woman of the Year and Educator of the Year. Because of her achievements and her strong commitment to quality and innovative education, Dr. Chapey has been invited to serve on task forces and committees for the United States and New York Departments of Education.

The distinguished Doctors Chapey have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those they come into contact. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents and the people of our country, I am sure I speak for

all of my colleagues in offering my congratulations on their being recognized as the "Irish-women of the Year" by the Emerald Society of the New York City Board of Education.

INVESTMENT IN WOMEN'S HEALTH  
ACT OF 1999

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce the Investment in Women's Health Act. I am re-introducing this bill with Congresswoman Mary Bono and the support of the National Cervical Cancer Coalition, the College of American Pathologists, and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

Last year, Dr. James Navin from Straub Hospital visited my office to alert me to a very serious inequity in the pap smear reimbursement rate in Hawaii. Health insurers in Hawaii had apparently taken a cue from the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) and lowered their pap smear reimbursement rate. Under this lower rate, the local laboratories would lose a significant amount of money on each screening. In fact, the reimbursement rate was low enough to force the laboratories to consider getting out of the business completely. Fortunately, the laboratories were able to convince the health insurers of the need for increased reimbursement. The laboratories were then compensated with a break even reimbursement rate for the pap smears.

I soon found out that the low reimbursement rate is not only a problem in Hawaii, but across the entire United States. The low rate of Medicare reimbursement for pap smears has an impact on the rates paid by third party payers who peg their payments on what the government pays.

To address the deficiency, I introduced legislation last year to raise HCFA's reimbursement rate for pap smears. Due to wide spread support, progress on this issue was made with the inclusion of report language in the Omnibus bill for fiscal year 1999 urging HCFA to use its existing statutory authority to raise the reimbursement rate by administrative action.

Unfortunately, the reimbursement rate has not increased and the time table for any change is unclear. In order to rectify this situation, my legislation defines the date for an increase in the pap smear reimbursement rate and sets the rate at the national average for production costs. For women in Hawaii and the rest of the nation, this means we can assure their access to reliable and timely pap smear results.

Everyone knows that pap smears save lives. With annual screening, the chance of developing cervical cancer can be reduced to less than 1%. Over the last 40 years, the incidence of invasive cervical cancer has decreased significantly due to early detection efforts. Still, an estimated 13,700 new cases of invasive cervical cancer will be diagnosed in 1998, and 4,900 women will die of the disease. Screening for cervical cancer allows doctors to catch the disease in its early stages and save a life. A 70 percent decline in deaths due to cervical cancer in the last 50 years can be directly attributed to pap smears.

An adequate pap smear reimbursement level demonstrates respect for the women and