

families who benefit from a timely and accurate annual pap smear. I am anxious to continue the work we have begun with HCFA and am counting on my colleagues support for the Investment in Women's Health Act of 1999.

BLEVINS JUNIOR HIGH 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 Blevins Junior High School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty of Blevins 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 5,500 cans of food and warm clothing through 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 this example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO PROHIBIT FEDERAL FUNDS
FROM BEING USED TO DEVELOP
NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation that will continue the war on drugs by prohibiting federal funds from being used to develop needle exchange programs. These programs are harmful to communities and undermine our nation's drug control efforts. Similar legislation overwhelmingly passed the House last year with broad bipartisan support.

Drug abuse continues to ravage our communities, our schools and our children. Heroin use is again on the rise. Unfortunately, thousands of children will inject hard core drugs like heroin and cocaine for the first time this year, and many of them will not make it to adulthood. To deal with this problem, we must have a firm commitment by the federal government to end the cycle of addiction and abuse that destroys so many lives.

Not only are needle exchange programs in conflict with federal law, but the results of community-based needle exchange programs have been disastrous. Needle exchange programs result in towns with higher crime, schools that are littered with used drug paraphernalia, and neighborhoods that are magnets for drug addicts and the high-risk behavior that accompany them.

Providing free hypodermic needles to addicts so they can continue to inject illegal drugs sends a terrible message to our children—that Congress has given up on the fight to stop illegal drug use and that the federal

government implicitly condones this illegal activity. As lawmakers, we have a responsibility to rise up and fight against the use and spread of drugs everywhere we can. We should start by making it harder, not easier to practice this deadly habit. This bipartisan, common sense legislation will reaffirm the federal government's commitment to the war on drugs.

While supporters of these dangerous programs can overlook the damage they do to our communities and our children simply because they believe they serve a public health interest, the medical evidence is simply not there. Studies have shown that addicts who use needle exchange programs are more likely to contract HIV or other blood-borne viruses. A recent study published in the American Journal of Epidemiology concluded that there was no indication that needle exchanges protected against blood-borne infections. In fact, the study concluded, "there was no indication of a protective effect of syringe exchange against HBV or HCV infection. Indeed, highest incidence of infection occurred among current users of the exchange, even after adjusting for confounding variables."

Mr. Speaker, when the President unveiled his anti-drug strategy, Vice-President Gore stated, "We must mount an all-out effort to banish crime, drugs and disorder and hopelessness from our streets once and for all." Yet, in the words of the President's own National Drug Czar, General Barry McCaffrey, "these programs are magnets for all social ills—pulling in crime, violence, addicts, prostitution, dealers and gangs and driving out hope and opportunity." Mr. Speaker, we will never banish crime, drugs, disorder and hopelessness by providing those responsible for it with the tools of their trade.

The United States government must never give up on the war against the deadly drugs that continue to destroy our neighborhoods, our schools and so many of our families. We should not tell our children "Don't do drugs," on the one hand, while giving them free needles to shoot up with the other. We need a national drug control policy which emphasizes education, interdiction, prevention and treatment—NOT subsidies for addicts.

I urge my colleagues to heed the advice of General McCaffrey and ensure that the federal government is not in the business of subsidizing irresponsible, reckless and illegal behavior. The federal government should provide leadership, NOT needles.

CONGRATULATING DAN MALCOLM

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dan Malcolm, recipient of The Viticulture and Enology Research Center Award. Dan Malcolm has been a strong supporter of the California grape industry for many years.

Each year at California State University, Fresno, an outstanding individual in the California grape industry is honored on Grape Day. This year, The Viticulture and Enology Research Center proudly honored Dan Malcolm of Malcolm Media for his generous sup-

port of the program and his dedication to the California grape industry.

Dan Malcolm grew up on a family farm near Sanger, California, where he gained a strong respect for agriculture. As a young man, he became interested in politics and agricultural education, which led him to become owner, publisher, and editor of the fastest growing agricultural publishing company in the Western United States. In 1992, Dan founded Malcolm Media Ag Publishing in Clovis, California. The first publication he and his wife Monica formed to help expand awareness of agriculture was American Vineyard, which was first published in early 1992. In just two short years American Vineyard became the highest circulated grape industry publication in the state. In 1995 American Vineyard became the most requested grape industry publication in the United States with over 10,000 readers. Today Malcolm continues to support agricultural education through scholarships to viticulture, and enology students throughout California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dan Malcolm, recipient of The Viticulture and Enology Research Center Award. Dan has been a vital part of the California grape industry. I urge all my colleagues to join me in wishing Dan Malcolm many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE A. BEAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of a giant in the energy industry, Captain Bruce A. Beam. Bruce will retire from American Electric Power as Vice President of Governmental Affairs on February 28th after 34 years of service.

I have gotten to know Bruce from my service on the Commerce Committee. Beginning with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and through the Energy Policy Act of 1992 I recognized Bruce as a source of accurate information and steadfast integrity. While we were not always on the same side on all the issues, I knew that at the end of the day I could expect a smile and a kind word from Bruce, regardless of the outcome.

Bruce first came to Washington in the early 1970s as a commuter lobbyist from Roanoke, Virginia. In 1978 AEP decided that Bruce should establish a Washington office and after working out of his home for a while he settled into some space on K Street. The impact of having Bruce in DC full time was extremely positive and as a result the AEP Board of trustees elected Bruce Vice President of Governmental Affairs in 1981.

In addition to ably representing AEP in Washington Bruce continued in his service to the US Navy culminating in his appointment to the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Advisory Committee. This important body provides guidance to the CNO on a host of issues dealing with national security. Bruce's service to this group has been and continues to be on a pro-bono basis.

Although he will no longer be working the halls of Congress for AEP full time, I know we will see Bruce around Washington. Two of his children and three of his grandchildren live in

the greater Washington area so we know that "Poppy" won't be going far away for any extended period of time. And I for one am happy about that, this way I can still get his goat when the Hokies have a bad day on the basketball court!

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ELLA YON
STEVENSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Ella Yon Stevenson of North, SC. On Friday, March 5, I will join the community in celebration of her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Stevenson was born in Orangeburg County in the town of Norway, SC on March 17, 1899. She is the daughter of the late Glen and Henrietta G. Yon. As a child, she attended Norway Public Schools. Mrs. Stevenson joined Bushy Pond Baptist Church of Norway, SC at a very early age. She enjoyed singing in the choir until her health prevented her from participating. She is strongly committed to her church and community. To this day, Mrs. Stevenson continually offers support to her neighbors, friends, and family.

Mrs. Stevenson cherishes her family. She married the late George W. Stevenson. They had four sons: George Stevenson, Jr., James Stevenson, Authur Stevenson, and Lavern Stevenson (all deceased), and two unique daughters, Clara Mae Stevenson Pough and Reather Bell Stevenson Pough. Mrs. Stevenson has 34 grandchildren, 50 great grandchildren, and 48 great-great grandchildren. She currently resides with her daughter Reather Bell in North, SC.

Please join me in recognizing Mrs. Ella Yon Stevenson as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, March 4, 1999, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 31 and 32. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 31 and "yes" on rollcall 32.

MIAMI'S CEDARS MEDICAL CENTER RANKED AMONG NATION'S BEST

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Miami's own Cedars Medical Center for having been named one of the top 100 hospitals for 1998 by the Health Care Industry Agency (HCIA) and William M. Mercer Incorporated.

For 38 years, Cedars Medical Center has provided top quality health care to the many patients and residents of South Florida and, in fact, 1998 was the second consecutive year that Cedars Medical Center was ranked as a national benchmark in an annual study entitled 100 Top Hospitals: Benchmark for Success. This annual study conducted by HCIA and Mercer's health care provider consulting practice identifies U.S. hospitals that deliver cost-efficient and highest quality medical care, and today South Florida is proud to pay tribute to Cedars Medical Hospital for having been nationally recognized for its ability to always exceed the needs and expectations of their patients and for continuing to commit itself to excellence.

In addition to being nationally ranked in an analysis of over 3,000 acute-care hospitals across the country, Cedars Medical Center received Mercury awards for its superior overall performance in the specializations of orthopedics and oncology, based on a new study of 21 Miami area hospitals, released by America's Health Network.

I congratulate Steven D. Sonenreich, CEO of Cedars; John H. O'Neil, Jr., Chairman of the Board; Dr. Luis Pagan, Chief of Medical Staff, as well as every employee and member of Cedars for their individual important and unforgettable contributions and for their many sacrificial efforts that together enabled Cedars Medical Center to be among the finest in our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, on March 2, 1999 I was unavoidably detained and was not present for roll votes #29 and #30. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on roll call vote #29 and aye on roll call vote #30.

RELIQUIDATION OF CERTAIN ENTRIES OF SELF-TAPPING SCREWS

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to provide for the reliquidation for certain entries of self-tapping screws and to correct an error of omission made by the U.S. Customs Office in Philadelphia, PA.

In August of 1993, a customs broker in my district entered industrial screws for liquidation at the Port of Philadelphia under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule provision 7318.12, a provision for wood screws. While the customs broker disagreed with the U.S. Customs Service's position to assess these screws under this provision, the broker did as directed to minimize friction. The company believed at that time that the screws fit a different description and that a lower rate of duty applied. As a result of the Customs' assessment, however, the rate of duty on the imported screws more than doubled from 6.2 percent to 12.5 percent.

In 1996, the U.S. Court of International Trade agreed with the customs broker and ruled that the U.S. Customs Service was incorrect in its classification of the merchandise as a wood screw and that the importer was due a refund. While the U.S. Customs Service did pay a refund on some of the entries, a clerical error in their Philadelphia office prevented several entries from coming properly before the court for judgment. As a result, those entries were not included in the report even though they are subject to the same ruling.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this legislation last year with the intention of including it in the Miscellaneous Trade and Tariff Correction Act. It is my understanding that it was not included in that legislation in the last session because it was opposed by the Customs Service which cited that it posed an undue administrative burden on them. Currently, Mr. Speaker, if you do not include the interest on that money, the U.S. Customs Service has imposed \$106,000 worth of burden on this local business even though the court has ruled against them on this issue.

The U.S. Customs Service currently has more than \$100,000 that it simply has no right to. With that in mind, I will look forward to having this bill included in legislation to correct similar problems, with the full support of the Administration.