November 18, 1999

HONORING THE WORK OF MIKE WOODS

HON. BART GORDON
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Woods and his more than 25 years of work as city clerk for the town of Smyrna, Tennessee. Mike’s tenure will soon come to an end. He has decided to retire on November 30.

As clerk, Mike has seen Smyrna grow from a small community with an annual budget of $500,000 dollars and 27 employees to being one of Tennessee’s fastest growing cities with a population of more than 20,000, a current budget of more than $25 million dollars and over 300 employees.

Mike worked hard, along with former Mayor Sam Ridley, to make Smyrna the home of Nissan Motor Manufacturing U.S.A., which has almost 6,000 workers. His vision and invaluable experience have served Smyrna well, and the city has been recognized with numerous state and national awards. Mike truly exemplifies the best of public service and will be sorely missed in city government.

I have known Mike since he first began his tenure in Smyrna and consider him a close friend. He has given me lots of good advice over the years, and I thank him for that. I congratulate Mike for his admirable and distinguished career and wish him the best of luck in future endeavors.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING DIABETES

SPEECH OF
HON. EARL F. HILLIARD
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for increased congressional spending to continue the research now progressing to seek a cure for diabetes. This devastating disease affects every family in America—my own brother is a victim of diabetes. The results of the disease are too numerous to count, but include blindness, loss of limbs, even shock resulting at times in death. At this time in our history, the incidence of diabetes in our population appears to be increasing.

We have made many strides in the treatment of diabetes, but much more needs to be done. It is very possible that in the near future we will be able to regenerate damaged beta cells in the pancreas, the cells which normally produce insulin. Alternatively, we may soon be able to generate new beta cells; in either case, it appears we will actually be able to cure the disease.

At this point in the process, we need to make an absolute commitment to this struggle to end this disease. I commit myself and my vote to increasing spending on diabetes to an amount which will be sufficient for our scientists to accomplish this high goal.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING WALTER PAYTON AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO HIS FAMILY ON HIS DEATH

SPEECH OF
HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support this measure that recognizes a true sports hero and legend, Walter Payton. Payton, a true icon of football in the United States, was a running back for the Chicago Bears for 13 years. Payton's numbers are truly impressive. He ran 16,726 yards for 13,836 yards in the National Football League. Payton was a key component of the Bears' offense and was the leading rusher in the league for the second time in his career.

Payton was a family man. He married his high school sweetheart, Connie, and they had three children. Payton was known for his generosity and his dedication to his family. He was a true leader on and off the field, and his legacy will live on for generations to come.

In closing, I want to express my deepest condolences to the family of Walter Payton. He was a true icon of the sport of football, and his legacy will live on for generations to come. May his spirit live on forever.
of human dignity, and to the cause of world peace. Not only has Ambassador Peacock proven to be a true hero in Australia but also a great friend to the American people through his great efforts as Ambassador. On a personal level, I am blessed to consider him a friend of many years and I will miss his presence in our nation's capital. His laugh, his charm, and spirit has touched this city in so many ways. He has had a profound effect on Australia, America, and the world. I wish him well on all of his new endeavors.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DUB HAYES

HON. RALPH M. HALL
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual and close personal friend, James W. "Dub" Hayes of Whitesboro, Texas, who died suddenly on October 3 of this year. Dub was well-known and well-liked in Whitesboro and Grayson County as a prominent community leader who genuinely cared about people. His influence will be felt for generations to come.

Dub was honored as Outstanding Citizen of Whitesboro three times—in 1965, 1978, and 1994—a testimony to the contributions he made to the life of his home town. At the time of his death he was serving as a director of the Whitesboro Independent School District, a member of the Whitesboro Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.

Dub also served as a charter member of the Texas School for the Deaf Board of Directors, a member of the Texas Historical Commission, and a director of the Texas Medical Association. He was a devoted Catholic and a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church of Whitesboro, where he served for 28 years. Dub also worked as a pharmacist for 15 years at Wilson N. Jones Hospital, where he served as a director of the hospital—and continued working until his death as a pharmacist and consultant. Dub will be remembered for his service to the hospital and his commitment to serving the community.

Dub and his brother, Ed, owned and operated a retail pharmacy business in Whitesboro for 28 years. Dub also worked as a pharmacist for 15 years at Wilson N. Jones Hospital—and continued working until his death as a relief pharmacist and consultant. Dub will be lovingly remembered as one of those pharmacists who was willing to get up in the middle of the night to fill prescriptions for those who were sick.

He was a member of several professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, the Texas Pharmaceutical Association, the Texas Society of Hospital Pharmacists, and the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

Born in 1925 in Whitesboro, the son of the late James Albert Hayes and Ruth Cherry Hayes, Dub graduated from Whitesboro High School, attended North Texas Agricultural College in Arlington and received his Pharmacy degree from the University of Texas. He served his county during World War II in both the Pacific and European theaters. In 1949 he married his wife of 50 years, Ruth Helen Acker.

Dub is survived by his wife, Helen; three children; and five grandchildren.

Dub was a great friend to the American people through his contributions to education, science, medicine, and the arts. He was a community leader who led an exemplary life—and he was loved by all who knew him. We will miss him—but his memory will be kept alive in our hearts and in our thoughts—and his legacy will continue to be felt in Whitesboro and Grayson County. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today for the last time during this century, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying our last respects to this outstanding man and great American—James W. "Dub" Hayes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TELE-HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. BRIAN P. BILRAY
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. BILRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the introduction of H.R. 3420, the Telehealth Improvement Act of 1999. As we all know, telemedicine services can dramatically improve upon the range of health care services available in medically underserved areas through the use of telecommunication technologies and services. Telemedicine can improve the delivery and access of health care services, and is especially useful when patients need a specialist who is unavailable in his or her area.

By relying on technologies ranging from interactive video, e-mail, computers, fax machines, and satellites, patients will be able to communicate with their doctors and receive the health care they need regardless of their physical location. Telemedicine technology can be used to deliver health care, diagnose patients, read X-rays, provide consultation, and educate health professionals, among other things.

Telemedicine services reduce the cost of health care by increasing the timeliness of care, reducing emergency transportation costs, improving patient administration, and strengthening the expertise available to primary-care providers. Telemedicine services also help to bring services to medically underserved areas in a quick and cost-effective manner, and can enable patients to avoid traveling long distances in order to receive access to health care.

While the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 includes a provision that the program for so-called Medicare reimbursement of telemedicine services, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has interpreted it too narrowly and as a result, has severely limited the services which are covered. The Telehealth Improvement Act of 1999 will clarify the intent of Congress regarding Medicare reimbursement for telemedicine services and increases telemedicine access to medically underserved areas. This legislation makes improvements to the way telemedicine services are currently regulated and reimbursed through the Medicare program, and applies to rural, underserved, and frontier areas, including areas designated as health professional shortage areas under the Public Health Service Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to support and cosponsor the Telehealth Improvement Act of 1999. We must continue to provide access to health care to underserved areas and provide adequate reimbursement to the hospital and providers that are currently providing these services.

HONORING THE LATE D.R. MILLER, “MR. CIRCUS”

HON. WES WATKINS
OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the late D.R. Miller, known as "Mr. Circus" to those who knew him best, for his decades of service to his fellow citizens, and for his lifetime of providing laughter and fun to children of all ages.

D.R. Miller was born on July 27, 1916, in Smith Center, Kansas. But it was Hugo, the town in Oklahoma's Third Congressional District that serves as the winter headquarters for his Carson & Barnes Circus, that D.R. called home.

D.R. Miller passed away on September 8, 1999, in McCook, Nebraska—the very town where D.R.'s father and mother took D.R. and his brother to see their first circus, on August 24, 1924.

In 1937, after numerous business ventures, D.R., his father and brother, founded the D.R. Miller passed away on September 8, 1999, in McCook, Nebraska—the very town where D.R.'s father and mother took D.R. and his brother to see their first circus, on August 24, 1924.

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