correctional health; cooperate with other Federal agencies carrying out correctional health programs to ensure coordination; provide outreach to State directors of correctional health and providers; and facilitate the exchange of information regarding correctional health activities.

Mr. Speaker, with a growing diverse and medically complex population in America's prisons and jails, we must ensure that inmates are provided the health care they need, that staff members operate in a safe working environment, and as a result, public safety is enhanced.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to official business at the White House, I was unable to record my vote on rollcall No. 154, raising a point of order against the consideration of H.R. 3709 as an unfunded mandate. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay''—against consideration of H.R. 3709.

CONGRATULATING THE COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE NETWORK OF THE COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, REGIONAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today, during National Hospital Week, I honor accomplishments of the Community Healthcare Network. Earlier this week, the American Hospital Association presented its prestigious NOVA award to the Community Healthcare Network, which was established by Columbus Regional Healthcare System of Columbus, Georgia. This award recognizes hospitals' innovative and collaborative efforts to improve the health of their communities. I congratulate the dedicated health care workers of the Community Healthcare Network for achieving this important recognition.

The Community Healthcare Network—a collaboration of public and private entities serving 19 counties in west Georgia and east Alabama—exemplifies the dedication of health care workers, professionals, and volunteers who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, curing and caring for their neighbors in need. Using the results of each county's baseline health status surveys, the Community Healthcare Network developed programs to meet each community's specific health needs. For example, primary health care centers were opened to serve children and adults in three rural counties. To increase accessibility, fees are based on the patients' abilities to pay.

The Community Care Mobile Unit travels throughout the service area providing primary case services to the homeless and indigent. Once a week, the unit visits locations selected by teens to provide teen health services. In other collaborative projects, the network has led the way to establish a children's dental clinic, child health screenings at schools, and free transportation for prenatal visits.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Healthcare Network embodies the theme of this year's National Hospital Week—''Touching the Future with Care.'' I congratulate the Columbus Regional Healthcare System for its award-winning program, and I look forward to its future contributions to the communities of Georgia and Alabama.

HONORING THE LAMAR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the Lamar University Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. I am particularly proud of these recipients for two reasons, one—I am a Lamar University Graduate myself, and two—one of the recipients is my sister. This year's proud award winners are Mary Jo Lampson Ford, W.S. ''Bud'' Leonard and Joe V. Tortorice, Jr. The Alumni Award recipients are all people who have gone on to great success and have made outstanding commitments to their alma mater and communities.

Mary Jo Lampson Ford, my sister, became a quadriplegic after contracting polio when she was 14. Through therapy she regained some use of her arms and decided to go to college. Mary Jo earned a bachelor's degree in social sciences and art from Lamar State College of Technology in 1956.

When Mary Jo attended Lamar it was prior to the days of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the buildings were not accessible to wheelchairs. Mary Jo found the students and teachers accepting and helpful, often times carrying her up and down stairs and across campus because of the lack of accessibility. Mary Jo taught for seven years at South Park High School and went on to become a well known artist.

The second recipient, W.S. ''Bud'' Leonard, was an organizing member and officer of the LU Cardinal Club, Cardinal Hall of Honor Council and Friends of the Arts. Bud earned an associate degree in 1950 and a bachelor's degree in health education in 1953 as a member of Lamar's first four-year graduating class. He returned to earn a master's degree in speech in 1976.

Bud began 20 years of service to Lamar in 1975 as vice president of university relations and assistant chancellor for development, during which Lamar received almost $45 million in donations. He also volunteered before and after his tenure, offering 25 years of support. Bud was awarded the Golden Cardinal for exceptional service to the alumni association in 1985.

Joe V. Tortorice, Jr. is the third recipient and earned a master's degree in business administration from Lamar in 1971. Joe developed the Jason's Deli chain of restaurants, which now has 80 locations. In 1976 he opened his first restaurant, with his family serving as its employees and managers. The family connection has remained throughout the years, extending from his mother and father to his cousins. Joe and three of his cousins later became partners in Deli Management Inc., which operates in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Arizona, Tennessee, and Florida.

Mr. Speaker, the three recipients of the Lamar University Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni awards are all exceptional people. As a graduate of Lamar, I found my time there exhilarating—a time of rising expectation and rising confidence in the future and in myself. Lamar gave me the opportunity to try new things and meet people from diverse backgrounds, expanding my horizons both intellectually and socially. I have great admiration for Lamar, and I strongly believe that what I learned there has been an important factor in what I've been able to do since, and I know it was an important factor in the award recipients' accomplishments. I offer my congratulations to Mary Jo Lampson Ford, W.S. ''Bud'' Leonard and Joe V. Tortorice, Jr. and wish them continued success.

COMMENDING INDIANA TEACHERS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Teacher Appreciation Week, a week set aside for elected leaders, parents, administrators, and students to express their appreciation for teachers who are making a difference. Every American can think of a special teacher who was an inspiration in their lives. For me, that teacher was Mrs. Daphne Richards.

I was always a pretty good student in school, except for one thing. Early on, I was a slow reader. Then in sixth grade, my teacher, Mrs. Richards, decided that she was going to turn me into a reader. She introduced me to comic books—now she didn't give me Spiderman or Superman, but classic comic books—comic-book versions of classic stories like MacBeth and Last of the Mohicans. And then I wanted to read the real versions—I was hooked! I've loved reading ever since. That great teacher, Mrs. Richards, made a difference in my life—she made me a reader.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of meeting great teachers across my home state of Indiana. Some of these teachers, like Mrs. Richards, teach children. Others, like those I have met at Ball State University, teach adults. Some are moms and dads teaching their kids at home. Some teach in public schools, others in private institutions. Some coach basketball. And some give the gift of music or art. Although they are different in many ways, good teachers have this in common: They are professionals devoted to excellence, possessing talent, patience, fortitude, and a personal love of learning and of learners.

For Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to personally honor several teachers in Indiana with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition. Nominated by a principal, parent, or colleague to receive this honor, these teachers are admired and respected by those closest to them. They are dedicated, hard