EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF JUDGE JULIO FUENTES' APPOINTMENT TO THE THIRD U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Judge Julio Fuentes for his appointment to the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Fuentes was born in Puerto Rico and raised in Toms River, New Jersey. He served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1969 as a military police officer. He earned his bachelors degree at Southern Illinois University and his Juris Doctor at the State University of New York at Buffalo. His hunger for knowledge never ends: while serving as a judge, Fuentes earned two master's degrees, one in Latin American Affairs at New York University and one in Liberal Arts at Rutgers University.

Throughout his career, Judge Fuentes has served with distinction and honor. For 21 years, he has proven himself to be a fair, open-minded, intelligent, and dedicated public servant. His dedicated service to New Jersey at the Municipal and Superior Court levels has well prepared him for this challenging position.

Judge Fuentes' appointment resonates with historical significance. He is the first Hispanic ever to be appointed to this prestigious court. The time has come for the judicial branch to better reflect America's rich diversity, and Judge Fuentes' appointment embraces that diversity and honors our heritage.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Judge Julio Fuentes for his appointment to the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

EDCNP CELEBRATES 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, which recently celebrated its 35th anniversary. I am pleased and proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

In 1964, a small group of private sector leaders gathered to discuss forming a regional economic development entity, which would assist the local chambers of commerce in their work. The original group included members of the banking and business communities, colleges and universities, utilities, and others. These informal discussions led to the formation of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, or EDCNP as it is well known today.

The council hired its first executive director, expanded its board, and two years later became a private/public sector partnership with designation as a development district. In 1965, two federal acts for economic assistance were enacted. These legislative proposals, first suggested by John F. Kennedy, were signed into law by Lyndon Johnson. These landmark acts, the Appalachian Regional Development Act and the Public Works and Regional Development Act became the springboard for EDCNP to expand to seven counties under what is known as the substate regional plan.

Mr. Speaker, the EDCNP has provided numerous services to the community over the 35 years of its existence. Under the leadership of current president David Donlin and executive director Howard Grossman, the EDCNP continues to strive to promote economic development throughout our region. During my tenure in Congress, I have had the pleasure of working with the EDCNP on many economic development efforts. Working to highlight the importance of the Tobyhanna Army Depot during the last round of base closures, and getting the Susquehanna River named an American Heritage River are just two of the most recent efforts.

This organization provides many valuable services to Northeastern Pennsylvania, and I am pleased and proud to bring this distinguished organization to the attention of my colleagues. I send my very best wishes for continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my district on Monday, May 15, 2000, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 180–182. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 180 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 491, naming a room in the House of Representatives wing of the Capitol in honor of G.V. ''Sonny'' Montgomery; rollcall vote 181 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 4251, Congressional Oversight of Nuclear Transfers to North Korea Act; and rollcall 182 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 309, Expressing the Sense of the Congress with Regard to in-School Personal Safety Education Programs for Children.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall votes 180, 181, and 182.

FRANK RAINES' STATEMENT ON PREDATORY LENDING

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I hope that all of the members of this body had the opportunity to hear Frank Raines, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at Fannie Mae speak at the National Press Club—Newsmakers Luncheon on May 12, 2000. I was very impressed when Frank reported that, ''Since 1993, Fannie Mae initiatives have boosted lending to African Americans by 31 percent, and to all minorities by 16 percent. Last year, Fannie Mae alone provided nearly $46 billion in housing finance for over 400,000 minority families.''

While more needs to be done, Fannie Mae is headed in the right direction. I plan to place Frank's speech in today's RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, Fannie Mae has also established new anti-predatory lending policies for the loans it purchases from lenders. According to Frank Raines, ''Predatory lending violates three basic mortgage consumer rights: the right to access suitable mortgage credit; the right to the lowest cost mortgage for which a consumer can qualify; and, the right to know the true cost of a mortgage.'' Mr. Raines continues, ''We at Fannie Mae have an obligation to define the loans we will not buy, and practices we will not support—practices that can have the effect of encouraging predatory lending. Many of these practices such as steering, equity stripping, excessive fees, and prepayment penalties, take away affordable mortgage opportunities from those borrowers who need it the most.''

Mr. Speaker, Fannie Mae's guidelines and the company's recently released Mortgage Consumer's Bill of Rights, which promote consumer advocacy in housing finance, are bold steps forward in the effort to combat predatory lending practices. I applaud Mr. Raines for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, we need Fannie Mae to do for the so-called sub-prime market what they have done for the conventional mortgage market: establish underwriting standards that would make it harder for predatory lenders to charge consumers 25-point origination fees, pre-payment penalties and the like. Fannie Mae has begun that process by announcing the availability of their Timely Payment Rewards mortgage. This mortgage offers home buyers with slightly impaired credit a lower rate than they could hope to get from a subprime lender—plus the possibility of another percentage point decrease in the interest rate if they maintain an on-time payment history for 24 months. Consumer savings provided by the Timely Payment Rewards Mortgage, savings which could amount to as much as $230 a month on a $100,000 loan, come from the bottom lines of the predatory lenders.

Consumer groups, and many lenders, have welcomed Fannie Mae's new loan for its innovation and appeal, as well as for the expansion of homeownership opportunities it portends. But not all lenders were pleased about this initiative. I'm sure that some of my colleagues have recently been visited by a group calling themselves FM Watch. They are a collection of mortgage insurers, taxpayer-guaranteed large depository institutions and subprime lenders who want to use the legislative process to win from Fannie Mae what they've been unable to win in the marketplace. They are supporting legislation introduced by Representative RICHARD BAKER—H.R. 3703. Fannie Mae and others have dubbed FM Watch, ''The Coalition for Higher Mortgage Costs,'' because their actions produce this result. Two of the trade associations that formed FM Watch, the National Home Equity Mortgage Association and the Consumer Mortgage Coalition, attacked Fannie Mae's announcement as an intrusion into ''their market''. Both organizations include many lenders who are active in the sub-prime market.

I hope that the lobbying efforts of competitors who are trying to protect their profits won't deter Fannie Mae from pushing forward with its anti-predatory lending principles and with Timely Payment Rewards.

Mr. Speaker, each of us has an obligation to understand this predatory lending issue and to examine the true motives of some of those who lobby us on this matter. We all know that to find out the truth, you have to ''follow the money.'' Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to not listen to ''The Coalition for Higher Mortgage Costs'' and to oppose H.R. 3703.

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY FRANKLIN D. RAINES, CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FANNIE MAE

Thank you for joining us today.

These are ''interesting'' times for the housing industry, and we wanted to bring you up to date since Jim Johnson gave his farewell address as Chairman of Fannie Mae from this podium in November of 1998. A year and a half may not seem like a long time, but it has been an unusually turbulent period, and much is at stake.

As some of you may recall, Jim titled his speech, ''Why Homeownership Matters—Lessons Learned from a Decade in Housing Finance.'' He painted a very positive picture. He said the American Dream of homeownership was more alive, achievable and inclusive than ever. He said the growth in homeownership is making everything better, from the wealth of average families, to the health of older communities, to the strength of the nation's economy. The housing finance system, he declared, was the most efficient and effective ever devised.

Jim was absolutely right. And things have gotten even better. The national homeownership rate has just topped 67 percent, a new record. Even though mortgage rates have gone up, the housing market remains robust. Housing starts are strong. Home sales are vigorous. Home values are appreciating. Households are growing. Homes are getting larger. Home equity is rising. Default and foreclosure rates are at historic lows.

And the process of buying a home has never been better. Automated underwriting and other advances have made it faster, easier, less frustrating and less costly to finance a home, and reduced the bias in lending decisions. E-commerce and financial deregulation are giving consumers more power and more choices at lower costs. The mortgage industry has been breaking through the old red lines and bringing affordable housing finance to families that used to be overlooked, neglected or rejected.

Behind all of this, the secondary mortgage market—including Fannie Mae—is attracting billions of dollars of private capital from all over the world, providing lenders with a steady flow of funds in all communities at the lowest rates in the market and with zero risk to the government.

With the system we have today, and with the economic winds at our backs,

Yogi Berra warned that, ''A guy ought to be very careful in making predictions, especially about the future.'' But I think we're on pretty solid ground in predicting that the future of homeownership in America is very positive.

But I stand before you at a moment when questions have been raised about the utility of the U.S. secondary mortgage market that is so integral to the system's functioning as a whole. Some of these inquiries are well meaning. But it is no secret that some of the questions are generated by financial competitors that would earn more if Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were not lowering costs for consumers.

The U.S. housing finance system is strong, but it is not indestructible. Changing it significantly could have real consequences for real families. The burden of proof for anyone that wants to change the system is a simple but stringent test—does it help or hurt home buyers?

Today, let me reinforce why our system works so well and what we are up against.

To illustrate what is so good about our system, let's compare it to the other major industrialized countries. Most of the G–7 countries have a well-developed mortgage system organized around depository institutions. But the mortgages they offer are less consumer-friendly. In America we take the 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage for granted. Last year, 66 percent of the mortgages issued in the U.S. were 30-year, fixed-rate conventional mortgages.

Outside the U.S., the long-term fixed-rate mortgage is a rarity. In Canada, they have rollover mortgages, where the rate is fixed during the first one to five years, with a prepayment penalty equal to three months of interest. The fixed-rate term in Spain is usually one year. In France, 80 percent of all mortgages have variable rates. In Germany, you can get a fixed-rate for five to fifteen years, but you can't refinance during this period without paying a huge penalty.

The low down payment features of U.S. conventional mortgages are also unique. We now take for granted down payments as low as 5 and 3 percent. That's not the case in, say, Germany, France, the United Kingdom or Japan. In Germany, the down payment is typically 30 to 40 percent, and in Japan, you've had to put down effectively 50 to 60 percent.

Why are American conventional mortgages more consumer-friendly? Mainly because we have a secondary mortgage market. In other countries, the banks largely make the loans from their deposits and hold the mortgages as an investment. Our system primarily worked that way until the 1970s and 1980s. Today in America, banks, thrifts, mortgage bankers and credit unions make the loans, but they can depend on the secondary market to supply the long-term funding.

What Congress did in establishing a secondary market in the thirties and privatizing this market in the sixties made this change possible, and it has turned out to be absolutely brilliant. When it chartered Fannie Mae and then Freddie Mac as private companies, it created a system that harnesses private enterprise and private capital to deliver the public benefit of homeownership. And it maximizes this public benefit while minimizing the public risk, without a nickel of public funds.

Let's do a quick risk-benefit analysis, starting with the risk side of the equation.

There is a simple reason fixed-rate mortgages with low down payments are rare outside the U.S. Since they don't have a secondary market to buy the mortgage, the lender has to hold the loan and take on all the risk. That is, the lender has to assume the credit risk—the risk that the borrower could default—and the interest-rate risk—the risk that interest rates will change and cause the lender to pay out more to depositors than he is receiving on loans. So the lender protects himself by requiring the consumer to pay more up front and more each month if interest rates rise.

In America, the secondary market purchases the mortgage, taking most of the credit and interest rate risk on the loan off the lenders' books. But the secondary market run by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac does not retain all the risk. We share or disperse the risk around the world.

This process is called ''risk transformation.'' Here's how it works. Fannie Mae and our lender partners create mortgages that consumers want, like our 3 percent down Fannie 97. And we finance them with capital we raise by creating debt instruments that investors want, like our Benchmark securities. We share the credit risk on the Fannie 97 with mortgage insurance companies, and we hedge the interest rate risk by selling callable debt securities to Wall Street. We also work with Wall Street to develop even more refined strategies for hedging our interest-rate risk and credit risk. Last year, we spent about half of our gross revenues paying others to assume risk we didn't want.

Managing risk, in fact, is all we do. We manage risk on one asset—U.S. home mortgages—perhaps the safest asset in the world. All told, 96 percent of all mortgages in America are paid in a timely fashion, which goes to show just how much Americans cherish homeownership. And to help us analyze our risk precisely, we have amassed performance data on 29 million loans dating back over 20 years.

All of this helps to explain why our credit loss rate during the nineties averaged only 5 basis points—five cents on every hundred dollars—even during the recessions in California and New England. Just to compare, the bank credit loss rate on their more diverse set of assets was an average of 86 basis points, or 86 cents on every hundred dollars. Today, our loss rate is lower than ever, at just 1 basis point last year.

A strong secondary market makes the entire financial system safer and more stable. The government holds Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to the highest financial safety and soundness standards in the financial services industry. We have to hold enough capital to survive a stress test—essentially, ten years of devastating mortgage defaults and extreme interest rate movements. Other financial institutions would not last long under the scenario spelled out in our capital requirements. Thrifts, for example, would become insolvent after five to seven years. At the end of the ten years, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac would be the only major holder of mortgage assets still standing. A strong secondary market puts mortgages in the safest hands.

Now let's look at the public benefit.

First, the secondary market means consumers never have to hear their lender say, ''sorry—we're out of money to lend.'' People think this can't happen, that it's something out of the Depression era. But without Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, this could have happened at least twice in the last 20 years. When the S&L system crashed during the eighties, the thrifts in California and Texas would have had no money to lend if we had not stepped

The secondary market also drives down mortgage costs. Last week, a mortgage backed by Fannie Mae would be $19,000 cheaper, over the term, than a jumbo mortgage that's just a dollar beyond our loan limit. Our savings over the jumbo market jumped beyond $26,000 during the credit crisis of 1998. Today, a Fannie Mae loan is about $200,000 cheaper than a subprime mortgage, and even about $18,000 cheaper than an equivalent FHA or VA loan backed by the government. During the nineties, Fannie Mae alone saved consumers at least $20 billion through lower mortgage rates.

The secondary market also expands homeownership. Under the 1992 revisions to our charter, Congress requires Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to meet affordable housing goals, to devote a set percentage of our business to underserved families and communities. As many of you know, Fannie Mae has gone well beyond these requirements. In 1994, Jim Johnson pledged that we would provide $1 trillion in housing finance to ten million underserved families by the end of 2000. We met that goal a month ago—eight months ahead of schedule—and immediately set an even greater goal to provide $2 trillion in financing to 18 million families during this decade. We call this new pledge the American Dream Commitment.

Since 1993, these initiatives have boosted our lending to African Americans by 31 percent, and to all minorities by 16 percent. Last year, Fannie Mae alone provided nearly $46 billion in housing finance for over 400,000 minority families. That's what having a strong secondary market can do.

The success of our housing finance system is not lost on the other major industrialized countries. I just returned on Tuesday from meetings in London and Frankfurt with our debt investors—the people who buy our Benchmark securities that allow us to finance mortgages here. One of the many ironies of being Chairman of Fannie Mae is that there are countries in which investors will help finance American homeownership while their own homeownership rate is lower.

Naturally, many countries are curious about our system. Fannie Mae has responded to many requests to serve as advisors overseas, not because we will ever buy loans abroad, but because of our expertise in the unique U.S. secondary market, a market that is viewed in other countries as some kind of miracle.

So over the past few years, a team from Fannie Mae has been invited to 29 different countries from Europe, to Africa, to Latin America, to Asia to help them figure out how to build a better system like ours. These countries have asked us how to deepen their capital markets, manage risk better and expand affordable lending and fair lending. We just had a team in South Africa to help a start-up secondary market conduit develop mortgage risk modeling, which they want to use to fight redlining.

What you see in America is a dynamic web of entities—both public and private sector—delivering homeownership to citizens of all backgrounds, incomes and circumstances. We have small, medium and large mortgage originators and lenders, serving consumers from store fronts to web sites. We have home builders, Realtors, mortgage brokers, mortgage insurers and appraisers and mortgage.coms. We have consumer advocates, citizen activists and nonprofit housing organizations. The system receives wide support from local, county, state and federal agencies and elected leaders,

The interaction of these entities is constantly driving the housing system to improve itself, to reward low cost and high quality, to police the bad actors and chuck out the bad apples, to search for new markets and untapped home buyers, and break down the barriers. Looking back over my years in the industry gives me confidence that the U.S. housing system, with a little nudging here and there, will continue to do the right thing for consumers. Good money will drive out the bad. A better mousetrap is always in development. Underserved families will be served. Our system is constantly evolving and innovating to make owning a home more possible for more people.

Given how great our system is, it makes you wonder: Why are some voices suggesting there is something wrong with our housing finance system, something fundamental that needs to be fixed?

Certainly, the system benefits from constructive scrutiny. It is entirely appropriate for the Congress to hold oversight hearings on the safety and soundness of the secondary mortgage market. I look forward to testifying before Mr. Baker's subcommittee next week. It is also appropriate for our regulators—HUD and OFHEO—to monitor us closely. And it is appropriate for other agencies to ask questions within their purview as well. We welcome official scrutiny.

But something less constructive is also going on here in Washington. Recently, a senior Senator asked me why Fannie Mae was suddenly in the news so much. I explained to him that some very large financial institutions have decided they are not content with the way the system works for them. They see how Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac drive down mortgage costs for consumers and serve all mortgage lenders. They see how we give small- and medium-sized mortgage lenders a chance to compete with the large institutions. So this small group of large institutions would like to eliminate the benefits that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac provide, from low-cost financing to automated underwriting systems.

They have brought the fight to Washington under the name FM Watch. They began by defining themselves as a watchdog group, and their rhetoric was mild. But over the course of the past year, they have been unable to gain any traction. They have been unable to answer the question of how the consumer would benefit from any of their proposals regarding Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. And or nickname for this group, the ''Coalition for Higher Mortgage Costs,'' has stuck like a tattoo.

So this group has switched from watchdog to attack dog. Its strategy is now to create an instant crisis, to convince policymakers that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are a financial risk to the taxpayer, an S&L crisis waiting to happen. This is the equivalent of the owner of one movie theater going to a rival theater and shouting ''fire!'' A mortgage insurance industry that nearly collapsed in the 1980s and a banking industry that collapsed in the early 1990s now seek to tag the secondary mortgage industry with the word ''risky.''

By trying to create a crisis, FM Watch has gone beyond a watchdog role into an approach which, carried to its logical conclusion, would actually harm the housing finance system, all in an effort to create short-term advantages for its members.

Never mind that its claims collapse under scrutiny. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are far from the S&L problems and banking problems that bankrupted their deposit insurance funds and required federal direct and indirect bailouts.

Our safety and soundness allowed us to be the ''white hats'' in the S&L and banking crises as we rode in with additional capital to keep the housing system going. The risk-based capital standard that Congress gave us since the S&L and banking crises has made us even more safe and sound. What FM Watch does not mention is that if the economic stress test in our capital standard ever came to pass, the government would have to bail out their members long before Fannie Mae was in any danger.

But you can learn a lot from debating with an entity like FM Watch. They use so many facts that you just can't find anywhere else. It reminds me of a story Adlai Stevenson once told. He reminded his audience of the old lawyer addressing the jury, who closed his summation by saying: ''And these, ladies and gentlemen, are the conclusions on which I base my facts.'' FM Watch is looking for any conclusion that will help to damage Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The facts will be altered to fit.

If this Coalition for Higher Mortgage Costs were successful, it would destabilize the secondary mortgage market and the related capital markets. This destabilization would undermine the entire housing industry and its progress, raise costs for consumers and stifle the advance of homeownership—harming underserved families first. Because such an outcome is unacceptable, I don't think this will happen. The American people and their elected representatives are smart. They will soon recognize another lobbyist-driven Potemkin-crisis public relations campaign for what it is. Then they and the capital markets will stop listening.

Certainly our housing system is not perfect. Minority homeownership rates are too low. There is still inequality in affordable mortgage credit. Too many families that can afford the least are being charged the most for mortgage credit. Too many borrowers are being targeted by predatory lenders or steered to subprime lending when they could, in fact, qualify for low-cost conventional financing.

One issue deserving of further study is the question of why disparities in loan approvals between white and minority borrowers continue to persist. Many have suspected overt racial discrimination. But those disparities can be found even in automated underwriting systems using racially neutral underwriting criteria.

We take this issue very seriously because in our experience, automated underwriting has in fact expanded lending to minority families. To try to understand the problem better, we have studied results from our system, Desktop Underwriter. We found that differences in credit histories account for about 50 percent of the difference in loan approvals. And when you also factor in the applicant's loan-to-value ratio and reserves, these three factors together account for over 90 percent of the difference in the approval ratings. The results of this study point to the need for public policies addressing consumer credit education and minority savings and wealth development.

The housing finance system needs more answers to questions such as this. To further explore these issues, next month Fannie Mae is hosting a conference titled ''The Role of Automated Underwriting in Expanding Minority Homeownership.'' We're bringing together a range of advocates, academics, regulators and lenders to engage in a meaningful dialogue concerning automated underwriting systems and their role in expanding homeownership and promoting fair lending. I am personally committed to working every day to make sure that these systems are the best they can possibly be.

All in all, the housing finance system—through inspiration, perspiration and a little luck—has grown into the most successful system in the world. It is worth protecting and defending. We must never allow the system to be damaged by those who would place their narrow financial interests ahead of those of the industry as a whole and—most importantly—ahead of the consumers we serve.

This being a national election year, it is a good time to discuss and debate our national priorities, and certainly homeownership is high among them. Few ideals unite us more than owning a home to raise your family, invest your income, become part of a community and have something to show for it. There are many ways to go about improving the housing finance system to make it better, more affordable and more inclusive. As we pursue these efforts, we need to keep our eyes on the prize and ask the most important question, ''does this proposal help or hurt home buyers?''

Thank you.

CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 701) to provide Outer Continental Shelf Impact Assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOYER Mr. Chairman, I regrettably oppose H.R. 701. I say regrettably, Mr. Chairman, because there is much in this measure that I strongly support. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, Wildlife Conservation, Urban Parks, Historic Preservation, and Conservation Easements are objectives that I have supported throughout my career.

Unfortunately, H.R. 701 funds these measures by making approximately $2.8 billion in discretionary spending mandatory spending. As mandatory spending it is not subject to the annual appropriations process. I know that for some this is a positive thing but as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I simply cannot support this.

In the past I have opposed similar efforts to make highway and aviation spending mandatory. Not necessarily because I opposed the objective, but because I disagreed with the precedent.

My friends, since coming to Congress I have seen discretionary spending squeezed harder and harder every year as the mandatory spending components of the budget have grown. Thirty years ago discretionary spending accounted for 61.5% of the budget with the remaining 38.5% reserved for mandatory spending. By 1980 discretionary spending had declined to 46.7% of the budget. By 1990 this figure fell even further to 39.9% and this year the estimate is that discretionary spending will account for only 34.5% of the budget.

The remaining 65% percent of the budget next year will be consumed by mandatory spending and interest on the national debt. And, we are here today taking about moving another $2.8 billion from discretionary spending over to the mandatory side.

If we pass this bill, we are going to squeeze Head Start, student loans, cancer research, law enforcement, defense and every other discretionary spending priority you can think of even further.

As I said at the beginning, I support the items contained in this legislation. What I cannot support is putting land acquisition and historic preservation ahead of defense, cancer research, and education. Governing is about making choices—sometimes difficult ones. This legislation is another step toward putting as county's spending decisions on autopilot. I urge all my colleagues to reject it.

A POEM

HON. JOHN COOKSEY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, attached is a poem by Jean McGivney Boese, Poet Laureate of Louisiana, which I would like to submit and share with my colleagues.

MILLENNIUM 2000

Our time is measured from the day that Jesus came to earth.
The thoughts we think are framed by his extraordinary birth.
He taught us how to live our lives, He taught us what is true.
If we have failed, it is because of what we failed to do.

It soon will be 2000 years since Jesus lived as Man.
As we reach this Millennium we look back on a span
Of awesome things and awful things that filled the Centuries,
And thank God that the brave and good outnumber cruelties.

For those who think there is no God, the future is a void.
Their lives are aimless as a fleeting, pointless asteroid.
We have a way to follow, and the free will to decide,
This new Millennium can be where joy and peace abide.

LANDRUM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a school in San Benito, Texas, that is beating the odds in today's public education system. At a time when our resources are terribly over-burdened, for the second year in a row Landrum Elementary School has been chosen as a winner of the ''Set A Good Example'' competition, sponsored by the Concerned Businessmen of America.

These awards, launched in 1982, recognize schools which have a student-oriented program to influence their peers in a positive way by promoting simple human moral values such as honesty, trustworthiness, responsibility, competence and fairness. The Concerned Businessmen of America is a not-for-profit charitable educational organization which incorporates successful business strategies to combat social ills and problems that face young people.

At a time when parents and community leaders are watching our young people with new eyes, wondering what is going on inside their minds and what motivates them, this recognition is concrete proof that the community surrounding Landrum Elementary School—educators, counselors, parents, business people, and most importantly, students themselves—is working together to ward off the problems that have plagued other schools and other young people. The winning ingredient here is the active involvement of the students; the best messenger for young people is other young people.

We have enormous challenges before us in education, and with regard to public policy in our public schools. There will never be one single answer to preparing young people to withstand the complex social issues that our children encounter each day. But the best way to prepare our children to deal with the society in which we live is to teach them, from very early on, simple moral guidelines to apply to their lives. The ''Set a Good Example'' program follows up as encouragement and reinforcement to these lessons.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Landrum Elementary School for their efforts to be part of a solution, which is the first step toward solving the problem. I thank the young people there for leading the way to better grades and healthier attitudes.

HONORING THE HONORABLE LINDEN FORBES SAMPSON BURNHAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on this the 34th anniversary of the independence of Guyana, I rise to honor the memory and celebrate the achievements of the Honorable Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, the former President of Guyana, and one of the most charismatic political personalities in the Caribbean region and in the Third World community. The Hon.

Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, like his contemporary and compatriot, Cheddie Jagan, enjoyed a political career that was unique and unparalleled.

Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham was born on February 20, 1923, in the village of Kitty, in the County of Demerara, in the nation of Guyana. He was the son of James Burnham, a Headmaster and Rachael Sampson, a housewife. From his parents, he inherited a profound love of learning and an intimate knowledge of the Bible.

Forbes Burnham was educated at Queens College in Guyana, London University and Gray's Inn in London, England. Upon his return from London, he embarked upon a political career that was nothing short of remarkable. He was a co-founder of the People's Progressive Party and was appointed Minister of Education in the first democratically elected government in Guyana. After the split with the People's Progressive Party, he founded the People's National Congress and became Leader of the Opposition in 1957. In 1966, he became Prime Minister of an independent Guyana and, in 1980, became the first President of the Republic of Guyana.

From his early years, Forbes Burnham had exhibited signs of academic brilliance. His keen intellect, sharp wit, photographic memory and awesome gift of public speaking, made Forbes Burnham a formidable political figure in Guyana, in the Caribbean and in the Third World. Forbes Burnham was in many respects a larger than life figure—a voracious reader of books, a passionate lover of the arts, a connoisseur of fine food, exotic wines and expensive cigars. He was in many respects the Caribbean Renaissance Man.

However, Forbes Burnham was more than a Renaissance Man. He was a Guyanese nationalist committed to the political and economic empowerment of his nation. He remained a dedicated advocate for the working class and remained President of the Guyan Labor Union for most of his career. He was a passionate supporter of Caribbean integration and Third World empowerment. Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham remains one of the most remarkable political personalities in the history of the Caribbean.

HONORING DR. JOE SAMUEL RATLIFF FOR HIS 30TH YEAR IN THE MINISTRY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise before you today to recognize the achievements of Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff, of Brentwood Baptist Church. Tomorrow, on Wednesday, May 17, 2000, the congregation of Brentwood Baptist Church will honor Pastor Ratliff for the many contributions he has made over the last 30 years in the name of the Lord.

Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff, a native of Lumberton, North Carolina, received his Bachelor of Arts in History, from Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia. He received both the Doctorate of Ministry and Doctorate of Divinity degrees from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He has done post-doctoral work at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

It is difficult to imagine what the Houston community would be like today had Dr. Ratliff not been called to become Pastor of Brentwood in 1980. We have been truly blessed to have a man with his sense of dedication and selflessness among us. In 1993, Dr. Ratliff co-authored the book, Church Planting in the African-American Community (Broadman Press). He was named the first African-American Moderator of the Union Baptist Association . . . the nation's largest urban Southern Baptist body, consisting of 250,000 members in 1994. In March of 1997, his portrait was hung in the Hall of Fame in the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel on the Morehouse College Campus. Under Pastor Ratliff's leadership, the Brentwood family has grown to 10,000 strong over the last 30 years.

Pastor Ratliff's time with the ministry has allowed him to develop a strong support network that extends outside the church. Dr. Ratliff currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Morehouse School of Religion and Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Interdenominational Theological Center. Dr. Ratliff is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is married to Mrs. Doris Gardner Ratliff.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my fellow members of the 106th Congress to join me in saluting Pastor Joe Samuel Ratliff. Self-evident is his lifelong journey to enhancing the dignity and nurturing the spirits of all people. I am grateful that there are people like that who serve as examples of what we all should strive to be.

REGARDING THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION IN TAIWAN

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, this coming Saturday, Taiwan will inaugurate a new democratically elected president and vice president. Mr. Chen Shuibian and his partner, Ms. Annette Lu, were elected president and vice president of Taiwan on March 18, 2000. Their historic victory marked only the second time that a direct presidential election was held on Chinese soil, and the first time in China's modern history that the opposition party candidates won. Together, Chen and Lu will relieve the ruling Nationalist party of its executive power.

This stunning victory directly resulted from Taiwan's unwavering progress toward democratization during the past fifteen years. Today, Taiwan validates itself as a mature, successful democracy. We should be proud of its political transformation, and wish Taiwan well in its future.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to send Chen and Lu our congratulations, and would like to reaffirm the United States' pledge of support for the democratic ideals bravely achieved by the Taiwanese people.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNET TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2000

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Chairman HYDE, Administrative and Commercial Law Subcommittee Chairman GEKAS and Ranking Member NADLER in introducing the ''Internet Tax Simplification Act of 2000.'' We are introducing this legislation at the request of a group of Advisory Commission on Commerce Members led by Utah Governor Micahel Leavitt. Several weeks ago we introduced H.R. 4267 at the request of a group of Advisory Commissioners led by Virginia Governor James Gilmore.

This bill would amend the Internet Tax Freedom Act to extend by five years the moratorium on State and local taxes on Internet access and extend for two years the moratorium on multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce. It encourages the States to work cooperatively with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws to develop a simplified and uniform sales and use tax. The legislation also authorizes an interstate sales and use tax compact providing for a uniform sales and use tax system, authorizes the States to simplify their use tax rates, and authorizes those States which enter into the compact to collect use taxes on remote sales. Finally, the bill encourages States to work cooperatively with the telecommunications industry and other relevant groups to reduce the complexity of complying with State and local telecommunications taxes.

We will be holding hearings on this bill and H.R. 4460 tomorrow, and it is my hope and expectation that we can quickly move to markup and legislative action. There are few economic issues before our committee which are more important than simplifying the sales tax and failure to act on this issue will harm all interested parties—retailers (both electronic and otherwise), State and local governments and consumers.

The problems with the present system are several fold. First, the complexity of the system is daunting. There are presently over 6,500 taxing jurisdictions in the United States, when all State, county and municipal authorities are included. Needless to say, any retailer with a physical nexus to a State (and therefore subject to state tax jurisdiction under the 1992 Quill decision) is subject to a myriad of confusing and complex State and Local taxes.

Second, the current disparate tax treatment as between traditional ''bricks and mortar'' retailers (which are subject to state tax) and remote sellers (which are not) has the potential to cause continuing economic distortion. As the New York Times editorial board has written, ''[a]n elementary principle of taxation says that taxes should distort purchasing decisions as little as possible. It is not the role of a tax code to determine whether customers shop in stores, online, or by mail order.

With regard to the impact on State and local governments, maintenance of the current system carries with it the potential for significant financial loss. Sales taxes constitute the most important State and local revenue source, far greater than income and property taxes, with the Census Bureau estimating the 47.9% of

State and local revenues come from sales taxes. With projections of online sales estimated to exceed $300 billion annually by 2002, State and local governments could lose as much as $20 billion in uncollected sales taxes under the present system.

Finally, the present system could significantly harm individual consumers. This could obviously be the case if individuals faced increasing income and property taxes or declining services as a result of the loss of sales taxes from remote sales. A separate concern is the adverse impact of the present bifurcated system on poor and minorities. According to a recent Commerce Department study, wealthy individuals are 20 times more likely to have Internet access, and Hispanics and African Americans are far less likely to have such access. This means that poor and minorities who only buy locally face a greater sales tax burden than their counterparts. Maintaining the present system will only serve to perpetuate that disparity.

Time is of the essence, and I look forward to the Judiciary Committee and the full House taking up this important issue.

INTERNET NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3709) to make permanent the moratorium enacted by the Internet Tax Freedom Act as it applied to new, multiple, and discriminatory taxes on the Internet:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman, as the Internet flourished during its infant stages and development, the importance of access and accessibility is key to America. It is my belief that the Internet should not be encumbered with burdensome taxation. However, sales through the Internet without paying taxes gets into another area, an area that could seriously effect the economy of states such as Texas. The Internet, a technology where America is the unquestioned world leader, should be allowed to develop and flourish without every state and locality burdening such commerce with taxation during its growth process.

The purpose of H.R. 3709, sponsored by my colleague, Representative COX, will extend for an additional five years the current three-year moratorium on the imposition of state and local sales taxes on Internet access, as well as any multiple or discriminatory taxes imposed on the Internet. With this legislation, Members of Congress are attempting to find a fair solution for traditional business and state and local authorities, while not stifling the growth of e-commerce. Though H.R. 3709 may be attractive, the extended five-year period may be too long. I find the amendment proposed by my colleague, Representative DELAHUNT, more appealing. His amendment will provide only a two-year extension of the moratorium on state and local taxes on the Internet. This two-year period will hopefully give us time to come up with a feasible and fair solution to this troublesome problem for states that fund themselves through sales tax.

Let me end by acknowledging the work that each of you have and continue to do in order to ensure America's leadership position in the technological world. As Members of Congress and leaders, we must realize that ill-considered and disruptive new taxes could literally kill the initial growth stage of our most dynamic and innovative segment of our economy—the Internet. However, now is the opportune time to examine the relationship between taxes and the Internet. We must find ways that will allow the Internet to play its role as a valuable asset, while funding programs that will be beneficial for individual states, such as Texas, who rely on sales tax for the construction of its transportation systems and the education of our children.

A TRIBUTE TO PHYLLIS FULGINITI

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, ''A teacher affects eternity. He can never tell where his influence stops.''—Henry Adams.

Henry Adams may have been talking about a teacher like Phyllis Fulginiti. Phyllis Fulginiti has spent her life as a teacher, touching and molding students for nearly 40 years. She began as a high school graduate, when she began as a teacher in Catholic Schools as part of a special program designed to encourage young people to consider teaching as a career. Well, in at least this one instance, the program worked. After teaching in the Catholic schools for five years, Phyllis joined the Marlton School District and taught at Marlton Middle School for 33 years. She taught history, government and social studies to thousands of students between the second and the eighth grade. Along the way, she put her theories into practice by earning both a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Arts degree at St. Joseph University. She did all of this while raising a daughter, Susan, and maintaining a 27 year marriage to her husband, Richard Fulginiti. Although she is about to commence a new phase of her life as a retired teacher, I would like to commend her for the work that she has done as a teacher. As I am certain that many of her students would agree, she has touched eternity, and our community, our state, and our nation, are better off because of her contribution.

GEORGE RUIZ OF CORPUS CHRISTI

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to an extraordinary patriot and citizen of South Texas, George Ruiz of Corpus Christi, whose support and promotion of the U.S. Armed Forces is unconventional, and which is a wonderful recruiting tool unto itself.

Since 1992, after the Persian Gulf War, George Ruiz began gathering up area young people to attend an exhibition he conceived, ''Dare to Dream.'' This exhibition includes fly-overs, several Air Force planes, and booths from local law enforcement, NASA and the U.S. Border Patrol. George, a bus driver for the Calallen school district in the Corpus Christi area, does this each year out of the sheer passion he has for the military.

George knows, as I do, that if young people are introduced to an organization which demands discipline, they are far more likely to succeed in life . . . to stay in school, to stay clear of gangs, and to remain drug-free. He also knows talking alone will not get it done. The driving force behind George's philosophy is that our only limit is our imagination.

The most important thing he does is inspire young people to dream. He uses the mystery and majesty of aircraft to invoke their dreams. He uses the time he has with young people on his bus to talk about the importance of staying in school, and the possibility of the military as a career.

It is not quite enough for George to only inspire young people through an air show exhibition; this guy lives it. He plasters recruiting posters inside his bus, he volunteers weekly at Driscoll Children's Hospital, arranges visits by military personnel to area schools, and takes youngsters to area bases to see first-hand the military facilities.

Just last year, the United States Air Force showed its formal appreciation to George in the form of an award, the Air Forces Recruiting Service's most prestigious and highest form of recognition, the American Spirit Award.

While the military has always been a part of his life, surprisingly enough, George has never served in uniform. His life-long interest in the military began when he was six while his father was stationed at Naval Air Station Kingsville. George's message to young people is clear: dream what you will, then work hard to see it happen, as part of the Armed Services of the United States if possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the best non-military recruiter in South Texas, a rare and decent patriot, George Ruiz.

HONORING THE HON. CHEDDIE B. JAGAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on this the 34th anniversary of the independence of Guyana, I rise to honor the memory and celebrate the achievements of the Hon. Cheddie B. Jagan, the former President of Guyana, and one of the most committed and dedicated political leaders in the Caribbean region and in the Third World community. Dr. Cheddie Jagan, like his contemporary and compatriot, Forbes Burnham, enjoyed a political career that can only be described as unique and unprecedented.

Cheddie B. Jagan was born on March 22, 1918, in the village of Port Mourant, in the County of Berbice, in the nation of Guyana. He was the son of Jagan and Bachoni, indentured plantation workers who had migrated from the state of Uttar Predesh in India. Dr. Jagan was to retain a profound commitment to the concerns of the rural sugar workers throughout his career.

Dr. Jagan was educated at Howard University and Northwestern University in the United States and returned to Guyana in 1946 to begin a remarkable political odyssey. In 1950, he founded the People's Progressive Party and, in April 1953, he headed the first democratically elected government in Guyana's history. In 1957, and again in 1961, he became Chief Minister of the Government. In 1964, he became a leader of the Parliamentary Opposition, and in October 1992, he was elected President of Guyana. On March 6, 1997, this monumental political figure passed away at the Walter Reed hospital in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Cheddie Jagan lived in a period of profound repression during the Cold War. Regrettably, the government of the United States played a significant role in destabilizing the government of Cheddie Jagan. In 1953, it persuaded the British Government to suspend the constitution; in 1955, it helped to split the national movement; and, in 1962, it helped to provoke civil disturbances. This tribute is a small attempt to atone for this gross miscarriage of justice.

Through all these political vicissitudes, Dr. Jagan maintained a constant and unwavering commitment to the cause of the Guyana working class, to the concept of working class unity and to the principles of constitutional democracy. In spite of overwhelming odds, Cheddie Jagan, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., ultimately believed that ''truth pressed to earth will rise again'' and that ''the arm of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.''

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ADOLFO RIBERA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with much sadness that I inform my colleagues of the passing of a great individual, a person who graced our world and our lives with so much love and compassion and family value.

Adolfo Ribera, the husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, passed away on May 12, 2000 in Barstow, California. He was 76 years of age. Born in Walfenburg, Colorado and raised in Ribera, New Mexico and husband of Aurelia Ribera.

He was a member of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church, a WWII Veteran in the Philippines, worked for the Santa Fe Railroad for thirty one years and a former member of the Sheet Metal Workers Union. He was an avid baseball player and known as an outstanding softball fast-pitch player. He and I were teammates and the teams we played on won many league championships. We played for the City's Softball Fast Pitch League in Barstow, California.

Adolfo lived a full and a very fulfilling life, a life graced by his wife, whom they were blessed with eight children: Ralph, Veronica, Elizabeth, Adolfo, Frances (deceased), William, Tina; and also blessed with twenty-two grand children, nine great grand children. These children brought tremendous joy and inspiration into his life.

He is survived by one brother: Eddie, and his brothers who are now deceased are: Hilario, Trinidad, Joe. Survived by four sisters: Mary, Eloisa (daughter is Barbara married to Congressman JOE BACA), Piedad, Theresa and Frances who is now deceased.

Adolfo was and remains so much a tremendous person in our thoughts and in our memories. We appreciate so much and will long remember the many good and positive things he brought to his family and lives that he touched.

I join with Adolfo's friends and family members in honoring such a truly remarkable and outstanding person, a husband, father, grand father, great grandfather and to all those who loved him.

He was a strong person, the backbone to his family. He possessed honesty, strength, leadership and courage. He was considered a true friend in every sense of the word.

I join with all of those who loved Adolfo Ribera in extending our prayers to the family and hope that they find peace and comfort during this time of sorrow.

A Rosary will be cited at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, May 15, 2000, 7:00 p.m., 505 E. Mt. View, Barstow, California. The funeral will be at 9:00 a.m. also at the church.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES DALE WEST

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute today to Los Angeles educator James Dale West for his more than four decades of service as a teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. On Sunday, June 4, 2000, the Stovall Educational Uplift Foundation will honor Mr. West for his many years of dedicated service to the school children of Los Angeles. In recognition of his exemplary career, I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly acknowledge his contributions to the school district, as well as to the Los Angeles community.

A native of Oklahoma, James Dale West graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, and attended Langston University, located in Langston, Oklahoma. He served in the United States military and after his tour of duty, entered California State Polytechnic University, where he met the woman who would become his wife, Ole Maye Daniel. The couple married in 1950, and James went on to earn two post-graduate degrees.

James Dale West began his career as an educator at Jackson High School in 1953. He remained at Jackson for fifteen years, before moving to Crenshaw High School and Manual Arts Adult School, where he still teaches today. In addition, he serves as the field representative for the Regional Occupational Program/Business Industrial School, which provides training for students at the job site. He also is president of the Association Career Education Center of Los Angeles.

Mr. West is a member of the Crenshaw United Methodist Church and is a chorister with the Crenshaw Sanctuary Choir; the Saint Mark United Methodist Sanctuary Choir; the United Methodist Men's Choir, and the Ecumenical Men's Chorus. He is also an avid traveler who has traveled to each of the fifty states, and visited forty country.

James and his lovey wife, Ole Maye, are the proud parents of three daughters: Dr. Gay West Brown, Attorney Joy West, and Joil West. The couple also are blessed with four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to acknowledge the contributions of Los Angeles public school educator James Dale West. I ask that you join me in extending best wishes to him as he continues to impart his vast knowledge to the school children of Los Angeles.

MS. SANDRA McGARY, PRINCIPAL, HARMONY LELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I recognize Ms. Sandra McGary, principal of Harmony Leland Elementary School in Mableton, Georgia.

''Ms. McBeautiful,'' as she is affectionately known, challenged her students to read 10,000 books. She promised to play a fiddle and sing from the roof of the school if the students could rise to the challenge. The students reciprocated by reading not just 10,000 books, but well over 19,500 books! Ms. McGary, much to the amusement of the students and faculty, fulfilled her end of the bargain, by putting on a wedding gown and playing her violin from the roof of the school.

Since her arrival at Harmony Leland, the school has seen a ''[. . .] resurgence of energy, enthusiasm, and community involvement [. . .]'' She is an active member of the community, serving as an Ambassador to the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. She also designed the Academics Before Athletics program at North Cobb High School. Under her leadership, the school has been the first school in the nation to be named a Leonard Bernstein School of the Arts. Every student is given a violin as well as first rate instruction.

Ms. McGary has made education and community involvement her life's endeavor. I join the Mableton community in congratulating her for her efforts and wishing her well for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I honor child care providers across the nation on Provider Appreciation Day.

Provider Appreciation Day, which is celebrated on the Friday before Mother's Day, was spearheaded by a group of volunteers in New Jersey in 1966 who saw the need for a day to appreciate and recognize child care providers.

The contribution that child care providers make to the quality of family life in this country is immeasurable. With the changing nature of the workforce, more mothers are working than ever before. Often times, this means that more children must be placed in child care. According to recent surveys, there are approximately 13 million children in the United States under the age of six in child care at least part time. An additional 24 million school age children are in some form of child care outside of school time.

Early childhood is the most critical time of development and may have the most impact on the shape of a child's future. Child care providers largely influence these important years with their compassion, patience, encouragement, and love for young children.

Whether they work in a child care center, nursery school, family-daycare, or before-school and after-school program, it takes a special person to choose the field of child care. Provider Appreciation Day offers a unique opportunity to recognize and commend the dedication, understanding, kindness, and good example that child care providers exemplify everyday.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Suzanne Williamson, Chairwoman of Provider Appreciation Day, for her hard work in establishing a national day of recognition for child car providers. Ms. Williamson is also the Director for Monday Morning Child Care, Inc., a network of child car providers located in Union County, New Jersey. I would also like to express my gratitude to Nelida ''Nellie'' Melendez-Carroll who cares for my two and a half year old daughter, Kelly.

Please join me in thanking child care providers nationwide for their hard work and self-sacrifice in committing their lives to this nation's most precious investment . . . our children.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THEODORE ROETHKE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the memory of a great poet, Michigan's only Pulitzer Prize winner, and a truly great American. Though he passed away more than 35 years ago, the spirit of Theodore Roethke lives on through his poetry and leaves an impressive legacy as a prominent figure in the rich history of American literature.

To keep his memory alive, the ''Friends of Theodore Roethke'' was created in Saginaw to promote, preserve, and protect his legacy. By restoring his family residence and organizing a wide range of cultural and educational events, the organization does a tremendous job of honoring Theodore Roethke's memory and continuing his legacy of teaching and sharing in literary pleasures.

Theodore Roethke was born in Saginaw, Michigan in 1908 to German immigrants Otto Roethke and Helen Huebner. Otto Roethke took over the family florist business when his father passed away, and Theodore spent much of his time as a small boy following his father around the greenhouse and the fields, helping out as much as he could. This early exposure to nature would have a profound influence on his poetry later in life.

Roethke attended the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he did quite well and was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa honor society during his senior year in 1929. It was at Michigan that he began writing poetry. He went on to briefly attend law school, but left after only one class to pursue a master's degree in literature, studying such poets as Elinor Wylie and E.E. Cummings. When the Great Depression hit, Roethke was forced to leave school and find a job, which he did, teaching at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania.

As the years went on, Roethke held several other teaching positions—among them jobs at Michigan State, Penn State, and the University of Washington—all the while having more and more of his poetry published. In 1945, he received a Guggenheim Fellowship and took the time to return to Saginaw to write. In 1953, Roethke married Beatrice O'Connell, and in that same year, The Waking was published, and included what many consider to be his greatest works. He continued to write and be commended for his poetry up until his death, and he receives critical praise to this day for his works. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Saginaw in 1963 at the age of 55.

During his life, Theodore Roethke was awarded two Guggenheim Fellowships, the Eunice Tietjens Memorial Prize, two Ford Foundation grants, a Pulitzer Prize for The Waking, a Fulbright grant, the Bollingen Prize, a National Book Award for Words for the Wind, a Shelley Memorial Award, and he received a National Book Award for The Far Field posthumously in 1965.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize such a distinguished and world renowned poet, who so gracefully put into words the beauty, mystery, and power of the natural world. I urge you and all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Theodore Roethke for his tremendous contributions to American literature, and the lasting impact he has had on American culture.

RESEARCH! AMERICA'S 1999 AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AS VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, on March 28, 2000, I presented Patty Wood and the Washington Association for Biomedical Research with the Research! America's 1999 Award for Exceptional Contributions as Volunteer Advocates for Medical Research.

Patty has been an energetic advocate, spokesperson, and volunteer for the Northwest Kidney Centers and the Washington Association for Biomedical Research. As an organ recipient herself, she understands the importance of organ donation and the value of biomedical research in giving people a second chance. I also want to acknowledge Dr. Joseph Eschbach, President of the Washington Association for Biomedical Research, and Susan Adler, the Executive Director of the Association, for their outstanding commitment in educating the public on the benefits of funding biomedical research.

On April 16–21, 2000, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer featured a five-part series on the use of animals in biomedical research. Enclosed are the first two articles of the series. Reprints of the complete five-part series can be obtained directly from Susan Adler, Executive Director of the Washington Association for Biomedical Research, at the following address: 2033 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98121. The articles can also be viewed on the Association's website at www.wabr.org. I hope that these articles will help educate the public on this important issue.

[From the Seattle P–I.com Opinion, Sun., Apr. 16, 2000]

ANIMALS AND RESEARCH PART 1: UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF GENETIC DISEASE THROUGH ANIMAL RESEARCH

(By Joseph W. Eschbach)

In my office and at the hospital, I diagnose and treat a myriad of illnesses—some life-threatening, others not so serious. In performing these tasks, I need to keep up with the advances that make it possible to treat these illnesses. I also need to talk with my patients about the medical procedures, surgery and medicines I recommend and/or prescribe and the research that makes them safe and effective.

A young patient, Bobby, recently came to my office with a fever and complaints of ear pain. The diagnosis—a middle-ear infection—is common, particularly in children, and accounts for many a missed school day. While the infection can usually be cured with an antibiotic, in the future most children will not get this infection because of a recently developed vaccine.

This vaccine was first shown to be effective and safe in studies involving rats, guinea pigs and chinchillas. I told Bobby's mother that this vaccine, which immunizes infants and children against the organism that causes the infection, will soon be available—in time to protect his baby sister. Not only will this vaccine decrease the incidence of recurring infections, it also will reduce the need for taking antibiotics.

I tell Mrs. D, who once had serious chest pain, that the device used to open up the blockage in her heart arteries was first tested and perfected in dog studies. During their training, the surgeons who performed her subsequent bypass surgery were able to practice and perfect their surgical skills on dogs, before operating on humans. Growing pressure by animal rights groups has recently caused some medical schools to close their dog laboratories. For these future surgeons, their first introduction to performing complex procedures will be on patients. I am concerned about how this will affect the future of these people.

Animal models have been the key to unlocking the secrets of many genetic diseases. The genetic makeup of animals and humans is similar, which has allowed scientists to study diseases in animals with genetic defects similar to those in humans.

One day, Jim came in complaining that he spontaneously fell asleep under the most embarrassing situations: at work, with guests and while watching his favorite football team. A neurological exam confirmed that he had narcolepsy, a disease caused by a defective version of the gene called hypocretin receptor 2.

Much of what we know about narcolepsy comes from studies on a breed

These dogs were also used to initially test the effectiveness of certain drug therapies, including the one I prescribed to Jim. This drug alone is ultimately expected to help the 250,000 Americans with narcolepsy, as well as dogs with the disorder.

The flu has been a major cause of days lost from work and even death in young and old. Jackie recently came to the office with a fever of 102 degrees and a bad cough; she was feeling horrible. Examination and initial laboratory tests suggested she had the flu and, while waiting for confirmation of viral tests, she was prescribed a new ''anti-viral'' antibiotic designed specifically to combat influenza. This drug is the result of years of testing, first in rats and rabbits, and then in humans, and represents a major advance against this illness.

Sarah has diabetes. The insulin she requires allows her to live a relatively normal life; until recently, the insulin was derived solely from the pancreas glands of pigs and cows. Recent advances in recombinant molecular biology techniques have made human insulin available, as well.

Insulin-dependent diabetes was uniformly fatal before the 1920s when Drs. Frederick G. Banting and Charles H. Best, through experiments in dogs, proved that insulin corrected the disorder. On the horizon, thanks to experiments in several animal species, is the hope that the specific pancreas cells that produce insulin (islet cells) can be transplanted into any diabetic and cure the condition, eliminate the need for insulin shots and eliminate long-term complications.

There are many other stories I could tell about how my patients have benefited from animal research. The hypertension medication, the ultrasound technology and the organ transplant techniques and immunological methods were all made possible because of experiments using animals.

ANIMALS & RESEARCH, A FIVE-PART SERIES

Part 1: Unlocking the secrets of genetic disease through animal research

Part 2: Improving medical treatment for animals

Part 3: Animals are key to discovering new medicines

Part 4: The ethics of using animals in research

Part 5: How research animals live

Some patients express concern for these animals and ask why they need to be used for research. I reassure them that researchers must comply with strict federal regulations requiring care and use protocols be carefully reviewed by an animal care committee, whose membership must include an experienced scientist, a veterinarian and a member of the general public. Alternatives to animals are used whenever possible (cell and tissue cultures and computer modeling), but these findings ultimately need to be confirmed in a complex intact animal.

I also try to put the use of research animals into perspective. More than 95 percent of all animals used for research in the United States are laboratory-bred rats and mice. Contrary to popular belief, dogs, cats and primates together account for only about 1 percent of all the animals used in research. Data from October 1997 through September 1998 indicate that about 100,000 dogs and cats were used in research in that year, which compares with between 2 million to 7 million unwanted dogs and cats killed annually in the nation's pounds, as reported by the Humane Society of the United States.

Bobby and his sister; Jackie; Jim; and Sarah, as well as every American alive today, have benefited in some way from animal research. However, many other illnesses still are in need of cures, such as cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer's and others. It is the promise of animal research that provides our hopes for having longer, healthier lives.

[From the Seattle P–I.Com Opinion, Tues, Apr. 18, 2000]

ANIMALS AND RESEARCH, PART 2: ANIMALS BENEFIT FROM RESEARCH

(By Patrick R. Gavin)

PULLMAN—For some time now we've been caring for ''Hope'' at the Washington, State University College of Veterinary Medicine teaching hospital. She's a mixed-breed dog whose owner shot her in the head in February and left her for dead.

Before she ever came to WSU, a good Samaritan in Montana found her at a public fishing access and got her to emergency care. Anesthetics, analgesics, antibiotics, radiographs, sutures, stomach tubes, dressings, bandages, liquefied food, intravenous lines and solutions were employed by competent veterinary care to keep her alive.

The owner eventually was arrested and convicted of a misdemeanor charge of animal cruelty and was forced to pay a $200 fine and give up Hope to the courts. After that, she was brought to our care for reconstructive surgery. Here we've employed many of the same treatments mentioned above as well as others in order to not only keep Hope alive, but to heal her to the best quality of life we can provide for her and her now adoptive owners.

One criticism often leveled at biomedical researchers is that if humans so desperately need biomedical research for advancement, they should perform the work on humans, not animals. My question is, what about the animals that need biomedical research?

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Almost completely ignored in animal rights debates are the benefits of humans using non-human animals in research for the exclusive benefit of other non-human animals. In Hope's case, every human intervention that has touched her had to be developed and tested on animals to ensure its safety and effectiveness before it entered general veterinary use.

From vaccines to veterinary surgical techniques; from improved behavior to better housing; in matters of nutrition, reproduction, habitat restoration and conservation as well as in public health and environmental studies, the examples of biomedical research benefitting wild and domesticated animals are overwhelmingly positive and widespread.

Many animals studies are conducted in order to discover and develop alternatives to animal use, to prove their efficacy and to advance the science.

At WSU, for example, I am a veterinary radiation oncologist who studies the best way to treat cancer in animals using radiation therapy. Our research regularly uses client-owned animals with existing cancers that need care to help advance the science for other animals that need care. Healing and research can walk hand in hand.

Currently, there is no non-living model that can help these animals or the scores of others that will follow them to our care. Were it not for the animal scientists, wildlife professionals, veterinary researchers and clinicians that have dedicated their lives to benefit non-human animals, the animals that suffer from disease, starvation, injury and illness would be left without a voice for their health and well-being.

Despite what we do, how we do it and the benefits animals derive from it, it's not enough. For the extremist, any use of animals by humans is wrong, even if it benefits other animals.

Most people, however, understand the need for animal research in many areas, in particular when it benefits animals. They also understand funding limitations and priorities that include studying sentinel species and naturally occurring animal diseases that also occur in humans.

As scientists and veterinarians, we are not above public scrutiny of our activities. We have a profound responsibility and an economic incentive to pursue optimal animal health, alternatives, non-living models, computer simulation, isolated tissue cultures, reduced animal use, optimal care and, when necessary, the quick and humane death of an animal. As these alternatives are discovered and refined, they are quickly adopted as the new standards for study.

Again, history is replete with examples where this has occurred. Kidney transplants for animals were unheard of less than a decade ago. Now, thanks to the benefits of biomedical research and clinical practice in animals and in humans, veterinary colleagues at the University of California at Davis have perfected this life-saving surgery for animals.

Equally as demanding a responsibility to the public is the assurance that the work we do with animals, for animals, is conducted in a scientifically sound, cost-effective and efficacious manner. This reduces overall the need for duplicating studies and the number of animals involved. At the same time, it requires that a sufficient number of initial test subjects be used to demonstrate statistical significance where it exists or, more important, where it doesn't.

Professionals have no vested interest in keeping costly animal colonies.

In the case of livestock, for example, doing away with experimental herds where appropriate can save thousands of dollars a day, money that can be applied toward additional findings and further advancement.

Past uses of animals often are not acceptable to the general public today. These changes come in part through researchers themselves and the non-employee public voices that sit on animal-care and -use committees required at every institution receiving federal research funding.

Changes in research also come by way of the conscientious efforts of state and federal regulators as well as private-industry agencies such as the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care. AAALAC is an independent body that has requirements for animal care and use that supercede the nation's state and federal legal requirements for animal care and use.

But all of this means nothing to the vocal few who oppose all human interaction with animals and who condemn modern civilization as an unnatural aberration. It's an easy argument to make, the argument of the spoiler.

Fortunately, most people see through this facade and instead see a voiceless world of animals that need humans as much as we need them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I was unavoidable detained from presence on the House Floor. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

House Concurrent Resolution 326, Responsibility for New Mexico fires—''yes'' Passage of H.R. 4425, Military Construction Appropriations for FY 2001—''yes.''

A TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE THAT ASSISTED PENNSAUKEN TOWNSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the people that assisted Pennsauken Township in their goal of reducing substandard housing in the Township. I would like to recognize Matt Franklin, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; Nancy Kay, First Preston Contract Manager; Richard Watts, First Preston Assistant Contract Manager; Nancy McConnell, First Preston Direct Sales Administrator; and Pete Spina, First Preston Governmental Technical Reporter for all of their hard work and dedication. Their combined effort has enabled Pennsauken Township to purchase and rehabilitate homes that were abandoned and/or boarded up.

A TRIBUTE TO RENAN BECKMAN

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate the life of Dr. Renan Beckman, who on February 29, 2000, died of multiple gun shot wounds at the age of 45. I had the bittersweet pleasure of meeting Renan's mother and children, who were here in Washington, DC for the Million Mom March.

As a young woman, Renan was a model student, graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before receiving her medical degree from Johns Hopkins Medical School. After completing her education, Renam married Robert Wills. She was a loving mother to two children, while at the same time she worked as an anesthesiologist and primary care physician at Calkins Health Commons in Henrietta, New York.

Sadly Renan and her husband began having marital difficulties, and they moved toward divorcing. Dr. Robert Wills, who had no criminal record, purchased a 12-gauge shotgun on February 7 from a local sporting goods store. On February 29, Renan called 911 and in response to the operator's questioning said, ''No, there is no gun in the house.'' Renan died three minutes later of multiple shot gun blasts fired at close range by her husband.

This kind of domestic violence is unfortunately not unique in my district or elsewhere in our country. However, Renan's death also highlights the fact that domestic violence can cross all class, race, and age boundaries. I hope Renan's death will serve as an inspiration to us all on why further gun control is needed in this country.

The unexpected passing of Renan Beckman has left a void in her family and the community. We will miss her greatly. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and all her friends. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I ask that you join me in paying tribute to the life of Renan Beckman.

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS WEEK

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, today I make a few comments regarding the law enforcement officers in the 6th Congressional District of Kentucky and across America who put their lives on the line to protect our homes, streets and overall safety. They are the men and women who dedicate each and every day of their life to ensure safety in our communities, schools and lives.

It's only fitting that we reserve one week out of the year to recognize the heroic efforts of America's law enforcement officers. National Peace Officers Week provides every American man, woman and child with the unique opportunity to take a few moments out of their day to thank our peace officers for the countless hours they put in each and every week, protecting our lives and neighborhoods.

Too often we hear stories of fallen officers who have put themselves in danger to protect their fellow citizens. We must never forget the sacrifice of our fallen law enforcement officers and their families.

Specifically, I want to recognize a very important event that will be taking place in my District. Today, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Police and surrounding community will come together to rededicate the Police Officer Memorial in downtown Lexington. This event will honor those law enforcement officers who served so bravely, falling in the line of duty— given the ultimate sacrifice to protect and serve.

Unfortunately, I am unable to be back home for this important ceremony. However, I strongly believe it is only fitting that our communities take the time to honor those lives that were taken in the line of duty. May their memories be forever strong and never forgotten.

I salute America's law enforcement officers for their dedicated service and willingness to do whatever it takes to keep America safe and free from crime, drugs and violence. It is the result of their work that allows each of us to enjoy a better quality of life.

NAPLES COMMUNITY SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, congratulations are in order for the mock trial team from the Community School in Naples, FL, who recently represented the State of Florida at the National Mock Trial Competition.

These young constituents of mine reached this distinction after contending on the county, circuit and State levels. In their advance to the national competition, the students were tenacious, resourceful and creative. Their performance combined professionalism and dignity. By participating in mock trial, the students cooperated to reach a goal. Honing their research and debate skills, the students attained invaluable knowledge that they will use in all of their endeavors. Perhaps even more importantly, they gained a better understanding of law, which will help their growth as informed and participatory citizens.

I applaud the team for their dedication and salute them for their outstanding success.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MATTHEW M. MODLESKI

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on 31 August 2000, Maj. Matthew M. Modleski is retiring as the Air Force Advisor for the 174th Fighter Wing, New York Air National Guard in Syracuse, NY. He assumed this position in February 1998. In this capacity, he serves as the active duty personnel representative for the 9th Air Force Commander, as well as assisting the 174th Fighter Wing in preparing for mobilization, while attaining the highest possible level of combat readiness.

Major Modleski was born on 22 September 1962 in Hudson, NY. He graduated from West Seneca High School, West Seneca, NY in 1980 and enlisted in the Air Force in July of that same year. He was a Jet Engine Technician until 1983 when he crosstrained into Air Traffic Control. He served as a controller at Dover AFB, DE from April 1984 until September 1987, and was awarded Controller of the Year honors in 1986.

Major Modleski earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Wilmington College, DE in May of 1987 and went on to earn a Masters of Aeronautical Science Degree from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. Major Modleski attended Officer Training School in 1987 and was the Honor Graduate for his class. He completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Williams AFB, AZ and went on to fly the A–10 Warthog at RAF Bentwater/ Woodbridge, UK.

He was an instructor Pilot in the 78th TFS and a Flight Examiner in the 81st TFW. Major Modleski was then assigned to the 355th Wing, 357th FS at Davis Monthan AFB, AZ as the Chief of Standardization and Evaluation and a Flight Commander. In 1993 Major Modleski was the 355th Wing Instructor Pilot of the Year and in 1995 he was selected to be a member of the United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, The Thunderbirds. Major Modleski flew as the Opposing Solo during the 1996 Show Season and then as the Lead Solo during the Air Forces 50th Anniversary celebration during the 1997 Show Season. He then began his current assignment as the 174th Fighter Wing Air Force Advisor.

Major Modleski is a senior pilot with more than 2,850 flying hours in the F–16, A–10, T–38, and T–37.

His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal with 1 device, Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 device, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, AF Outstanding Unit Award with 3 devices, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 1 device, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 1 device, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, AF Longevity Service Award Ribbon with 3 devices, NCO Professional Military Education Graduation Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with 1 device, and the Air Force Training Ribbon with 1 device.

Major Modleski is a member of the Air Force Association as well as the Air Force Daedalians. He is also a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association, and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

Major Modleski resides in Baldwinsville, NY, and is married to the former Dianne Reilly of Schaumburg, Illinois.

RECOGNITION OF COBB FAMILY RESOURCES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, forty years ago Cobb County, Georgia, witnessed the beginning of an exemplary non-profit organization. The original idea, conceived by its three founders, Fred Bentley Sr., Howard Ector, and Harry Holliday, was the formation of an entity that would unite the social service efforts of six existing emergency aid agencies into one effective unit to be more cost effective and efficient.

In its humble beginnings, with a part-time director and three staff members, the organization was incorporated as Cobb County Emergency Aid Association, Inc. on May 17, 1960, and offered, as its name suggests, help of a short-term nature.

Supported by donations from the community, aided by volunteer efforts, and a board of dedicated local citizens, the organization continued to grow, expanding its assistance to the needy of Cobb County. The agency offered financial aid, food, clothing, and medical supplies to help low income people with temporary setbacks. This emergency aid allowed families and individuals to address the immediate need in their lives.

Even greater assistance was ahead for the needy of Cobb County. In the mid 1980's, Cobb Family Resources, as the organization was later renamed, was fortunate to work with the federal government on programs offering family self-sufficiency and emergency housing for homeless families. With the federal government's policy direction and funding assistance, the agency adopted an effective case-management philosophy which continues today to be the successful core for each of its many programs. Also, with the federal government's assistance in the 1980's, Cobb Family Resources was able to buy its own facility and to expand its housing program for homeless families to include transitional housing and supportive services for long-term help.

Now, after 40 years of service to the community, through the partnership of public, private, and government efforts, Cobb Family Resources is a universally-recognized leader in serving the needs of low-income and homeless individuals and families in Cobb County, and in changing dependency into self-sufficiency. The housing program, for example, requires clients to have a job or be a full-time student. Residents are required to take Life skills classes, Budget courses, and open a savings account. Tutoring programs are offered for youth, and, for adults, GED training and employment skills, such as resume writing and interviewing techniques.

Let me leave you with the words of a former Cobb Family Resources' client who received help with housing, resume writing, and employment skills; she said:

> Having an organization such as Cobb Family Resources really gives single mothers such as myself an opportunity for growth and improvement. When I came to know this agency, I really did not have any idea the relationship that was about to develop. I was simply seeking help to pay my rent due to a sudden lay-off.
>
> I am no stranger to hard work. I am no stranger to hard times. I grew up in one of Atlanta's largest public housing projects . . . but I always strived for better things in my life. Sometimes it seemed as if my hard work was in vain, and then came [Cobb Family Resources].
>
> What Cobb Family Resources has that most organizations of its kind does not, is the help you receive to become self-sufficient. My income that was once poverty level has increased dramatically in the past year. I have better transportation and I no longer receive any public assistance. I do not need it anymore because my job allows me to meet the needs of my family.

Cobb Family Resources provides the comprehensive, organized approach to working with both generations in a family to provide them the tools and skills to take responsibility for themselves, to become—and, more importantly, to remain—self-sufficient and productive members of our community.

HONORING THE EVERETT ALVAREZ, JR. POST OFFICE

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation honoring one of our Nation's heroes. This bill will designate a post office in my district the Everett Alvarez, Jr. Post Office Building.

During his life, Mr. Alvarez has faithfully served his nation as a distinguished military officer and public servant. He joined the Navy in 1960 after earning a bachelor of science in electrical engineering from the University of Santa Clara. He also holds a master's degree in operations research and systems analysis as well as juris doctorate.

He served in program management at the Naval Air Systems Command before leaving the Navy in1980. He was appointed Deputy Director of the Peace Corps in 1981 and was appointed by President Reagan to be Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration in 1982 where he stayed until 1986.

After leaving the Veterans Administration, Mr. Alvarez served as vice president for government services for the Hospital Corporation of America before forming his own consulting company, Conwal, Inc.

A dedicated civil servant, Mr. Alvarez is best known to the public as the first American aviator shot down over North Vietnam. He was taken prisoner of war on August 5, 1964, and held in North Vietnam for 8½ years, until the general release of prisoners on February 12, 1973.

Mr. Alvarez holds numerous military decorations for his courageous service. He has been honored with the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit (with combat ''V''), two Bronze Stars (with combat ''V''), the Distinguished Flying Cross, and two Purple Heart medals.

He continues to serve America and America's future by serving on the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences [USUHS], the Board of Directors of the National Graduate University, and the Board of Fellows of Santa Clara University. He has also served on the White House Fellows Selection Committee and on the Board of Directors of the Armed Services YMCA of the USA.

Mr. Alvarez's life stands as a testament to patriotism, courage, and perseverance. His story is an inspiration and it is with humility that I introduce this bill to honor him so.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS C. NORRIS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, in September of 1952 I began my teaching, coaching and counseling career at Kennard Dale Junior Senior High School in Fawn Grove, PA. Besides teaching and counseling, I coached basketball, football, and baseball. On my football team was a tall, skinny lad from Stewartstown. He was my quarterback on the JV Football team that trounced Red Lion 56–6. He was a forward on the basketball team and first baseman on the baseball team. He will be always considered the all-American boy—a lad every parent could wish was their own.

Of course I expected big things from this young man, because his aunt was my wonderful, wonderful teacher in grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 in a one-room setting where she was the reading, writing, and arithmetic teacher as well as the music, art, special education teacher, counselor, psychologist and yes, she was also the custodian.

When I moved into the counseling position, one of the first people I helped with their effort to get scholarship money was this same all-American young man. The scholarship that was available was the first P.H. Glatfelter Company scholarship. The winner was this same young, all-American lad.

Now as Paul Harvey would say, ''That was the rest of the story.'' You know the story of this lad's adult life. The first P.H. Glatfelter scholarship recipient became the CEO of the P.H. Glatfelter Company and a very active member of the community.

This skinny lad, who has now filled-out quite a bit since the tenth grade, is none other than the man of the hour you are honoring this evening. He was ''Tommy Norris'' who is now reverently known as ''Thomas C. Norris.'' This remarkable gentleman has come a long, long way since his days as a small town boy from Stewartstown, PA.

I wish only the best for him and his family as he enjoys his retirement years.

WELCOME TO CHICAGO, SUE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize and congratulate the Field Museum in Chicago on its unveiling of Sue, the 67 million-year-old Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton.

Sue's journey to the Field Museum began in South Dakota in 1990. Sue Hendrickson, a fossil hunter, discovered the bones while walking on a Cheyenne River Reservation. It took 12 scientists 30,000 hours to remove the fossilized bone from rock. She was then transported in 130 crates and boxes to a glass laboratory at the Field Museum where scientists began to meticulously reassemble her.

Paleontologists could not have known then what a magnificent scientific treasure they were uncovering. While the majority of the 22 partial T-rex skeletons in the world are only 40 to 50 percent complete, Sue is about 90 percent complete, making her by far the most complete skeleton ever recovered.

It is believed that when Sue roamed this earth, she would have weighed in at 7 tons, measured 50 feet in length, had a stride that measured about 10 to 12 feet and would have traveled at about 6.25 miles per hour.

I applaud the scientists, researchers, paleontologists, and craftsmen who went to painstaking efforts to recreate an accurate, finished skeleton for all Chicagoans and admirers around the country and world to enjoy. I also want to congratulate the Field Museum on its effort, and for continuing its extraordinary commitment to bringing the wonders of science to a broader community.

A SALUTE TO THE POLICE OFFICERS OF ORANGE COUNTY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I salute the police officers of this nation, especially those of the 46th Congressional District in Orange County.

Every day, 700,000 police officers serve our country. Most Americans probably don't know that our nation loses an average of almost one officer every other day. Those figures do not include the law enforcement personnel who are assaulted and injured each year.

More than 14,000 officers have been killed in the line of duty. The sacrifice of California officers has given our state the highest number of police deaths: 1,205.

The calling to serve in law enforcement comes with bravery and sacrifice. Those who make up the thin blue line protecting our homes, our families and our communities pay a price, and so do the loved ones they leave behind when tragedy strikes.

In particular, I rise in recognition of the jurisdictions that serve my district: The Anaheim Police Department, the Garden Grove Police Department, the Santa Ana Police Department and the Santa Ana Unified School District Police Department, the California Highway Patrol and the Orange County Sheriff.

We cannot replace the officers we've lost. We cannot bring them back to their families or departments. All we can do is grieve for their loss.

But as their federal representatives, we have a greater responsibility. We must ensure that our law enforcement agencies—and their officers and staff—have the resources they need to do their jobs safely.

And today we fulfill the most solemn part of our obligation to our America's police force: we promise that when an officer does make that sacrifice, he or she earns a place of the highest national respect with all due honor from the U.S. government.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, through the following statement, I am making my financial net worth as of March 31, 2000, a matter of public record. I have filed similar statements for each of the 20 preceding years I have served in the Congress.

ASSETS

REAL PROPERTY

Single family residence at 609 Ft. Williams Parkway, City of Alexandria, Virginia, at assessed valuation. (Assessed at 600,000). Ratio of assessed to market value: 100% (Encumbered)	$658,000.00
Condominium at N76 W14726 North Point Drive, Village of Menomonee Falls, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, at assessor's estimated market value. (Unencumbered)	99,900.00
Undivided 25/44ths interest in single family residence at N52 W32654 Maple Lane, Village of Chenequa, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, at 25/44ths of assessor's estimated market value of $675,800.	383,977.25
Total Real Property	1,141,877.25

COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCK

Company	No. of shares	$ per share	Value
Abbot Laboratories, Inc	12200	35.19	429,287.50
Allstate Corporation	370	23.81	8,810.63
American Telephone & Telegraph	881.795	56.44	49,766.31
Bank One Corp	3439	34.38	118,215.63
Bell Atlantic Corp	1042.703	61.13	63,735.22
Bell South Corp	1234.713	46.88	57,879.90
Benton County Mining Company	333	0.00	0.00
BP Amoco	3604	40.13	144.610.50
Chenequa Country Club Realty Co	1	0.00	0.00
Cognizant Corp	2500	62.50	156,250.00
Darden Restaurants, Inc	1440	17.81	25,650.00
Delphi Automotive	212	16.00	3,392.00
Dunn & Bradstreet, Inc	2500	28.63	71,562.50
E.I. DuPont de Nemours Corp	1200	52.13	62,550.00
Eastman Chemical Co	270	45.50	12,285.00
Eastman Kodak	1080	54.31	58,657.50
El Paso Energy	150	40.38	6,056.25
Exxon Mobile Corp	4864	77.81	378,480.00
Firstar Corp	3081	22.94	70,670.44
Gartner Group	651	15.75	10,253.25

COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCK—Continued

Company	No. of shares	$ per share	Value
General Electric Co	5200	155.44	808,275.00
General Mills, Inc	2280	36.19	82,507.50
General Motors Corp	304	82.81	25,175.00
Halliburton Company	2000	41.00	82,000.00
Highlands Insurance Group, Inc	100	8.63	862.50
Imation Corp	00	26.69	2,642.06
IMS Health	5000	16.94	84,687.50
Kellogg Corp	3200	25.75	82,400.00
Kimberly-Clark Corp	27478	56.00	1,538,768.00
Lucent Technologies	696	60.75	42,282.00
Media One	255	81.00	20,655.00
Merck & Co., Inc	34078	62.13	2,117,095.75
Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing	1000	88.56	88,562.50
Monsanto Corporation	8360	50.00	418,000.00
Morgan Stanley/Dean Witter	312	81.56	25,447.50
NCR Corp	68	40.13	2,728.50
Newell Rubbermaid	1676	24.81	41,585.75
Newport News Shipbuilding	165.095	30.25	4,994.12
Nielsen Media	833	24.69	20,564.69
Ogden Corp	910	11.93	10,858.58
Pactive Corp	200	8.69	1,737.50
PG&E Corp	175	21.00	3,675.00
Raytheon Co	19	18.81	357.44
Reliant Energy	300	26.06	7,818.75
RR Donnelly Corp	500	20.93	10,466.25
Sandusky Voting Trust	26	87.00	2,262.00
SBC Communications	2146.009	42.13	90,400.63
Sears Roebuck & Co	200	30.88	6,175.00
Solutia	1672	13.38	22,363.00
Tenneco Automotive	178.112	7.93	1,412.87
U.S. West, Inc	328.244	72.63	23,838.72
Unisys, Inc	167	25.69	4,289.81
Vodaphone Airtouch	370	55.56	20,558.13
Warner Lambert Co	6804	97.31	662.114.25
Wisconsin Energy Corp	1022	19.93	20,371.02
Total Common and Preferred Stocks and Bonds			$7,676,757.43

LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

Company	Face $	Surrender $
Northwestern Mutual #4378000	12,000.00	43,994.76
Northwestern Mutual #4574061	30,000.00	105,435.38
Massachusetts Mutual #4116575	10,000.00	7,915.38
Massachusetts Mutual #4228344	100,000.00	180,654.15
Old Line Life Inc. #5–1607059L	175,000.00	34,829.81
Total Life Insurance Policies		$372,829.48

BANK AND SAVINGS AND LOAN BALANCE ACCOUNTS

	Balance
Bank One, Milwaukee, N.A., checking account ..	$6,138.18
Bank One, Milwaukee, N.A., preferred savings ...	51,555.12
M&I Lake Country Bank, Hartland, WI, checking account	2,982.30
M&I Lake Country Bank, Hartland, WI, savings	349.03
Burke & Herbert Bank, Alexandria, VA, checking account	675.84
Firstar, FSB, Butler, WI, IRA accounts	74,080.51
Total Bank & Savings & Loan Accounts	135.780.98

MISCELLANEOUS

	Value
1994 Cadillac Deville	$13,400.00
1991 Buick Century automobile—blue book retail value	4,150.00
Office furniture & equipment (estimated)	1,000.00
Furniture, clothing & personal property (estimated)	160,000.00
Stamp collection (estimated)	55,000.00
Interest in Wisconsin retirement fund	261,497.93
Deposits in Congressional Retirement Fund	124,393.54
Deposits in Federal Thrift Savings Plan	122,268.19
Traveler's checks	7,418.96

	Value
20 ft. Manitou pontoon boat & 40 hp Yamaha outboard motor (estimated)	4,500.00
17 ft Boston Whaler boat & 70 hp Johnson outboard motor (estimated)	6,500.00
Total Miscellaneous	760,128.62
Total Assets	10,087,373.76
LIABILITIES	
Nations Bank Mortgage Company, Louisville, KY on Alexandria, VA residence Loan #39758–77	$73,087.97
Miscellaneous charge accounts (estimated)	0.00
Total Liabilities	73,087.97
Net Worth	10,014.79

STATEMENT OF 1998 TAXES PAID

Federal income tax	$129,158.00
Wisconsin income tax	28,286.00
Menomonee Falls, WI property tax	1,982.56
Chenequa, WI property tax	15,191.68
Alexandria, VA property tax	6,820.00

I further declare that I am trustee of a trust established under the will of my later father, Frank James Sensenbrenner, Sr., for the benefit of my sister, Margaret A. Sensenbrenner, and of my two sons, F. James Sensenbrenner, III, and Robert Alan Sensenbrenner. I am further the direct beneficiary of two trusts, but have no control over the assets of either trust. My wife, Cheryl Warren Sensenbrenner, and I are trustees of separate trusts established for the benefit of each son under the Uniform Gift to Minors Act. Also, I am neither an officer nor a director of any corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin or of any other state or foreign country.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL LEROY BARNIDGE, JR.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize a truly outstanding officer, Brigadier General Leroy Barnidge, Jr., United States Air Force. General Barnidge will soon be completing his assignment as the Commander of the 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, located in the heart of my Congressional District.

General Barnidge distinguished himself by exceptional conduct in the performance of his duties as the commander of America's only B–2 bomber base. A natural leader, he carried America's most visible bomber from infancy to warfighting maturity and beyond. Widely recognized as a leading Air Force ambassador, he was hand-picked to host the highest levels of visitors including President Clinton and President Gorbachev, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretaries of the Air Force and Navy, and many of our colleagues in Congress. General Barnidge's command of one of the most inspected facilities under the START Treaty was unprecedented, resulting in five visits with no discrepancies. He also led the wing to an Excellent rating in its first-ever B–2 Nuclear Operations Readiness Inspections and two nuclear surety inspections. In addition, the wing maintained an impeccable safety record in both combat and daily operations, as General Barnidge always kept flight and ground safety at the forefront of planning and execution.

General Barnidge's unmatched communications skills resulted in worldwide coverage of the B–2 and 509th Bomb Wing during his participation in press conferences with both the White House and Pentagon Press Corps. Through his energetic support of community activities and numerous speaking engagements, he single-handedly built a relationship between the base and local community that will last for years. His visionary leadership will pay dividends to the 509th Bomb Wing and the Air Force far into the future.

In addition, General Barnidge was recently named Air Combat Command's Outstanding Wing Commander and awarded the Moller Trophy. This trophy is presented to the wing commander who demonstrates the most effective personal leadership to achieve or maintain the wing's combat effectiveness. General Barnidge led the 509th Bomb Wing into air power history and set the standard for future operations with overwhelming success during Operation Allied Force.

Mr. Speaker, General Barnidge deserves the thanks and praise of the nation that he has faithfully served for so long. Also, his wife, Sandy, deserves so much credit for her strong supportive role. I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this exceptional officer.

A TRIBUTE TO AMY AND NEIL KATZ, BONNIE AND BRUCE KATZ, MARILYN AND STANLEY KATZ, AND PAULA AND IRA RESNICK

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 23d, DOROT, a New York-based organization dedicated to improving the lives of the elderly and strengthening intergenerational relationships, will honor an extraordinary extended family.

Descended from Pearl and Jack Resnick, themselves remarkably generous philanthropists and community leaders, the Resnick and Katz families have made exceptional contributions to DOROT, while also exemplifying the giving spirit of volunteerism.

Pearl and Jack's children, Marilyn and Ira, together with their spouses, Stanley and Paula, as well as Marilyn and Stanley's children, Neil and Bruce, and their wives, Amy and Bonnie, have devoted time, energy, wisdom, and financial support to DOROT's programming. Their efforts have made a striking difference in the lives of countless senior citizens.

Together, the Resnicks and Katzes have assumed responsibility for new services and special events at DOROT, helping to attract greater support from our community and bolstering DOROT's efforts to reach out to persons in need.

Whether coordinating the delivery of Passover packages, organizing black tie galas, expanding internship opportunities, arranging Thanksgiving banquests, or developing strategic plans, their contributions to DOROT have been both broad and deep. What's more, in addition to offering leadership and guidance, every member of this special family engages in hands-on volunteer work—interacting with clients and staff on a living, warm basis.

The timeless Jewish traditions of tzedaka and mitzvot have found inspiring expression in the Katzes and the Resnicks. I am delighted to join in honoring them today, and I am confident that their example will continue to guide new generations of volunteers and community leaders for many years to come.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, in 1990, the General Accounting Office (GAO) released a report citing the historical pattern of neglect of women in health research, and particularly the failure of many clinical trials to include women as subjects. This report led to increased government action on women's health research and to the creation of women's health offices, advisors, and coordinators in many government agencies.

Today only two agencies have women's health offices in the federal government that have statutory authorization. They are the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) within the National Institutes of Health, and the Office for Women's Services within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). These women's health offices are federally authorized and protected by law, and they have performed a remarkable service to the women of this country.

The other offices of women's health, advisors, and coordinators—the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ), Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA)—face the possibility that future administrations will not to continue to support them, or that future funding will be insufficient for their needs.

Currently these offices stimulate new initiative to improve women's health and are the government's champion and focal point for women's health.

With this bill, we hope to create an enduring structure within which the currently well-documented ongoing needs and gaps in research, policy, programs, and education and training in women's health will continue to be addressed. It will ensure that important initiatives—in breast cancer detection and eradication, in the promotion of health behaviors and disease prevention, in improved public information about women's health, in better informed health care professions, among others—will reach fruition.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I along with my colleague Representative CAROLYN MALONEY, am introducing the ''Women's Health Office Act of 2000'' which would provide statutory authorization for women's health offices in HHS, AHRQ, HRSA, FDA, and CDC. Such authorization would ensure that these women's health offices would continue to exist under succeeding administrations. The bill includes authorization for appropriations to ensure that future funding will be adequate to support these offices' missions and programs. Through a coordinating committee, the bill also provides for integration of all HHS programs.

Providing statutory authorization for federal women's health offices is a critical step in ensuring that women's health research will continue to receive the attention it requires in the twenty-first century.

POLLUTION REPORTING

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, we often hear from constituents frustrated by the complicated and sometimes confusing process of reporting pollutants to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Some argue the solution to this problem is the widespread reduction or elimination of reporting requirements. This is not the proper response. There are very important public health, safety, and environmental reasons for these reporting requirements. These requirements have been carefully scrutinized by elected officials for decades and found to present significant benefits to the public. They allow us to better reduce and remediate pollution and identify point and non-point sources of pollution that threaten our communities, water, air and land. As result of collecting this information, we have been able to more accurately identify problems, target resources and programs, and improve public health and safety. Clearly, pollution reporting has not driven businesses to the brink of economic disaster or brought our economy to a screeching halt. But, can we find better and more efficient ways to collect this valuable information? The answer is yes.

We can collect this critical information in a manner that is more efficient and manageable for the private sector, the EPA, and State, local and tribal governments. It is time for pollution reporting to move into the twenty-first century and utilize the cost-effective technology of the information age. EPA must work with those that file pollution reports to develop a new reporting protocol. Today, I introduced legislation, the Streamlined Pollution Reporting and Technical Assistance Act, that directs the EPA to do just this.

The Streamlined Pollution Reporting and Technical Assistance Act does the following: (1) Directs the Administrator of the EPA to establish a simplified electronic reporting process for pollution; (2) directs the Administrator to establish or designate a central office that coordinates and collects reports; (3) directs the Administrator to work with State, tribal, and local governments, as well as industry, scientists, information technology experts, and environmental groups to develop the streamlined pollution reporting protocol; (4) directs the new office to conduct an active technical assistance program to assist all potential users of the reporting system; (5) directs the General Accounting Office and the Administrator to report on barriers to the implementation of this legislation; and (6) directs the Administrator, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Director of the National Science Foundation, and the Secretary of Energy to form an advisory committee comprised of appropriate representatives from industry, academia, government, and other organizations deemed appropriate. The committee shall advise Congress on the status of industrial or product life cycle analysis for reducing pollution and increasing resource use efficiency, and eliminating barriers to the increased utilization of life cycle analysis by the public and private sectors.

Mr. Speaker, this is important legislation that is good for the economy and good for the environment. This is an issue everyone can support and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD 12

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute and wish success to Community School Board 12 which will hold its annual scholarship dinner dance tomorrow.

For the past 24 years, Community School Board 12 has held a scholarship dinner dance in recognition of their students. The ultimate objective of the function is to raise funds in order to award savings bonds to seven outstanding students in each of the 24 elementary and secondary schools.

Over the past few years, Community School District 12 and the Community School Board have collaborated in the effort. The purpose of the scholarships is twofold. First, students who have excelled academically during the school year will be acknowledged and given praise. Second, the scholarship serve as an incentive to all students to strive for overall collegiate achievement. The worth of this event is unquestionable, and its effect can be long lasting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who are making the Community School Board 12 Scholarship dinner a success and in congratulating this year's recipients.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SAN JOSE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to the First Baptist Church of San Jose, the ''Church on the Hill''. The church has been a cornerstone of our community since the time of the gold miners. Even before California was established as a state, the church on the Hill was providing guidance to her citizens, under the leadership of her first pastor, the Reverend Osgood Church Wheeler.

The second oldest Baptist church in the state, the church began services on May 19, 1850. In a tent made of blue jeans in the infant city of San Jose, the church first met with 8 members, 6 of whom were women. This Friday the church will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Through each one of those 150 years the congregation has grown as the community around it grew. It has endured three separate fires which each time destroyed its building, earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters. It has flourished through 30 Presidents, two World Wars, and the Great Depression, and today the church is stronger than it has ever been.

Whether meeting in the rural setting of orchards and farmland, or in the center of the high tech world, the Church has continued to serve the people and touch the lives of the thousands who have walked through its doors. Pastor Dennis Henderson has the honor of presiding over the congregation today, and I congratulate him on his leadership. His vision will lead the congregation into its future complex, a facility befitting the modern community its serves.

As the church celebrates its sesquicentennial, it can be proud to be a shining light in the capital of Silicon Valley. The services the members of the congregation provide greatly enrich the community of San Jose. It is my honor to pay tribute to the First Baptist Church on this momentous occasion, and I am proud to represent the community in which it has thrived for so long. I wish the Church on the Hill the best of luck for another 150 years of inspiration.

MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 14, 2000, Mother's Day, I was proud to join countless mothers and family members in sending a loud message to Congress. It was a message to those Members who for too long have listened to the gun lobbyists and ignored the wishes of the mothers of this country.

How many more children will be lost to gun violence before this Congress acts? How many more families, in every part of this country, will have to bury their young before the message of passing sensible gun safety laws is heard? And how long will mothers have to live in fear for their children's safety before some in Congress admit that guns are robbing families and this nation of our most precious possessions?

The Chicago Tribune, in an editorial today, wrote that over the years, the voice for gun safety has been ''muted and polite.'' But the editorial went on to say that ''On Sunday it was loud, powerful and plentiful. When that voice comes to be heard on Mother's Day, Father's Day, Election Day and every other day of the year, the political leaders propping up the gun lobby will have a new reason to tremble.''

That is true. This Sunday was the start of a movement. This is a movement that will help bring about change and save lives. It is a movement that will shape the future of this country. Mothers will continue to march until we get the job done.

WHY MOMS MUST KEEP MARCHING

Congratulations to the organizers of the Million Mom March. Whether or not they actually achieved their lofty seven-figure goal, their turnout was extremely impressive. In this debate, numbers count.

Hundreds of thousands of mothers and others turned out Sunday in Washington and in towns across the country, including Chicago. Their message was loud and clear: America needs to get a handle on guns. Even after several years of declining violent crime rates, firearms deaths in the U.S. are astonishingly high compared to much of the rest of the world.

While the moms marched, the politicians and lobbyists who have stifled gun legislation in Washington scrambled to put up a brave front.

The National Rifle Association countered with soft and fuzzy TV ads preaching gun safety. That's a fine sentiment, but it's a bogus one when it comes from the folks whose primary mission is to prop up a furious and freewheeling market in guns, including guns whose only purpose is to kill human beings.

Even in the wake of the horrendous Columbine High School shootings, a stalemate in Congress has blocked modest gun control measures. It's time to break that stalemate. Those in the Capitol who still think they can duck and dodge this one, all those moms on Sunday called them out.

There has been a frustrating political dynamic at play in this country. Support for gun legislation is widespread, but it hasn't been particularly vocal.

Those who oppose tougher gun laws are in the minority, but they are well organized, they are fervent in their cause and they have made themselves heard.

That was clear in Illinois during recent debate over Gov. George Ryan's call to reinstate a felony gun law. Skittish legislators said most of their callers opposed Ryan's position. But polling showed overwhelming support for it. That included the vast majority of voters in the districts of 12 Republican senators who did not support the tougher gun law. Ultimately, Ryan prevailed, after threatening to keep legislators in Springfield until they say things his way.

But many in Congress and the legislatures still tremble in fear of the gun lobby. That's why the moms march was so important. Heretofore that voice, the voice for gun restriction, has been muted and polite. On Sunday it was loud, powerful and plentiful. When that voice comes to be heard on Mother's Day, Father's Day, Election Day and every other day of the year, the political leaders propping up the gun lobby will have a new reason to tremble.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES F. AND ROBERTA T. BUESCHER

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great personal pleasure that I recognize my very dear friends Jim and Bobbi Buescher of Manhattan Beach, California on the happy occasion of their Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Marriage, today May 17, 2000.

Jim and Bobbi were married on May 17, 1975 at St. John of God Church in Norwalk, California, which is located in my Thirty-fourth district. Bobbi is the sister of my Chief of Staff, Mr. Chuck Fuentes.

Roberta Theresa Fuentes was born on November 17, 1948, the daughter of the late Robert H. ''Bob'' Fuentes and Theresa M. Fuentes (nee Palomares). Reared in Norwalk and later Cerritos, California, Bobbi was educated at Saint John of God Catholic Grammar School, where she graduated in 1962; Excelsior High School, where she graduated in 1966; and attended Cerritos Community College.

Bobbi Fuentes, a popular and attentive student, was elected by her High School classmates as a Varsity Song Leader and as a Princess of the Homecoming Court in 1965. At Cerritos College, she continued her student activism as a member of Delta Phi Omega Sorority, and was again selected for the College Pep Squad as a Song Leader. She was honored by the Brothers of Sigma Phi Fraternity as their ''Fraternity Sweetheart'' in 1967–68 and was elected a Princess of the 1968 Homecoming Court. A Journalism Major, Bobbi was also served on the staff of the student newspaper Talon Marks.

In 1970 Bobbi was named Miss Artesia-Cerritos and participated in the Miss California Beauty Pageant. Bobbi has been employed as a Flight Attendant for Trans World Airlines for thirty years and has traveled extensively throughout the world.

James Frederick Buescher was born on June 6, 1945, the son of the late Fred M. Buescher and Elizabeth Buescher (nee Patterson). Reared in Ferguson and later Washington, Missouri, Jim was educated at Ferguson Elementary School and Ferguson High School, where he was elected by his classmates as President of the Student Council. Jim graduated from Ferguson High School in 1963.

A serious and accomplished student, Jim attended MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois and transferred to the University of Kansas where he earned his Bachelors Degree in Business Administration in 1968. While at KU, Jim was an Active member of Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Following his studies at KU, Jim moved to Southern California where he assumed the position of Vice President of Hazel of California, a specialty goods manufacturing company based in Santa Fe Springs. There he rose to prominence in business and community affairs.

Within a relatively short period of time, Jim Buescher was elevated to President and Chief Operating Officer of Hazel of California. At this point, he was invited to join the very prestigious Young President's Organization, where he served a term as President. He was also active as a member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce and Industrial League. Jim was elected President of the Chamber in 1984.

Following his illustrious career at Hazel/Jostens, Jim assumed a partnership investment in Gift-O-Rama, a giftware supplier based in Cerritos, California. A recognized leader in the specialty goods industry, Jim reentered the business as Chief Operating Officer of Idea Man Incorporated, based in Los Angeles. He continues in his leadership position under the new ownership of Ha-Lo Industries, Incorporated, based in Chicago, Illinois.

Together Jim and Bobbi have celebrated twenty-five years of marriage, enjoy world travel and life at the beach in sunny Southern California. They will be joined by many family members and friends at a Surprise Silver Wedding Anniversary Reception, at the Museum of Flying—Santa Monica Airport, on Sunday, May 20, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to extend to them, on behalf of my husband Frank and my family, our heartfelt congratulations to Jim and Bobbi Buescher on this very happy occasion and to wish them every possible happiness and many more years together.

INTERNET ACCESS CHARGE PROHIBITION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1291, the Internet Access Charge Prohibition Act. The expansion of the Internet has been a source of incredible growth in our economy. I do not think anyone wishes to slow down this incredible growth engine by allowing multiple or discriminatory taxes. This is one of the reasons there is so much support for H.R. 1291. By the same token, Internet telephone service has the potential to grow exponentially, but only if it is not subjected to per-minute charges.

The way Internet telephony is taxed will dictate the extent to which millions of Americans will have access to this new and innovative service. It is important that consumers have a range of choices when it comes to telephone services, which is why it is incumbent upon Congress to preserve competition in this industry.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should carefully consider the issue of the appropriate way to regulate new Internet applications in a way that promotes growth and provides competition to consumers. Additionally, the FCC should also study the issue of whether or not an appropriate charge needs to be imposed on Internet providers in the future for the sake of preserving universal service. The bottom line should be to make sure that all Americans have access to affordable telecommunications services.

IN HONOR OF THE SELF-PROCLAIMED DNESTR MOLDAVIAN REPUBLIC (DMR)

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I speak on behalf of the people of the self-proclaimed Dnestr Moldavian Republic (DMR).

Moldova, inhabited by a Romanian majority, declared its independence of the USSR in 1992. However, Moscow did not recognize their independence. Consequently, a conflict has ensued between the ethnic Russian minority and the Romanian majority, resulting in the arrest of six Romanians who have been jailed every since.

The case of the ''Tiraspol Six,'' as they came to be known, was taken up by many international organizations. According to a 1998 Amnesty International Report, ''Their trial has apparently failed to meet international standards of fairness, and the men had allegedly been prosecuted for political reasons, because of their membership of the Christian

Democratic Popular Front, a Moldovan party favoring reunification with Romania.'' While two of the men have been released, four others remain in jail, suffering inhumane living conditions, denial of medical treatment and of visits by international organizations. I cannot make a formal judgement on the merits of the Tiraspol Six case, but I will defer to the findings of international human rights and pro-Democracy organizations. Amnesty International urged the authorities to ''conduct prompt, impartial and effective investigations into all allegations of ill-treatment by police and to bring those responsible to justice.''

These four men remain in jail today awaiting a fair and open day in court and a right to defend themselves against the charges made against them. The United States should help to promote freedom and democracy in region, by advocating just and fair treatment in court of the people of Moldova.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for rollcall vote No. 183. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on H. Con. Res. 326—the Sense of the House Resolution on the Responsibility of the Federal Government concerning the Los Alamos fire.

FAIRNESS IN ASBESTOS COMPENSATION ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, today I am in opposition of H.R. 1283, the Fairness in Asbestos Compensation Act, which was recently reported out of the House Judiciary Committee. Before it comes to the House floor, I want to make clear my opposition to this bill that creates a windfall for the asbestos industry but denies fair compensation to tens of thousands of American workers and their families.

Bailing out an industry that has caused harm to millions of Americans, is the ultimate slap in the face to the millions of victims affected by the deadly hazards of asbestos. Only because our court system provides accountability for these manufacturers was this deadly threat finally stopped. Now, it is no surprise that asbestos manufacturers want to use the Federal Government to override tort statutes in various States, which have brought them to law. Even more troubling, the bill will prohibit approximately 50 percent of injured asbestos victims from compensation due to new and unreasonable medical standards.

Furthermore, punitive damages would be capped at three times compensatory damages if the victim goes through an administrative hearing. Most troubling, if the victim goes to court directly, punitive damages would be prohibited entirely.

The bill forgets all scientific and health related research that has proven the link between asbestos exposure and lung disease. The bill creates a strict burden of proof for establishing that asbestos-induced diseases were caused by asbestos exposure. There is no need for this elevated burden of proof since the medical literature by the medical community supports the current substantial level of proof now required. It is estimated that under the bill, about one-half of all asbestos cancer cases now eligible for compensation would be thrown out. For the first time, asbestos lung cancer victims will need to prove that they have no smoking history; if a victim has smoked, they can be denied compensation despite the fact that in the courts this excuse has been repeatedly rejected.

Lastly, the Republican Congress, that so heartily opposes bigger government creates a new federal bureaucracy with this bill. Instead of the 100 asbestos trials a year now moving through the courts, the bill proposes the creation of an entirely new Office of Asbestos Compensation to handle work that is Constitutionally under the purview of the Judiciary system.

We should call this bill what it really is: an Asbestos Industry Preservation and Denial of Victims Act. It is one-sided, pro-defendant, and will throw victims out of court, for the sake of protecting a dangerous industry.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF THE REVEREND JOHN T. KIELB

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend John T. Kielb, pastor of the Church of the Precious Blood in Monmouth Beach, on the 25th Anniversary of his ordination.

Father Kielb is a native of Bayonne, New Jersey, where the seeds of his vocation were sown as an Altar server at Mt. Carmel Roman Catholic Church.

Father Kielb began his journey at Seton Hall University's Divinity Program, where he remained for two years until he was assigned by the Diocese of Trenton to serve his remaining two years at St. Vincent's Seminary.

He graduated in 1974 with a Masters of Divinity Degree and was ordained a Deacon later that year. He spent the following year working in a Pennsylvania parish. On May 17, 1975, Father Kielb was ordained a Priest at St. Mary's Cathedral in Trenton.

Father Kielb's first assignment was to the Sacred Heart Church of South Amboy. Subsequently, he was assigned to St. Robert Ballarmine, in Freehold; St. Gabriels, in Marlboro; and Our Lady of Sorrows, in Mercerville. On September 1, 1989, he was named the pastor at the Church of the Precious Blood in Monmouth Beach, where he has served ever since.

Father Kielb is a great asset to Central New Jersey. I urge all my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Father Kielb and his accomplishments.

LOUIS CARDONI HONORED FOR COMMUNITY WORK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louis Cardoni of Plains Township, Luzerne County, in my district, who will be honored by the Plains Rotarians at a dinner May 21 for his role as a community leader.

Lou Cardoni has a long history of community involvement, dating back to the 1940s, when as a youngster, he helped his father develop the Hilldale baseball diamond. Since that time, he has worked hard to make Hilldale and all of Plains Township a showplace for recreation in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

After returning from his service in the Army, Lou resumed his strong involvement in service to the community. He was a charter member of the Hilldale Community Center and is presently a member of the Plans Rotary Club, the Plains American Legion and the ITLO Club. He is a past president of the Plans Rotary and of the Hilldale Community Center and is the current secretary of the ITLO Club.

Mr. Speaker, Lou chaired the Plains Recreation Board for many years, and his accomplishments on the recreation board have been a model for the community. Among his most prominent accomplishments was helping to develop the Hilldale Baseball Park, which sent many boys on to the professional ranks, including Ed Ott, Randy Martz and Jim Farr, the current baseball coach at the College of William and Mary. Lou also spearheaded the development of the Birchwood Complex, one of Luzerne County's showplaces.

Working with other community leaders, Lou also helped to build three playgrounds, secure a grant for one of the first handicapped-accessible parks in Pennsylvania and obtain grants for roads and water lines in Birchwood Municipal Park and for filling a mine pit which has now been replaced with athletic fields.

Lou and his wife, the former Ellen Dooley of Plains, have three children, Louis Jr., Maureen Riley and Kathy Cardoni, and five grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Plains community in honoring Louis Cardoni for his exceptional service, and I send my best wishes for continued success in all his endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION DEVICES MEDICARE COVERAGE ACT

HON. RANDY ''DUKE'' CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will help America's seniors take better care of themselves. This legislation will direct the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) to give Medicare beneficiaries coverage of Augmentative and Alternative Communication Devices (''AAC devices''). AAC devices provide individuals who are unable to speak, use sign language, or write because of cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, stroke or ALS, the ability to communicate—and therefore to lead safer and more productive lives.

I am joined in this effort by my colleagues from California and New York, the Honorable RON PACKARD and JERROLD NADLER, and several other colleagues. In addition, full Medicare coverage of AAC devices is urged by a broad range of the professional medical community, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Neurology, and 13 of America's leading disability organizations, including the United Cerebral Palsy Association.

For over a year and a half, I have been working with other Representatives and Senators in hopes of accomplishing administratively through HCFA this goal of AAC device coverage. On Dec. 30, 1999, these 13 leading disability organizations filed a formal request to HCFA for Medicare coverage of AAC devices. On April 26, 2000, the HCFA, after missing its own earlier 90-day deadline for a decision, took only an incomplete and partial step. It withdrew a prior, inexplicable national non-coverage decision of AAC devices, issued in the 1980's, which was an obstacle to granting coverage. However, HCFA failed to take the needed step of granting Medicare beneficiaries coverage of AAC devices.

The legislation we are introducing today will accomplish that goal, and secure AAC device coverage for America's seniors through their Medicare health benefits.

For many of the people who need these devices, the ability to speak and interact with society though a communications device has a profound and positive impact on their lives. One of the most prominent users of these devices is the famed physicists Dr. Stephen Hawking, who suffers from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig's disease. Dr. Hawking's story of how his disease forced him to communicate through an augmentative communication device is best told in his own words:

In 1985, I had to have a tracheotomy operation. After this, I had to have 24 hour nursing care. This was made possible by grants from several foundations. Before the operation, my speech had been getting more slurred, so that only a few people who knew me well could understand me. But at least I could communicate. I wrote scientific papers by dictating to a secretary, and I gave seminars through an

However, a computer expert in California, called Walt Woltosz, heard of my plight. He sent me a computer program he had written, called Equalizer. This allowed me to select words from a series of menus on the screen, by pressing a switch in my hand. The program could also be controlled by a switch, operated by head or eye movement. When I have built up what I want to say, I can send it to a speech synthesizer. At first, I just ran the Equalizer program on a desk top computer.

However David Mason, of Cambridge Adaptive Communication, fitted a small portable computer and a speech synthesizer to my wheel chair. This system allowed me to communicate much better than I could before. I can manage up to 15 words a minute. I can either speak what I have written, or save it to disk. I can then print it out, or call it back and speak it sentence by sentence. Using this system, I have written a book, and dozens of scientific papers. I have also given many scientific and popular talks. They have all been well received. I think that is in a large part due to the quality of the speech synthesizer, which is made by Speech Plus. One's voice is very important. If you have a slurred voice, people are likely to treat you as mentally deficient: Does he take sugar? This synthesizer is by far the best I have heard, because it varies the intonation, and doesn't speak like a Dalek. The only trouble is that it gives me an American accent.

I have had motor neuron disease for practically all my adult life. Yet it has not prevented me from having a very attractive family, and being successful in my work. This is thanks to the help I have received from Jane, my children, and a large number of other people and organizations. I have been lucky, that my condition has progressed more slowly than is often the case. But it shows that one need not lose hope.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Hawking's story is one of triumph over a terrible disease. But he is not alone.

More than 30,000 Americans suffer from ALS, another 30,000 from cerebral palsy and untold others from various diseases that rob them of their ability to speak. Fortunately, modern technology is making these augmentative communication devices smaller, easier to handle and affordable for many individuals.

However, for those who cannot afford these devices, they are already covered by every state Medicaid program as well as by TRICARE, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and hundreds of commercial health providers. They are not covered by Medicare. The Medicare program remains alone among federal government health care providers in choosing not to cover AAC devices, despite numerous attempts to secure this needed coverage.

We believe that HCFA can and should grant coverage of these devices to Medicare beneficiaries. Our legislation will accomplish that goal. Further delay is a great disservice to Medicare beneficiaries—seniors who often simply cannot speak for themselves—who need access to AAC devices. The challenges suffered by the greatest physicist of our time, Dr. Hawking, made clear to us through his own words, are likewise shared by thousands of other seniors around this country, who, without these devices, cannot speak for themselves. At the most basic level, the ability to communicate with a doctor, pharmacist, or care worker could save a senior's life. Moreover, securing Medicare coverage for seniors to use AAC devices gives voice to Americans who are kept silent, improving the quality of their lives immeasurably.

Attached are letters from the United Cerebral Palsy Association and Sunrise Medical, a communications device manufacturer, supporting this legislation. I urge all my colleagues to join me by co-sponsoring this timely and important legislation to achieve Medicare coverage of AAC devices.

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATIONS,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2000.

Hon RANDY (DUKE) CUNNINGHAM,
Attn: Tim Charters, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.

DEAR REP. CUNNINGHAM: UCP, the nation's largest health charity, is pleased to endorse your forthcoming bill to require the Department of Health and Human Services to issue a Medicare National Coverage Determination for augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices. Many people with severe speech disabilities, such as those due to cerebral palsy, need these devices to communicate, but requests by UCP and other organizations for Medicare to issue a national coverage determination have not been heeded.

Medicare has failed to act in spite of the compelling case for the efficacy of AAC devices, in spite of physicians who determine these devices are medically necessary for many Medicare beneficiaries with severe speech disabilities, and in spite of the policy of every other health insurer to pay for them. As a result, some Medicare beneficiaries are unable to communicate because they cannot afford to buy these devices themselves.

Thus we believe Congress should enact your bill at the earliest possible time. We look forward to continuing to work with you as this proposal is considered by Congress.

Sincerely,

KIRSTEN A. NYROP,
Executive Director.

SUNRISE MEDICAL,
Carlsbad, CA, May 16, 2000.

Congressman RANDY ''DUKE'' CUNNINGHAM,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN CUNNINGHAM: Sunrise Medical appreciates your leadership in introducing legislation to provide Medicare coverage for Augmentative and Alternative Communication devices (''AAC''). These devices provide individuals who are unable to speak, use sign language, or write because of cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, stroke or ALS, the ability to communicate and therefore lead safer and more productive lives.

Sunrise Medical designs, manufactures and markets AAC devices. These devices are covered by every state Medicaid program, as well as by Tri-Care, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and hundreds of commercial health providers. Only Medicare has to date not covered AAC devices.

Full Medicare coverage of AAC devices is urged by virtually the entire professional medical community, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Neurology, and the 13 leading disability organizations. These organizations, including Sunrise Medical, filed on December 30, 1999 a request with HCFA for Medicare coverage of AAC devices. On April 26, 2000 HCFA, after missing its own earlier 90-day deadline for a decision, took only an incomplete and partial step. It withdrew the prior inexplicable national non-coverage decision of AAC devices, but it failed to take the needed step granting Medicare beneficiaries coverage of AAC devices. To leave this issue only half way done is a great disservice to Medicare beneficiaries who need access to AAC devices now.

Sunrise Medical supports your sponsoring legislation to provide Medicare coverage of AAC devices to give voice to seniors who cannot speak for themselves.

Sincerely,

STEVEN A. JAYE,
Senior Vice President.

GUAM'S YOUTH ISLAND LEADERSHIP DAY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, each year in April, Guam's Department of Education celebrates Youth Month with several activities. An oratorical contest, a student exchange program, a school showcase, and a youth showcase, and a youth conference culminates with the much-anticipated Island Leadership Day, during which students assume the roles of Guam's public, private, and military leaders for a day. In coordination with these sectors of our island community, the activity gives students from Guam's middle schools and high schools the opportunity to experience leadership roles. Island senators, corporate accountants, military colonels and, even, hospital nurses were included in the wide range of career men and women that selected students "shadowed" in order to experience an average day's work in their assigned positions.

On the morning of April 26, 2000, three high school students looking sharp, studious and ready to take on the challenge, walked into my office. William B. Jones, a senior from George Washington High School was Guam's student Washington Delegate for the day while Jonathan Pador, was a G.W. senior, took over as student District Director for my office and Madelene Marinas, a senior from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, functioned as student Communications Director. Their eagerness was tempered by a bit of nervousness which was not surprising.

These students made me reminisce of my own high school days and the very first Island Leadership Day. Although admitting to the fact betrays my age, I still remain proud I once earned the privilege of being a senator in the Guam Legislature for a day. I remember arriving at the Guam legislative session hall that day back in 1964. I made a bee line for the desk of my hero, Senator Antonio B. Won Pat. I have always admired this man. He later worked to further advance Guam's agenda when he was elected to the office of the Guam Washington Representative in 1965. He was the first and only man to serve in this capacity until the office was replaced by the congressionally created Guam delegate's office in 1972. Mr. Won Pat served as a member of the House of Representatives from 1972 until 1984.

I did not realize it at the time but I look back to that event as the day I took my dreams a step further. I began setting my goals on that first Island Leadership Day in 1964. As Island Leadership Day is intended to introduce and inspire students to leadership positions in the community, I am proud to say I was among the ranks of many who, over the years, found inspiration and realized their goals through this program.

With the enthusiastic support of Guam's public, private and military sectors, more than 300 students from nearly every middle and high school took part in Island Leadership Day 2000. All in all, thousands of Guam's students participated in the various activities of Youth Month, each planned and coordinated by student leaders themselves. In particular, the Youth Month Central Planning Committee, was made up of students from Southern High School, specifically Cherika Chargualaf, president; Hermaine Alerta, vice president; Erwin Agar, secretary; Joseph Cruz, treasurer; and Angela Tamayo, activities coordinator. In having planned and executed a very impressive and successful schedule of varied events, our youth genuinely embodied this year's Youth Month theme, "I Manhoben I Isla-ta, I Fuetsan I Tiempo-ta—The Youth of Our Island, the Strength of Our Time."

Today's youth embody our future. As we provide training and guidance, their performance is clear indication of the leadership they have to offer for the future. As I look at local students take roles in different career areas, I see a wonderful vision of Guam's future.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROSCOE C. BROWN, JR.

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I rise today to pay tribute to and to congratulate Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., for his dedication to education and human rights, and for his many accomplishments, including his service to America during World War II. He will be honored today at Bronx Community College when the Gould Student Center is renamed the Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Student Center.

For 16 years, from 1977 to 1993, Dr. Brown was president of Bronx Community College in New York City. During that time, he brought the college to national prominence as a model urban community college devoted to providing opportunities for educational advancement for all.

Mr. Speaker, prior to becoming president of Bronx Community College, Dr. Brown was director of the Afro-American Institute at New York University. In that capacity, he educated students and the general public about the accomplishments of the African American community. It was during that time, too, that Dr. Brown began his career in radio and television, providing a larger public with insights into African American life.

Before his academic career, Dr. Brown distinguished himself as a member of the heroic Tuskegee Airmen, who came through World War II with a commendable record of successes in combat.

Dr. Brown has also been personally involved in the struggles for human rights for all people and has fought against all forms of racism and bigotry.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. for his major contributions to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the purpose of introducing a proposal to enhance the safety of operations at our nation's nuclear power plants.

As a representative from a district which has three nuclear power plants. I have always held a strong interest in promoting policies which seek to the ensure the safety of communities surrounding these facilities. I became acutely aware, however, of the need to strengthen the independent analysis and review of plant safety evaluations just recently.

On the night of February 15, a leak from one of the steam generators at the Indian Point 2 facility in Buchanan, New York, resulted in the declaration of an emergency alert. The distress caused by this incident was serious from the very beginning, and was made far worse by revelations in the weeks following the incident which indicated that previous inspections of the plant's steam generators were "weak and incomplete," according to the NRC's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

This is wholly unacceptable, and my purpose in offering this proposal today is to diminish the threat posed to our communities by insufficient safety evaluations. This legislation establishes within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NCR) Office of the Inspector General a unit charged specifically with auditing the safety analysis and review activities of both the NRC and those entities licensed by the agency.

Given the unfortunate circumstances which have arisen with respect to Indian Point 2, it is only reasonable to question whether or not they are symptomatic of a broader problem. I believe the proposal being offered today goes a long way in taking the necessary precautions against such a possibility, and I urge my colleagues to join me in advancing this initiative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I was away from the floor of the House on Tuesday, May 16, 2000, on official business and was unable to cast a recorded vote on rollcall 184.

Had I been present for rollcall 184, I would have voted "yea" on passage of H.R. 4425, the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1089, Military Construction Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001.

COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET PROCESS REFORM ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 853) to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for joint resolutions on the budget, reserve funds for emergency spending, strengthened enforcement of budgetary decisions, increased accountability for Federal spending, accrual budgeting for Federal insurance programs, mitigation of the bias in the budget process toward higher spending, modifications in paygo requirements when there is an on-budget surplus, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Chairman, since I have served in Congress, I have always supported commonsense reform proposals that improve the efficiency of Congress and make it more accountable to the American people.

While I support some of the specific proposals contained in the Comprehensive Budget Process Reform Act, such as biennial budgeting and increased congressional oversight responsibility, I voted against the bill because it failed to include these important reform measures.

I was disappointed that the bipartisan amendment to provide for biennial budgeting was defeated. This would have streamlined the budget process, enhanced the oversight of government programs and strengthened fiscal management. With the recent enactment of the other government reform measures, such as the Government Performance and Review Act, which I supported, a biennial budget process would be the next logical step in promoting long-term planning, and improving the efficiency of government and the use of taxpayer dollars.

I was also disappointed that the House adopted on voice vote the second amendment offered by Representative RYAN. This amendment would allow non-Social Security surpluses to be used for tax cuts or changes to entitlement programs. The problem with this amendment, in my opinion, is that it would repeal many of the budget rules known as ''pay-as-you-go'' requiring that tax cuts be offset with equal cuts in federal spending. Without these rules, critical federal programs could be sequestered, leading to across-the-board cuts in education, Medicare, and farm support programs. This is a dangerous way to change the budget process, and it is not sound fiscal policy.

Mr. Chairman, for these reasons, I voted against H.R. 853, and I am pleased that a bipartisan majority of my colleagues voted with me to defeat this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO COVER AAC DEVICES UNDER MEDICARE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, today I join Representative CUNNINGHAM in introducing an important bill to rectify a fundamental unfairness for seniors stricken with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, ALS, and other debilitating diseases that render one unable to speak. Our bill would extend Medicare coverage to Augmentative and Alternative Communication, or AAC Devices, which have been previously unavailable to seniors who cannot afford the enormous cost, so that all seniors may enjoy the benefits of communication.

AAC devices are remarkable machines that allow a severely speech-impaired person to speak through a computer. Perhaps the most famous user of these devices is physicist Stephen Hawking, who relies on this device to conduct his brilliant work. Fortunately, he is able to afford an AAC device, but countless others who are stricken with ALS, and similarly debilitating diseases, find themselves without the means to purchase these expensive, yet invaluable, devices.

Amazingly, HCFA, the Health Care Financing Administration, has refused to cover these devices, labeling them ''a convenience item.'' Is it merely a convenience to be able to communicate with your family, your friends, or your caretaker? Is it just a luxury for people suffering with ALS to lead safe, healthy, and productive lives? That is what HCFA must believe by refusing to cover AAC devices.

HCFA's resistance toward covering AAC devices is made even more inexplicable by the fact that every other federal health care provider, like the Veterans' Administration, every state Medicaid program, as well as hundreds of commercial providers cover these unique devices, recognizing that communication is more than a convenience, it's a necessity. It is a cruelty to deny individuals the power of speech, when then devices are readily available.

I first became interested in this cause after meeting with the wife of the late actor Michael Lazlo, a constituent of mine, who first told me of HCFA's refusal to cover AAC devices. Over the last year and a half many of my colleagues, particularly Mr. CUNNINGHAM, and I have worked to reverse this short-sighted decision. I am pleased that recently they removed their non-coverage decision, allowing local carriers to cover AAC devices if they determine it is appropriate. However, this decision goes only half-way toward what is necessary. While I have no doubt that coverage is the only reasonable decision these local providers could reach, I feel we must affirmatively cover these devices.

According to HCFA itself, AAC Devices ''can greatly improve the quality of life of people who either cannot speak or whose speech is unintelligible to most listeners . . . this technology gives severely speech-impaired people ways to communicate their thoughts to others.'' I ask them today to listen to their own words and cover AAC devices.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my collegues to join us in providing the power of speech to those who could benefit from these devices and cosponsor this important legislation.

LUNG CANCER RESEARCH

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the tragedy of lung cancer, which afflicts hundreds of thousands of Americans. I especially want to pay tribute to my constituent, Vivian Feigl of Rego Park, New York, who struggles with this debilitating disease and whose longstanding commitment to helping those with lung cancer is an inspiration to us all. Rarely do I encounter people with as much passion and energy for an issue as Vivian has for finding a cure for lung cancer.

Mr. Speaker, most of us know how devastating lung cancer can be. But few Americans understand how pervasive this disease is. According to the American Cancer Society, lung cancer is the number one cancer killer of American women. More people die of lung cancer annually than colon, breast, and prostate cancers combined. In this year alone, over 164,000 new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed, and nearly 157,000 people will die of lung cancer. Moreover, whereas early detection can prevent an overwhelming majority of deaths for some cancers, such as cervical and prostate cancer, few cases of lung cancer are caught at an early stage. Overall, the five-year survival rate for all stages of lung cancer is 14 percent. Clearly, we can and must do more to fight this terrible illness.

I have long supported increasing our investment in medical research because it can both save lives and reduce our nation's health care costs in the long run. And as a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education, I have worked hard to ensure that researchers have the resources necessary to continue to make advances in the prevention and treatment of cancer.

Yet while funding for long cancer research has increased to about $160 million in 1999, our battle is far from over. With so many Americans like Vivian fighting bravely against this disease, we must continue to increase funding for lung cancer research. The Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill that passed subcommittee last week would provide an additional $1.3 billion for the National Institutes of Health—a badly needed increase. As this bill moves forward, I hope that we'll ultimately provide a $2.7 billion increase so that we can meet our goal of doubling the NIH budget over five years.

So today, I again commend Vivian Feigl, who has devoted so much of her time and energy to the fight against lung cancer. And I promise to continue my fight to double funding for the NIH so we can find cures for lung cancer and the many of the other diseases and disorders plaguing our nation. Our friends and families depend on our unbending commitment to this critical research, and they deserve no less.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 19

9:30 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the extent to which fraud and criminal activities are affecting commerce on the internet, focusing on the widespread availability of false identification documents and credentials on the internet and the criminal uses to which such identification is put.

SD–342

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine issues dealing with aviation and the internet, focusing on purchasing airline tickets through the internet, and whether or not this benefits the consumer.

SR–253

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine drug safety and pricing.

SD–430

10 a.m.

Small Business

To hold hearings on Internal Revenue Service restructuring, focusing on small businesses.

SR–428A

Environment and Public Works

Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's Water Resources Development Act proposal.

SD–406

10:30 a.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine human rights abuses in Russia.

2200, Rayburn Building

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 740, to amend the Federal Power Act to improve the hydroelectric licensing process by granting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission statutory authority to better coordinate participation by other agencies and entities.

SD–366

3 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings on the Meltzer Commission, focusing on the future of the International Monetary Fund and world.

SD–419

MAY 24

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 611, to provide for administrative procedures to extend Federal recognition to certain Indian groups.

SR–485

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD–366

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings on S. 25, to provide Coastal Impact Assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people; S. 2123, to provide Outer Continental Shelf Impact assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people; and S. 2181, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act to provide full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to provide dedicated funding for other conservation programs, including coastal stewardship, wildlife habitat protection, State and local park and open space preservation, historic preservation, forestry conservation programs, and youth conservation corps; and for other purposes.

SD–406

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings on the nomination of Marc Grossman, of Virginia, to be Director General of the Foreign Service.

SD–419

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 2163, to provide for a study of the engineering feasibility of a water exchange in lieu of electrification of the Chandler Pumping Plant at Prosser Diversion Dam, Washington; S. 2396, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts with the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Utah, to use Weber Basin Project facilities for the impounding , storage, and carriage of nonproject water for domestic, municipal, industrial, and other beneficial purposes; S. 2248, to assist in the development and implementation of projects to provide for the control of drainage water, storm water, flood water, and other water as part of water-related integrated resource management, environmental infrastructure, and resource protection and development projects in the Colusa Basin Watershed, California; S. 2410, to increase the authorization of appropriations for the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978; and S. 2425, to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the planning, design, and construction of the Bend Feed Canal Pipeline Project, Oregon.

SD–366

MAY 25

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the outlook for America's natural gas demand.

SD–366

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Public Health Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine gene therapy issues.

SD–430

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings on the potential ban on snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the recent decision by the Department of the Interior to prohibit snowmobile activities in other units of the National Park System.

SD–366

JUNE 7

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 2282, to encourage the efficient use of existing resources and assets related to Indian agricultural research, development and exports within the United States Department of Agriculture.

SR–485

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 2300, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for coal that may be held by an entity in any 1 State; S. 2069, to permit the conveyance of certain land in Powell, Wyoming; and S. 1331, to give Lincoln County, Nevada, the right to purchase at fair market value certain public land in the county.

SD–366

JUNE 21

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on certain Indian Trust Corporation activities.

SR–485

JUNE 28

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 2283, to amend the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century to make certain amendments with respect to Indian tribes.

SR–485

JULY 12

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on risk management and tort liability relating to Indian matters.
SR–485

JULY 19

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on activities of the National Indian Gaming Commission.
SR–485

JULY 26

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on authorizing funds for programs of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.
SR–485

SEPTEMBER 26

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the American Legion.
345 Cannon Building