urban planners and landscape architects of our time, Tom, sincerely believed, and practically applied, during his long tenure with the Parks Department, the concept that harmonious urban living demanded adequate opportunities for individuals to recreate. His pride and efforts in the development and maintenance of recreational outlets was formally recognized in 1974 when the Buffalo Recreation Society presented him with its Outstanding Service Award.

Finally, in spite of all his work on behalf of others, Tom utilized his unique talents and considerable energy to balance his outside activities with an extreme dedication to his own family. Therefore, it is with great pleasure and pride that I join Tom's family, especially his wife Mary (Hanratty), who passed away in 1999; his daughter Marilynn; his sons Mark J., John T., and Thomas E.; his grandchildren John, Alyson, Liam, Lauren, John A. (Jace), Molly; his great grandchildren Rachel, Bridget and great-great grandchild, Maria Christina; his former players, proteges, employees, friends, and a grateful city in giving special recognition for his induction into the W.N.Y. Hall of Fame and his immeasurable contributions to youth development in the Buffalo area.

Mr. Speaker, if the measure of a man's life is his positive influence on others, it can be said, without equivocation, that the legacy of Thomas J. Caulfield will continue for generations through the lives of those he mentored and touched.

WELCOMING TRADITIONS!

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the grand opening of Traditions! which is located in my district. Let me first start by thanking Michael Gallegos and James Long and the many others who have worked so hard to establish a shopping and cultural center that keeps alive the culture, traditions and heritage of New Mexico.

While New Mexico proudly proclaims itself as the State of many cultures—some call it a melting pot, others a mosaic—we all have at least one thing in common, and that is keeping together our strong connection to the history and traditions of our state. The heritage of those cultures is rich and proud, is very much alive here today, and one which should be cherished and passed on.

Traditions! has been boasted in various articles as most likely being the largest incubator program for start-up retail businesses my state has ever seen. Traditions! is one of the few multicultural centers in the country that showcases and preserves New Mexico's unique rich, and historical cultures.

This center will contain unique stores and shops that will showcase Indian and Hispanic Arts. Visitors find restaurants which reflect the culinary specialties of New Mexico—like posole, tortillas and green chile burgers. The center will serve as a gathering place where both residents and tourists can come to learn about the culture and traditions of New Mexico.

Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo cultures will all be featured during year round events and performances—such as exhibits, shows, and festivals.

The economic impact that the center will have is also impressive. More than a hundred jobs will be created, and over a thousand artists will be invited to showcase and sell their work.

That is why Traditions! is so relevant. For our future to be as promising as our past has been successful, we need to keep alive the cultural traditions, history, and heritage of our state. This center not only contributes to the economy of our state—it also helps to preserve our history and spirit.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, during the month of October, people across the nation will don purple ribbons in support of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As an effort to increase public awareness of a problem that causes anguish to so many, residents in my home state of North Dakota, as well as across the nation, will participate in myriad events, such as candlelight vigils, ''Take Back the Night'' rallies, and other educational demonstrations.

Domestic violence is one of our nation's most prevalent, yet misunderstood, tragedies. The North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services recently released statistics concerning domestic violence and sexual assault in 1999 that should alarm us all. Last year, 5,821 incidents of domestic violence were reported to crisis intervention centers in North Dakota. These incidents involved 3,597 new victims. Among the victims, 95% were women, 37% were under the age of 30, and 2% were under the age of 18.

The North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services also reported that at least 4,750 children were directly impacted by domestic violence incidents in 1999. This does not include the large number of unreported cases. Withdrawal, low self-esteem, nightmares, self-blame and aggression against peers, family members and property are just a few of the emotional and behavioral disturbances that children who witness violence at home display. These effects stay with a child ultimately influencing their educational, professional and personal life.

While commemorating this month of awareness, I am proud to also mark the sixth anniversary of one of the most important stands Congress has ever taken against domestic violence: The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Through programs that bolster prosecution of sexual assault and domestic violence, increase victim services, and step up education and prevention activities, VAWA has gone far to protect individuals from sexual offenses and domestic abuse. I am pleased to announce that through a bipartisan effort H.R. 1248, the Violence Against Women Act of 1999, of which I was an original co-sponsor, passed in the House of Representatives. This legislation reauthorizes VAWA programs for five more years allowing a number of federal grant programs intended to care for those affected by these tragic crimes to continue.

Domestic violence will not end until the nation as a whole unites in saying ''no more!'' Each time one person learns of a domestic violence situation and decides to turn her head she is, in effect, approving of the situation and allowing it to continue. As members of society we must become proactive and take a stand against this horrific situation.

H.R. 5474 AMENDING TITLE 38 TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION FOR VETERANS DISABLED BY TREATMENT OR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an important piece of legislation. H.R. 5474 will allow veterans disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation to receive compensation from the day they were disabled while under VA care.

The occurrence of medical malpractice in which veterans are disabled while under Veterans Affairs' care is rare compared with the total number of veterans served every year. In 1997, the last year in which data was available, there were 826,846 inpatients treated and 32,640,000 outpatient visits at VA medical centers at a cost of $17.149 billion. There are 173 VA medical centers, more than 391 outpatient and outreach clinics, 131 nursing home care units and 39 domiciliaries.

Without this network of government run VA hospitals, clinics and nursing care units, many veterans would never receive the care available to them. However, it is clear that the care provided is not always of the highest quality. Worse than inadequate care are the instances in which veterans receive care that leaves them further disabled.

Since 1990, 9,597 administrative malpractice claims were filed by Veterans with VA and 2,134 were settled. The total amount paid in claims settled was nearly $1.73 million.

During the same time period, 2,064 veterans filed court claims against VA. 626 of these court claims were dismissed, the U.S. won 272, and plaintiffs won 129 court claims for a total of $65,858,110. 1,315 VA court claims were settled out of court by VA, in the amount of $253,464,632.

In 1958 Congress established Title 38, U.S.C. Sec. 1151, Benefits for Persons Disabled by Treatment or Vocational Rehabilitation. Along with Sec. 1151, Sec. 5110 of the same Title established the effective date of an award for disability incurred during treatment or vocational rehabilitation. These two sections ensured that veterans disabled by their treatment received compensation. This was the fair and right thing to do.

A close review of these sections reveals an inconsistency. While the U.S. Code allowed compensation for veterans disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation, it established an arbitrary cut off date of one year to deny individuals full compensation.

Individuals who are unable or not aware of this arbitrary application date for medical malpractice claims should not be denied full compensation for administrative reasons. Statutes of limitations like this are important for preserving the rights of individuals but the VA should be held to a different standard.