

Now, our community colleges are faced with a myriad of new challenges as they enter their second century.

On February 20, 2001, the United States Postal Service will issue and unveil a post card in honor of the 100th anniversary of JJC and to also honor all of America's Community Colleges. It is my hope that this post card will reaffirm to the American public the value of a good education and will remind us here in Joliet how lucky we are to have JJC in our backyard.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other institutions in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefited and strengthened America's communities.

H.R. 599: MEDICARE MENTAL ILLNESS NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced H.R. 599, the Medicare Mental Illness Non-Discrimination Act. In reference to my extension of remarks concerning this legislation (on page E156 of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD), I ask that a letter in support of H.R. 599 from Dr. Daniel B. Borenstein, President of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), be added in the RECORD. I submit the following letter from the APA into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2001.
Representative MARGE ROUKEMA,
Rayburn Building, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE ROUKEMA: On behalf of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the medical specialty representing more than 40,000 psychiatric physicians nationwide, I am writing to offer our heartfelt thanks for your sponsorship of legislation to end Medicare's historic discrimination against patients with mental illness.

As you know, Medicare currently requires patients seeking outpatient treatment for mental illness to pay 50 percent of their care out of pocket, as opposed to the 20 percent copayment charged for all other Medicare Part B services. This is simply a policy of discrimination by diagnosis that inflicts a heavy toll on Medicare patients who, for no fault of their own, happen to suffer from mental illness.

Your legislation would end this discrimination by requiring that Medicare patients pay only the same 20 percent copayment for mental illness treatment that they would pay when seeking any other medical treatment, including, for example, treatment for diabetes, cancer, heart disease, or the common cold. APA commends you for your continued dedication to persons with mental illness, and we join you in urging Congress to end Medicare's discriminatory coverage of mental illness treatment.

Thank you for your sponsorship of this most important bill. We look forward to working with you to secure its ultimate enactment.

Sincerely,

DANIEL B. BORENSTEIN, M.D.,
President.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE BENEFITS PROVIDED TO SMALL BUSINESSES UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTION 179

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act of 2001," legislation to assist small businesses with the cost of new business investment. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by my colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. TANNER.

Small businesses truly are the backbone of our economy, representing more than half of all jobs and economic output. We should not take small business vitality for granted, however. Rather, our tax laws should support small businesses in their role as the engines of innovation, growth, and job creation.

The legislation we are introducing today will improve our tax laws to make it easier for small businesses to make the crucial investments in new equipment necessary for continued prosperity. Under Code Section 179, a small business is allowed to expense the first \$24,000 in new business investment in a year. Our legislation will increase this amount to \$35,000, beginning in 2001. Furthermore, our bill will index this amount to ensure that the value of this provision is not eroded over time.

This legislation will also allow more small businesses to take advantage of expensing by increasing from \$200,000 to \$300,000 the total amount a business may invest in a year and qualify for Section 179. It is important to note that this amount has not been adjusted for inflation since its enacting into law in 1986.

The "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act" also improves the small business expensing provision by following the recommendations of the IRS National Taxpayer Advocate in his 2000 Annual Report to Congress. Specifically, our legislation makes residential rental personal property and off-the-shelf computer software eligible for expensing under Section 179.

Mr. Speaker, in times of economic uncertainty, we must do all we can to encourage new investment and job creation. The "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act of 2001" will help accomplish this worthy goal, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE WARTIME PARITY AND JUSTICE ACT OF 2001

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday I will enjoy the privilege of joining with citizens in Los Angeles at the historic Japanese American National Museum dedicated in its mission to "remembering our history to better guard against the prejudice that threatens liberty and equality in a democratic society," in com-

memorating the Day of Remembrance. Truly by reflecting on our history we secure the promise of the "streets of gold" that our ancestors dreamed about. An America ripe with opportunity for all people—and a spirit refined by our struggles to build a brighter future as we secure the riches of the blessings of liberty.

On Saturday, we will gather to remember a solemn past so we can look onward towards a future of promise. We look back solemnly to a relocation center at Rohwer Arkansas where a young boy was forced to spend much of his childhood. But we see a more promising future as this boy, Los Angeles' very own, George Takei, overcame that experience to become a household name as an original cast member of one of America's most celebrated television programs. We look back solemnly to a relocation center called Heart Mountain in Wyoming where another innocent young boy was stripped of his freedom. But we see a more promising future as this boy, Norman Mineta, became the first Asian Pacific American ever to serve on a presidential cabinet. We look back solemnly as mothers and fathers stood behind barbed wires branded as traitors to the very flag for which their sons fought as valiant soldiers of the 442nd Combat Regiment. They helped secure our freedom even as we robbed that very freedom from their loved ones. But we look to a more promising future as last year President Clinton finally awarded this country's highest military citation, the Medal of Honor, to 22 of these heroes. Those medals are just a dim reflection of the brilliance of their courage and resilience. We can never repay their sacrifice for our nation.

These are the ones who have worked tirelessly to bring us where we are today. But there is still much more work that needs to be done. This year's Day of Remembrance theme behind which we gather, "Building a Stronger Community Through Civil Rights and Redress" is appropriately fitting as we work together towards the America we dream of today. Together we have achieved much but there is still much more left to do. I am proud to continue our struggle for civil rights. Along with the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I worked this last year in Congress to secure needed funding to build a memorial center right outside of Los Angeles at the Manzanar relocation center. My colleagues and I wanted to make sure that the camp stands to remind us never to erect another one again. We must remember our past so we can build a better future. Further, during the 106th Congress we worked in combating the sickness of hate motivated crimes, establishing the first ever Presidential Commission on Asian Pacific Americans, defending bilingual education, enabling minority owned businesses, and fighting against the troubling trend of racial profiling.

This year I followed closely the story which our keynote speaker, Ms. Alberta Lee, will speak about. Indeed, Mr. Wen Ho Lee's case sent shockwaves not only through the Asian Pacific American community but through all of us dedicated to civil rights—and those of us who know our history. Fifty-nine years ago after the tragic bombing of Pearl Harbor an entire group of American's became suspect and victims of racial profiling. The only "evidence" the United States had against them was the color of their skin. Unfortunately that was enough for President Franklin Roosevelt

to sign Executive Order 9066. And so without a trial, more than 100,000 people of Japanese descent lost their freedom. It was not until 1983 that a Presidential Commission characterized the internment as an act of racism and wartime hysteria. After all those years the government never uncovered even a single case of sabotage or espionage committed by an American of Japanese ancestry during the war. Yet more than 100,000 people had already lost their freedom as little boys and girls wandered behind barbed wires, guarded by armed guards, what they had done wrong. Indeed we were troubled by Mr. Lee's case as we remembered what happened 59 years ago.

The second part of this year's Day of Remembrance theme is redress. Truly in order to move forward we must address the wounds of the past. After decades of struggle, President Reagan signed the historic Civil Liberties Act into law that finally gave redress to those who suffered by our government's mistakes.

We celebrate this victory even today because the achievement remains monumental. However, we are still only looking over the horizon as we look forward to a new day when this chapter of our history is finally brought to a close. The sun has not risen on the new day because it has not yet set on the old. There is still unfinished work that must be done before we can move forward into a brighter future.

Last year, I introduced bi-partisan legislation in Congress to finish the remaining work of redress. While most Americans are aware of the internment of Japanese Americans, few know about our government's activities in other countries resulting from prejudice held against people of Japanese ancestry. Recorded thoroughly in government files, the U.S. government involved itself in the expulsion and internment of an estimated 2,000 people of Japanese descent who lived in various Latin American countries. Uprooted from their homes and forced into the United States, these civilians were robbed of their freedom as they were kidnapped from nations not even directly involved in World War II. These individuals are still waiting for equitable redress, and justice cries out for them to receive it. That is why today I re-introduced the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2001 to finally turn the last page in this chapter of our nation's history.

This bill provides redress to every Japanese Latin American individual forcibly removed and interned in the United States. These people paid a tremendous price during one of our nation's most trying times. Indeed, America accomplished much during that great struggle. As we celebrate our great achievements as a nation let us also recognize our errors and join together as a nation to correct those mistakes. My legislation is the right thing to do to affirm our commitment to democracy and the rule of law.

In addition, the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2001 provides relief to Japanese Americans confined in this country but who never received redress under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 given technicalities in the original law. Our laws must always establish justice. They should never deny it. That is why these provisions ensure that every American who suffered the same injustices will receive the same justice. Finally, we come today to remember because through remembrance scars are healed and we become more careful to guard

against the same injuries again. That is why my legislation will reauthorize the educational mandate in the 1988 Act which was never fulfilled. This will etch this chapter of our nation's history in our national conscience for generations to come as a reminder never to repeat it again.

Let us renew our resolve to build a better future for our community through civil rights and redress as we dedicate ourselves to remembering how we compromised liberty in the past. This will help us to guard it more closely in the future. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this much needed legislation.

HONORING THE R.A. BLOCH
CANCER FOUNDATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a family and a foundation that have changed the lives of thousands of cancer patients in our country—Richard and Annette Bloch and the volunteers of the R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation.

In 1978, Richard Bloch was told he had terminal lung cancer and that he had 3 months to live. He refused to accept this prognosis, and after two years of aggressive therapy, he was told he was cured.

Since Richard's bout with cancer, he and his wife Annette have devoted their lives to helping other cancer patients. Richard, one of America's best known businessmen, sold his interest in H&R Block, Inc. and retired from the company in 1982 to be able to devote all of his efforts to fighting cancer.

The Bloch Cancer Foundation, which is fully supported financially by the Bloch family, is fueled by over a thousand volunteers—other cancer survivors and supporters who share the vision of Richard and Annette Bloch, such as:

Doctors who have shared their time, knowledge and expertise;

Home volunteers who call newly diagnosed cancer patients and place the metaphorical arm around a shoulder. These home volunteers guide new patients through their apprehension and fears so they can face their disease with confidence;

Computer specialists who have developed the web sites so patients and survivors can seek help over the Internet;

Volunteers who give their time on a weekly basis to answer phones and e-mail and form the backbone of an organization committed to cancer patients;

The professionals and volunteers of the Bloch Cancer Support Center;

Those who help develop Cancer Survivors Parks;

Volunteers who helped to mail more than 98,000 books that were requested by cancer patients; and

The Board of Directors who help Dick and Annette develop and implement the programs of the foundation.

Mr. Speaker, on June 4, 2001, we will celebrate the 16th anniversary of Cancer Survivors Day, an event that was started by the Blochs in Kansas City and is now celebrated in over

700 communities throughout the United States. June 4th also marks the 21st anniversary of the Cancer Hot Line, which has received more than 125,000 calls from newly diagnosed cancer patients since its inception in 1980.

I encourage my colleagues to join me as I honor Richard and Annette Bloch and the volunteers of the R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation for twenty-one years of steadfast commitment to cancer patients and survivors.

HONORING SUSAN B. ANTHONY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Susan B. Anthony is well remembered as one of our nation's greatest champions not just of the right of women, but of all Americans. In addition to her work for women's rights, she was a leading voice speaking out against the evil of slavery. Her work in turning women away from abortion is regarded as one of her most important contributions. Susan B. Anthony declared that amongst her greatest joys was to have helped "bring about a better state of things, for mothers generally, so that their unborn little ones could not be willed away from them."

Today, on the 181st anniversary of her death, we honor this great human rights crusader and bring her wisdom to bear on one of the great human rights issues of our day—the right of life of the unborn. Susan B. Anthony was clear: abortion for her was nothing less than "child murder," and she devoted much of her energies toward making women independent of what she termed the "burden" of abortion. She did so not just because she knew abortion to be "child murder", but because she understood the lasting harm it has on women. As she noted, abortion could only "burden her conscience in life and burden her soul in death."

Susan B. Anthony fought to lift the unjust burdens oppressing women, including the burden of abortion. As we celebrate her birthday, let us also recommit ourselves to her goal of relieving women of the burden of abortion.

CONGRATULATING TENAFLY MIDDLE SCHOOL ON EFFORTS TO REMOVE LAND MINES

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the students of Tenafly Middle School for the work they have done to raise money to help rid a small Balkan town half a world away of land mines. The work these students have done is an outstanding example of humanitarian concern and compassion among amazingly young individuals—these are students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

The Land Mine Awareness Club grew out of a class taught by language arts teacher Mark Hyman, called "Heroes of Conscience" and aimed at the development of student leaders