

It concluded that if the proposal were in effect last year there would have been a 4.0% to 4.5% income in individual giving in 2000. This amounts to \$180.4 million additional dollars in charitable donations for medical research—dollars that would result in tangible health benefits to all Americans. If the additional giving grew every year over five years at the same rate as national income a billion dollars more would be put to work to cure disease. Over the course of ten years, the number jumps to \$2.3 billion in new money for medical research. For many research efforts, that money could mean the difference between finding a cure or not finding a cure.

The returns from increased funding of medical research—not only in economic savings to the country, but in terms of curing disease and finding new treatments—could be enormous. The amount and impact of disease in this country is staggering. Each day more than 1,500 Americans die of cancer. Sixteen million people have diabetes—their lives are shortened by an average of fifteen years. Cardiovascular diseases take approximately one million American lives a year. One and a half million people have Parkinson's Disease. Countless families suffer with the pain of a loved one who has Alzheimer's. And yet these diseases go without a cure. We must work towards the day then they are cured, prevented, or eliminated—just like polio and smallpox were years ago.

Increased funding of medical research by the private sector is needed to save and improve American lives. New discoveries in science and technology are creating even greater opportunities than in the past for large returns from money invested in medical research. The mapping of the human genome is but one example. Dr. Abraham Lieberman, a neurologist at the National Parkinson's Foundation, was quoted in Newsweek as saying that the medical research community today is "standing at the same threshold that we reached with infectious disease 100 years ago."

The MRI Act encourages the financial gifts that will enable that threshold to be overcome. I hope you will join me in supporting it.

IN TRIBUTE TO NORWEGIAN  
AMBASSADOR TOM VRAALSEN

**HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2001*

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the co-founders of the Friends of Norway Congressional Caucus—Representative EARL POMEROY of North Dakota, Representative JOHN THUNE of South Dakota, and myself—to pay tribute to a dear friend, His Excellency Tom Vraalsen, as he concludes his tenure as the Norwegian Ambassador to the United States. After five years of distinguished service here, Ambassador Vraalsen is leaving to become the Norwegian Ambassador to Finland.

Ambassador Vraalsen's record of public service to his own country, and to the world community, is remarkable. Prior to his tenure as Norwegian Ambassador to the United States, he served as the Norwegian Ambassador to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

He served as Norway's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 1975 to 1979. A member of the Foreign Service since 1960, Ambassador Vraalsen has also held several positions in Norwegian embassies in Peking, Cairo, Manila, and Jakarta.

Ambassador Vraalsen is a respected expert in international humanitarian and socio-economic development issues—having most recently served as Special Envoy of the U.N. Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in the Sudan in 1998. In addition, he has written numerous papers and articles on African economic development issues, as well as conflict prevention and resolution, and he is author and co-author, respectively, of two books: *The U.N.—Dream and Reality* (1984) and *U.N. in Focus* (1975).

Our friendships with Ambassador Vraalsen have been complemented through our work with him on the Friends of Norway Congressional Caucus—an organization we established in the House of Representatives in 1999. Ambassador Vraalsen first developed the idea to create the Caucus, which he believed would help foster connections between American and Norwegian leaders and address issues of concern to the Norwegian-American community. Many members of our Caucus are of Norwegian heritage, or represent states in which a significant proportion of Norwegian-Americans live.

The Friends of Norway Congressional Caucus has grown, and today it boasts over 40 members. With Ambassador Vraalsen's cooperation and encouragement, the organization has served as an important medium for promoting cultural, commercial, and economic ties between the United States and Norway.

Ambassador Vraalsen has served his country well as Ambassador to the United States. We feel honored to have worked with him. As he embarks upon a new path in his career of service, we will miss his advice and counsel on issues important to our two countries.

Mr. Speaker, today we wish Ambassador Vraalsen the best of luck, and good health and happiness always. We will miss him.

COMMENDING THE COMMUNITY  
SERVICE OF THE HOLYOKE  
MALL AT INGLESIDE IN HOLYOKE,  
MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. JOHN W. OLVER**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2001*

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the outstanding community service of the Holyoke Mall at Ingleside in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Many communities in western Massachusetts have faced significant economic and social challenges since the paper industries which once dominated our region's economy moved south and west in the latter half of the twentieth century.

Holyoke, Massachusetts is one such city. But, fortunately for its residents, Holyoke has been blessed with superior creative leadership, both in the public and private sector. Economic revitalization, educational advancements and hope for a better tomorrow are all on the rise in Holyoke, and the Holyoke Mall at Ingleside, one of the city's best corporate

citizens, is a big part of Holyoke's bright future.

Each year for the past nine years, the Holyoke Mall has helped produce "The Future Begins Here" coalition event that supports children's programs throughout the Pioneer Valley. Some of Holyoke's neediest children benefit from "The Future Begins Here," and the Holyoke Mall should be commended for its strong commitment to the initiative. May 6, 2001 will mark the tenth year of the event, with the Holyoke Mall still on board as a key partner.

I commend the Holyoke Mall at Ingleside's focus on the children of the Pioneer Valley. It will help build a better tomorrow for everyone in western Massachusetts.

RECOGNIZING CLOVIS UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Clovis Unified School District for receiving the Meritorious Budget Award. The Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International is given for excellence in the preparation and issuance of a school system annual budget.

ASBO International and school business management professionals designed the Meritorious Budget Awards Program to enable school business administrators to achieve a standard of excellence in budget presentation. This program has helped school systems build a solid foundation in the skills of developing, analyzing, and presenting a budget.

The Meritorious Budget Award is only given to school districts that have met or exceeded the Meritorious Budget Award Program Criteria. This is the only award program that is specifically designed to enhance school budgeting and honor a school system for a job well done.

The Association of School Business Officials International, founded in 1910, is a professional association that provides programs and services to promote the highest standards of school business management practices, professional growth, and the effective use of educational resources.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Clovis Unified School District for receiving the Meritorious Budget Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Clovis Unified School District many more years of continued success.

“REMEMBER THE TITANS”: EX-  
TOLLING THE VIRTUES OF  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2001*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Black History Month and to salute the millions of African-Americans who have made enormous contributions to our culture.

We in the Eighth District of Virginia are particularly proud to celebrate Black History