

workmen who were killed were members of St. Mary's, and they left behind their wives and 72 children.

In 1992, following a Mass that was held at St. Mary's in memory of the Twin Shaft victims, the congregation walked to the intersection of Main and Union streets for the unveiling of a historical market near the site of the disaster.

The present church was built and dedicated in 1905. Among the many improvements and generous donations made over the years are the stained glass windows above the front doors, dedicated in memory of President John F. Kennedy, and the new organ purchased and installed in 1997, which was donated in memory of Helen Caslin Gill. The rectory contains a stained glass window donated by Mary T. Gallagher and installed in 1996 to mark the 10-year anniversary of the merger of the parish with St. Mary's Assumption Church.

The parish even has a home on the Internet to reach out across the World Wide Web, located at <http://www.stmarys-pittston.org>. This is one of many accomplishments and improvements made under the leadership of the current pastor, Rev. Richard J. Jalmounter, M.S., who was appointed in 1990. He has revitalized the Altar and Rosary Society, the Vacation Bible School, and the annual St. Jude Novena begun under Father Andrew P. Maloney, who served as parish administrator from 1956 to 1963 and pastor from 1963 to 1967. In 1995, Father Polmounter and Sister Anne Therese Peach founded St. Mary's Early Childhood Learning Center, which is located at the rectory in Upper Pittston.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the 150 years of dedication and devotion of the pastors and people of St. Mary, Help of Christians Church, and I wish them all the best.

HONORING JOSE LEON GUERRERO
RIOS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on September 6, 2001, a statue will be unveiled in honor of a great pioneer in the development of Guam's educational system. The statue in honor of Jose Leon Guerrero Rios is to become a permanent fixture at the middle school in Piti also named after him.

The Honorable Jose L.G. Rios, was born in the city of Hagåtña on August 14, 1898. He was the son of Brigido Ayubon Rios and Josefa Garrido De Leon Guerrero. He was married to Antonia Duenas Leon Guerrero and they had eight children—Elizabeth Irene, Albert James, Joseph, Helen, Virginia, Eduardo, Teresita, and Ricardo. A career educator, Mr. Rios had the opportunity to mold students who would later become island leaders. Through his career as a classroom teacher, notable figures in Guam's history such as Richard Taitano, Lagrimas Untalan, Ben Reyes, and Edward Calvo were among the ranks of his students.

Mr. Rios first received recognition from monthly articles he wrote in 1915 and 1916 about various schools on Guam at the time. These articles, along with articles he wrote

about Chamorro folklore, contributed toward his selection in 1918 to be among four individuals picked by the Naval Government to receive higher education training at the Oklahoma A&M College in Stillwater, OK.

Upon his return to Guam, Mr. Rios gained prominence for his work toward the benefit of the island's educational system. The grade level structure in the island's elementary and junior high schools was established through his efforts. As president of the Guam Teacher's Association in 1924, he received great recognition for this accomplishment. In 1940, by virtue of an appointment by Governor Henry P. Price, Mr. Rios served as an Associate Justice in the Guam Court of Appeals—a position he held until the Japanese occupation in 1941. By 1944, he had served as principal for all of the island's elementary schools and, after the Japanese occupation, he served as principal of George Washington Junior High School. When the school was later designated as a Senior High School, Mr. Rios served as its Vice-Principal.

His contributions were greatly recognized and appreciated. The Government of Guam awarded him a "Gold Service Medal" upon his retirement in 1966 for having been of service for 51 years. Widely known as "Mr. Education," the College of Guam conferred to him an honorary "Bachelor in Community Service" degree in 1968 for his work toward the advancement of education in the community.

This great man passed away on July 24, 1983, leaving behind a distinguished legacy. As a former educator, I fully appreciate the value of Mr. Rios' endeavors and contributions. With the unveiling of the statue in Mr. Rios' honor, I am hopeful that it will become a reminder of the man's accomplishments and serve as an inspiration, most especially to the students of the school bearing his name, to strive toward the same remarkable ideals he had advocated during his lifetime. Si Yu'os Ma'ase' Tun Jose put todú i setbisiu-mu para i tano'ta.

BIPARTISAN PATIENT
PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2563) to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, we were given an opportunity today to come to this House Floor and enact a bipartisan, widely supported version of the Patients' Bill of Rights. I urge all members to support this fine bill and oppose the industry backed Norwood Amendment, which will only eviscerate the patient protection America needs. H.R. 2563, in its original form, will provide the health care reform the Nation needs by:

1. Giving every American the right to choose his/her own doctor.

2. Covering all Americans with employer based health insurance.

3. Ensuring that independent physicians conduct all external reviews of medical decisions.

4. Holding HMOs accountable when they make faulty decisions.

H.R. 2563 requires health plans to establish both internal and external appeals processes for decisions that affect health care benefits. The process requires that all internal reviews be exhausted in a timely manner before an independent medical expert would be allowed to review the decisions made by the health plan.

Under H.R. 2563, patients will be permitted to protect their rights by allowing a cause of action in state court for medical decisions, and in federal court for administrative decisions that prevent patients from receiving care. H.R. 2563 respects federalism by allowing state law to control when suits are brought in state court. The legislation punishes bad faith on the part of providers, also, by allowing for non-economic damages of up to \$5 million as a civil monetary penalty.

H.R. 2563 represents the concerns of both patient and providers by providing a comprehensive and balanced system that provides fair access to health care and fair resolution of disputes. It does this by protecting employers from excessive liability. H.R. 2563 protects small businesses and others who delegate their healthcare decisions to experts. Employers are protected from legal liability unless they participate in a decision on a claim that results in harm to the patient.

Mr. Chairman, the benefit to patients this legislation will bring is important. This bill restores the patient's confidence in healthcare by guaranteeing emergency room coverage and ensuring timely access to healthcare. Also, Mr. Chairman, this legislation will protect the rights of women and children to access the specialized care they need. The bill provides direct access to OB/GYN care, as well as allowing parents to choose a pediatrician as their child's primary care provider.

I strongly urge all members to resist the Norwood amendment and any other attempt to alter what is already a compromise bill. The Norwood amendment would tilt the playing field in favor of institutional decision-makers. The proposed \$1.5 million cap on non economic and punitive damages does not accurately reflect the devastating impact of medical decisions that result in lifelong injuries. By requiring federal rules to apply in both state and federal court cases, the amendment also trounces the ideals of federalism.

This, however, is made almost irrelevant by the worst aspect of the Norwood amendment. If passed, this amendment would create a rebuttable presumption in favor of the decision of the independent reviewer, while at the same time giving the decision maker authority over who will do the independent review. Then the patient must produce clear and convincing evidence to overcome that presumption, a standard of proof just below that required for a criminal conviction. Thus, the standard required to review decisions actually limits the rights citizens would have in court. Also, the reviewer has no real incentive to be independent at all. This is not reform.

Mr. Chairman, the American people look to us to follow their wishes and enact real reform that puts the health of patients first. In order to do this, we must pass H.R. 2563. If we

choose to follow the path the leadership desires by passing these misguided amendments, only special interests will be satisfied.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BRISBANE, CALIFORNIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Brisbane, California. This picturesque city, located just south of the City of San Francisco, boasts wonderful views of the San Francisco Bay. It may have been incorporated for only 40 years, but its storied and diverse history goes back centuries.

The story of Brisbane begins with the Tribes of North Americans known collectively as the Ohlone, who inhabited the Bay Area and the slopes of San Bruno Mountain. These tribes lived off the land, which provided an abundance of rabbit and deer, and the Bay provided shellfish.

By 1776, Spanish settlers had arrived, and Franciscan Missionaries followed soon after. The mountains were used for grazing sheep and cattle of the Mission Dolores de San Francisco de Assisi. When the Mission period of California's history came to an end, these same lands were secularized and dispersed as part of the Mexican land grants of the 1830's and 1840's.

Mr. Speaker, the first land grant for the area that would later become Brisbane, was made to Jacob Leese in 1837. Mr. Leese named his new territory, "Rancho Canada de Gaudalupe la Visitacion y Rodeo Viejo," but he then lost most of his land to settle a gambling debt. Charles Crocker purchased over 3,000 acres of the grant from Mr. Leese in 1884 for a small payment. Crocker was more successful in managing his land than Mr. Leese, and the properties eventually passed to the Crocker Land Company, which generated profits from the land through ranching and quarrying.

For the next quarter of a century, few people lived on the land that was to become the Brisbane. It was not until the early 19th century that attention was focused on the Peninsula as a location for residential development. Following the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906, people began looking toward the Peninsula as a refuge for earthquake victims. In 1908, the first subdivision map in the Brisbane area was recorded, establishing saleable lots, in what was then called "The City of Visitacion," which is now the location of downtown Brisbane. There was little development, however, until the 1920's and 30's when the area began to flourish and took on the name "Brisbane."

Mr. Speaker, those who came to Brisbane during the Great Depression and World War were filled with the American spirit, and they came to make a better life for themselves and their families. In Brisbane, land was cheap and people were able to put up a basic shelter until they could afford better housing. The community helped by assisting men with the building and women with the meals, and numerous volunteer and civic organizations as-

sisted people in times of need. A community in every sense of the word, the residents of Brisbane shared the good times with their neighbors and banded together to get through the difficult periods. By the late 1930's the town had a post office, a library, public schools, a hotel, several small markets, a volunteer fire department and a weekly newspaper.

By the 1950's, Brisbane was well on its way to becoming a modern town. A lack of local capital, inadequate civic services, and the concern that powerful neighboring communities might dictate Brisbane's future led some citizens to consider incorporation. Others, however, were fearful that becoming a city would result in the loss of the small town character everyone valued. When the County of San Mateo began to discuss bulldozing Brisbane through an urban renewal program, matters came to a head and an election was held on the issue of incorporation. On September 12, 1961, voters overwhelmingly voted for incorporation.

The newly incorporated City included a mere 2.5 square miles. It was clear that additional land would be necessary to increase the city's tax base and to protect Brisbane from inappropriate and environmentally damaging development. The City solved these problems by annexing 700 acres of land which housed Southern Pacific and PG&E properties in 1962.

Despite incorporation and the ensuing expansion, Brisbane faced numerous developmental concerns. The Crocker Land Company still owned essentially all of unincorporated San Bruno Mountain as well as the Crocker Industrial Park in the Guadalupe valley directly to the north of the city limits. With San Francisco to the north and the cities of the Peninsula to the south, the area in and around Brisbane was ripe for development, and the community felt the pressure.

Over the next thirty years, the small but feisty City of Brisbane has led the fight to preserve both San Bruno Mountain, and the unique character of the Brisbane community. Citizens fought a plan to cut off the top of San Bruno Mountain and dump it in the Bay. Later, the city was able to prevent massive development of San Bruno Mountain with a projected population of over 60,000 people. The city was also able to defeat another proposal to build high-density housing in the area. Brisbane citizens led the battle to preserve San Bruno Mountain as a state and county park and worked to protect rare and endangered species on the mountain.

In 1983, the Northeast Ridge of San Bruno Mountain and Crocker Industrial Park were annexed to Brisbane as a package, with the Industrial Park providing revenues necessary to service any development on the Northeast Ridge. In 1989, the City approved a development plan for the Ridge, thereby completing Brisbane's expansion.

Mr. Speaker, in its brief history since incorporation, the City of Brisbane and its citizens have worked to balance expansion with protection of the natural beauty of the surrounding area. Brisbane's residents possess an independent spirit which has fueled this balanced expansion since the beginning of the 20th century. I am delighted and honored to represent the Brisbane and its extraordinary people in Congress, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the City of Bris-

bane on the 40th Anniversary of its incorporation.

UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE
COMMEMORATION DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of Ukraine.

Ukraine has a long and very turbulent history. For almost three centuries, 1709–1917, Central Ukraine was under the Tsarist domination, followed by Soviet Russian rule from 1921–1991. On August 24, 1991, the Parliament of Ukraine, under the leadership of Leonid Kravchuk, declared Independence of Ukraine, and banned the Communist Party.

The Proclamation of Independence was soon ratified by over 90 percent of the voters in December 1991. The Constitution of Ukraine now guarantees all citizens equal protection under the law regardless of race, creed, religion, or national origin.

Ukraine is now recognized by over 150 nations, has signed numerous treaties of friendship, voluntarily gave up all nuclear weapons by signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and is a strong strategic partner of the United States in NATO's "Partnership for Peace." Ukraine has made great strides in equality and peace and has even remained free from armed conflicts on its territory throughout its ten years of independence.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the tenth anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of Ukraine. Ukrainians are working hard to establish a better life for themselves and their country, and have made remarkable strides in democracy.

HONORING THE 104TH BIRTHDAY
OF CLARA FERGUSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a rare opportunity that I have the chance to pay tribute to such a special occasion. It is at this time that I would like to honor Clara Ferguson who was born on August 12, 1897, has lived through three centuries. Clara has spent her entire life in Colorado and it is my pleasure to wish her a happy 104th birthday, which she celebrated last month.

Clara Ferguson has served our nation throughout her life both as a nurse and a teacher. Clara is a role model for others who have dedicated their life to public service. She has aided many who have been ill, even to the point of rolling bandages for American soldiers involved in World War I. Clara also spent the majority of her career working as a teacher at numerous schools across Colorado.

Although Clara was widowed quite some time ago, she has taken on a motherly role in the lives of many of Colorado's youth both as a caregiver and as a teacher offering guidance to her students. Clara is a proud aunt who has