

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### ENERGY POLICY CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO FARMERS

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following opinion piece written by Mr. Bryce Neidig, president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation, which appeared in the November 27, 2001, York News-Times. Mr. Neidig makes a convincing case for passing legislation which would implement a national energy policy. As Mr. Neidig stresses, farmers are heavily reliant on petroleum products and could suffer great hardship if Congress fails to develop a meaningful energy policy.

On August 2, 2001, the House approved an energy bill which would diversify our energy sources and create greater energy reliability and independence for the United States. Now is the time to enact a long-term energy policy. Congress must help assure farmers and all Americans of the increased development of diverse, reliable, and affordable energy sources.

#### NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY NEEDS FARMERS' SUPPORT

American agriculture is intensely dependent on petroleum. In fact, it's the lifeblood of farming. Our nation is facing an energy crisis, and farmers stand to suffer as a result—unless federal legislation is passed soon to end the crisis.

The House of Representatives adopted a comprehensive energy package in August—the National Energy Security Act 2001—that holds many keys to solving the nation's energy dilemma. It includes fuel alternatives, incentives to reduce consumption, aid to low-income fuel programs, and a provision for oil exploration and production in a tiny portion of the Coastal Plain in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The Senate needs to pass the act this year.

Farmers could be among the hardest hit if we fail to enact a national energy policy. Oil or gas shortages, scarcity, or worse, embargoes, could send the price of energy soaring. Higher input costs and low commodity prices are squeezing many producers at this time.

Petroleum products and natural gas provide heating oil and diesel to run equipment and they are a key ingredient in virtually all fertilizers and many other production inputs. Increases in energy prices ripple through the entire farm economy, spiking the costs to run farms and ranches.

Conservation and development of alternative fuels are important components of the legislation and are critical to agriculture's support for a national energy policy. However, exploration and production of domestic oil and gas are a critical part of this proposed act as well. As our nation grows and as the economy expands, so grows the need for more oil and gas. More oil and gas production is a must in order to stabilize energy prices for farmers and consumers, which is why many producers support the environmentally safe development of domestic and off-shore oil production.

It is my understanding that there could be upwards of 16 billion barrels of recoverable

oil under Alaska's Coastal Plain. At full production, some estimates indicate that Coastal Plain oil could contribute about 25 percent of our energy needs. What Coastal Plain oil provides as well is a secure source of domestic energy. Farmers who lived through the Arab oil embargo of the early 1970s and the energy supply problems of the last two years can testify to the disruption and economic pain caused by an unstable oil supply. Coastal Plain oil could serve as a buffer against Iraqi or Iranian led embargoes, for example.

Farmers and ranchers work long, hard hours to keep their operations successful. The hard reality is that for most farmers, the line between success and failure is thin. Sudden spikes in energy prices because of shortages or embargoes could spell doom for many of America's farmers.

The National Energy Security Act 2001 is our nation's best opportunity to chart a course out of a crisis that was many years in the making. Farmers and all of us who make our living through agriculture need to encourage our members of Congress to back this legislation, for the sake of our families and farms.

### EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT VET- ERANS DAY CONTINUE TO BE OBSERVED ON NOVEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

**HON. BRIAN D. KERNS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2001*

Mr. KERNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 298, a resolution to preserve the spirit and true intention of Veterans' Day. Throughout the course of our Nation's history, courageous men and women have stepped forward in times of war and peace to serve in our Armed Forces. They have done so to protect the freedoms that we, as Americans, are blessed with each day.

Their service has often taken them far away from their homes, their family, and their friends, and has placed them in harms way. Whenever and wherever called upon they answered that call to duty, and their blood has been shed in defense of our liberty.

Now, as our Nation is leading the war on terrorism, the heroic acts of our American service men and women overseas and the 48 million who came before them to defend our country, deserve nothing less than a commitment by the Congress to preserve the sanctity and true mission of Veterans' Day.

While we can never adequately repay our men and women in uniform for the sacrifices they have made to keep America free, we can honor and thank them for their service. With our way of life, our freedoms, under attack at home and abroad, now more than ever, it is imperative that we guarantee that our veterans are honored. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and maintain November 11 as Veterans' Day—a special day of national observance that we, as a nation, set aside to re-

member our veterans and the sacrifices they made to uphold our freedoms.

### MEDICATIONS FOR DIABETES

**HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, for years too many Americans have suffered the ravaging effects of Diabetes. While there have been many promising advancements in the diabetes research field, there have also been many disappointing setbacks.

One key to proper treatment of Diabetes has been the development and the use of new medications. However, the Congress, questions have been raised about the safety of Rezulin and other medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for this use.

In my home state of South Carolina, Mrs. Francis Geddings took Rezulin as a treatment from April 1997 to January 1998. She was hospitalized in 1999 and tragically passed away from liver failure last year. She left behind her husband, Eugene, and many questions about the safety of this drug.

Rezulin was eventually removed from the market, but many questions remain. To avoid future tragedies like the one that visited the Geddings family, we must continually review how medication is made available for public use. Attached are documents that show only a small part of the Rezulin story. It is up to Congress to continue doing everything we can to make the FDA approval process as safe and open as possible.

Americans need to know that according to an FDA document created by several of the FDAs premier scientists, 1 in 1,000 patients who took Rezulin for more than one year will die of fatal liver disease. Pharmaceuticals companies everywhere can learn from the tragic history of Rezulin.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH.

*December 19, 2000.*

From: David J. Graham, MD, MPH, Associate Director for Science, Office of Postmarketing Drug Risk Assessment (HFD-400), Lanh Green, RPh. MPH, Safety Evaluator, Division of Drug Risk Evaluation II (HFD-400).

Through: Martin Himmel, MD, MPH, Deputy Director, Office of Postmarketing Drug Risk Assessment (HFD-400).

To: David G. Orloff, MD, Director, Division of Metabolic and Endocrine Drug Products (HFD-510).

Subject: Final Report: Liver Failure Risk with Troglitazone (Rezulin®), NDA: 20-720.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report summarizes the activities of the Office of Postmarketing Drug Risk Assessment and its evaluation of the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

risk of acute liver failure (ALF) with the use of troglitazone for the treatment of diabetes. The report is divided into topical areas related to varying aspects of the issue.

We estimated the background rate of acute liver failure in the general population to be about 1 case per million persons per year (person-years). Using case reports data supplemented by usage data from a large multi-state managed care organization, we estimated the rate of ALF with troglitazone to be about 1 case per 1000 person-years (accounting for underreporting). From three postmarketing clinical studies, the incidence of ALF ranged from about 1,200 to 17,000 per million person-years. Survival analysis suggested that the cumulative risk of ALF with troglitazone increased with continuing use of the drug. The implications of this for a product intended to be used for decades should not be overlooked.

Based on a number of different analyses, underreporting of ALF with troglitazone was extensive. This highlights the limitations of voluntary (spontaneous) reporting systems. It also illustrates the danger of using changes in reporting over time as a message of success of an intervention. Reporting naturally decreases quickly after the start of marketing so that one cannot cite a decline in number of case reports as evidence that a safety problem has been successfully managed.

Multiple labeling revisions and "Dear Healthcare Professional" letters recommending monthly liver enzyme monitoring did not improve the safety profile of troglitazone. Enzyme monitoring was not performed regularly or reliably even after the July 1998 relabeling. Analysis of case reports suggested that even had monitoring been performed, it probably would not have prevented many, or perhaps any, cases of troglitazone-induced ALF. The "point of no return," that is, of irreversibility and inevitable progression to liver failure appeared to be reached within about a month or less of a time when liver enzymes were normal.

Troglitazone appeared to confer a substantially greater risk of ALF than rosiglitazone. However, the risk of ALF with rosiglitazone appeared to be higher than the expected background rate.

#### BACKGROUND ON ACUTE LIVER FAILURE

Acute liver failure is a rapidly progressive disorder characterized by hepatic encephalopathy, and frequently, coagulopathy (both platelets and clotting factors), methobolic derangements (lactic acidosis, hypoglycemia, electrolyte abnormalities), high output hypovolemic heart failure, renal failure and sepsis. Survival without transplant is below 25%.

Drug-induced ALF is usually more aggressive than viral forms, with survival rates around 10% without transplant. There are several competing classification systems for ALF, each relying on the length of time it takes for a patient to progress from initial symptoms (US) or jaundice (UK, France) to hepatic encephalopathy. The U.S. definition classifies ALF as progressive from initial symptoms of liver dysfunction to encephalopathy within 6 months. In Europe, progression from jaundice to encephalopathy within 12 weeks is classified as ALF. In subsequent work, we used the European criteria. We choose the latter criteria because their shorter time-window more closely reflected the fulminant nature of the cases we were receiving. Also, the onset of jaundice is a clearer and more definite time-point from which to begin counting compared with initial symptoms, the onset of which might be vague and hence unlikely to be reported accurately in case reports.

The etiology of ALF varies somewhat by country (slide 2). Until recently, about 70%

of ALF in the U.S. was due to viral hepatitis (primarily hepatitis B), with 15% due to acetaminophen and about 10% due to other drugs and toxins.

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The Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) was a NIH-sponsored clinical trial performed on patients with impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), but not diabetes. Its purpose was to study whether treatment of IGT with oral hypoglycemic agents could prevent or delay the onset of diabetes. One arm of the trial included 585 patients treated with troglitazone on average for one year. From this group, one patient died of fulminant ALF, for an incidence rate of 1,724 per 10<sup>6</sup> person-years (95% confidence interval 44-9,569).

The REACH study was a Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis sponsored postmarketing study to collect additional information on efficacy and safety of troglitazone. At the time when 2,433 patients were enrolled in the study, with an average duration of treatment <4 months, one patient died of fulminant ALF, for an incidence rate of 1,274 per 10<sup>6</sup> person-years (95% CI 32-7,077).

Another Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis postmarketing study, Protocol II, was conducted to study the effect of troglitazone use on the insulin does required by diabetic patients enrolled in the study. There were 233 patients enrolled in this randomized double-blind placebo-controlled trial, each treated for a maximum of 6 months. Of this group, one died of liver failure. Of note, this patient developed liver enzyme abnormalities in November 1998 and was withdrawn from the study. His liver enzymes did not normalize and in early March 1999, the blind was broken for this patient to see whether he had received troglitazone or placebo. He had been treated with troglitazone. He was in hospital for evaluation of his liver disease on the day of the March 1999 advisory meeting, and died of liver failure three days after the meeting. Assuming that 50% of randomized patients were treated with troglitazone for a maximum of 6 months, the incidence rate in this study was about 16,949 per 10<sup>6</sup> person-years (95% CI 429-90,855).

In each of these three studies, fatal liver failure was observed at an extremely high rate, ranging from 1,274 to 16,949 per 10<sup>6</sup> person-years. Based on data from the published literature discussed above, we would expect about 1 case of ALF per 10<sup>6</sup> person-years meaning that the occurrence of liver failure in these studies was from about 1,300 to 17,000 times greater than would be expected by chance.

In the original troglitazone NDA, there were 2 cases of jaundice/hepatitis (one of which was hospitalized) and 1 other patient hospitalized with drug-induced hepatitis, but no cases meeting our definition of ALF. This finding is still compatible with an ALF incidence rate of 2,584 per 10<sup>6</sup> person-years.

These studies demonstrate that liver enzyme monitoring on a monthly basis does not prevent the occurrence of ALF with troglitazone. Furthermore, they collectively support the conclusion that the underlying incidence rate of ALF due to troglitazone is extremely high, probably in the range of 1,000 to 2,000 per 10<sup>6</sup> person-years, representing about a 1,000- to 2,000-fold increase in liver failure risk. Another way of stating this is that 1-2 out of every 1,000 patients (1/500-1/1,000) who use troglitazone for one year will die of ALF.

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#### DISCUSSION

The data presented here provide a comprehensive picture of liver failure risk with troglitazone. Premarketing clinical trial data from the company's NDA for

troglitazone showed that ALT elevation above 3 U/LN occurred in 1.9% of treated patients. More importantly, it provided an estimate of the incidence of hospitalized drug-induced hepatitis that was more than 50-fold greater than the background rate suggested by the literature.

Soon after US marketing began, FDA began receiving case reports of ALF in patients who were using troglitazone. A series of labeling revisions and "Dear Healthcare Professional" letters followed, recommending increasing performance of liver enzyme monitoring as a means of reducing or eliminating risk of ALF. Despite those interventions, cases continued to be steadily reported to FDA.

Our analyses of the original 43 US cases found that there were no apparent risk factors by which to identify patients who might be at increased risk of developing ALF while using troglitazone. Furthermore, the onset of liver disease was usually heralded by the appearance of jaundice, by which time, irreversibility had been passed in these cases who usually progressed quickly to encephalopathy. Examination of 12 cases with adequate liver enzyme monitoring prior to onset of liver disease showed that in 75%, patients went from having normal liver enzymes to irreversible progression towards liver failure within the recommended monitoring interval. In the three other cases, the patients remained on troglitazone after the first recorded enzyme abnormally so that it was not possible to identify when the point of irreversibility was passed. Of note, there were no differences between the 12 "rapid risers" and the remaining 31 cases for whom we lacked data on the time-course of their liver enzyme elevations. From these data, we concluded that it was not possible to prevent ALF by patient selection or to predict who was at risk. Also, monthly liver enzyme monitoring would probably fail to prevent at least 75% and perhaps 100% of cases.

The cases reported to FDA were also used to estimate the pattern of ALF risk over time of continued use of troglitazone. This too was presented at the March 1999 advisory meeting. Analysis showed a marked rise in risk beginning with the first month of troglitazone use. With continued follow-up after the advisory meeting, our expectation was confirmed that heightened ALF risk continued for as long as troglitazone was used. In other words, the risk of ALF did not disappear after the first few months or even first 18 months of use. The pattern suggested that cumulative risk of ALF would continue to rise for as long as troglitazone was used, having important implications for a drug intended to be used for 20, 30 or 40 years or longer.

Against this backdrop of case reports, epidemiologic data suggested that the expected incidence rate of ALF in the general population was about 1 case per million per year. The data from case reports were markedly higher than this. At the March 1999 advisory meeting, we presented data showing that if we assumed there was no underreporting, the cumulative risk of ALF was about 1 case per 15,000 patients who used troglitazone for at least 8 months. If we factored into the analysis that only 10% of cases had been reported, the cumulative risk became 1 case per 1,500 at 8 months (about 1 case per 1,000 per year). With an additional year's worth of case reports (through December 1999), the cumulative risk was 1 case per 7,000 patients after 18 months of troglitazone use, assuming no underreporting. With 10% reporting, this would be 1 case per 700 patients at 18 months (about 1 case per 1000 per year). The first analysis through 8 months of use led us to conclude prior to the March 1999 advisory meeting that the risk of ALF with

trogliatone was probably increased at least 1000-fold over the expected background rate.

Independent population-based data prior to the March 1999 advisory meeting supported this. In two separate postmarketing clinical studies, one conducted by the National Institutes of Health and one conducted by the company, a case of fatal ALF occurred among small numbers of patients treated with trogliatone. This was highly statistically significant, and suggested that the incidence rate of ALF with trogliatone could range from 1,200 to 1,700 per million per year, with upper bounds approaching 10,000 cases per million per year. These data, in combination with case reports data, formed the basis for this medical officer's recommendation prior to the March 1999 advisory meeting that trogliatone be removed from the market. Subsequent to the advisory meeting, FDA learned of a third postmarketing study, this one randomized and double blinded, in which a patient treated with trogliatone died of ALF just three days after the advisory meeting. The incidence rate of ALF in this study was over 17,000 per million per year.

An important component in the trogliatone analysis was an assessment of the effect of FDA interventions in the form of labeling changes recommending periodic liver enzyme monitoring as a means of managing the ALF risk of trogliatone. The FDA study from UnitedHealth Group found that monitoring was not regularly or reliably performed and that repeated labeling revisions had not meaningfully improved the performance of monthly liver enzyme testing. Based on the data at hand prior to the March 1999 advisory meeting, we concluded that FDA labeling had not had a clinically important effect on medical practice and that monthly enzyme testing was largely not being performed. From our case analysis, we concluded that monitoring, were it performed, would fail to prevent most or all cases of trogliatone ALF.

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CHARITABLE LANDMARK: ON  
VERGE OF EXTINCTION

**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of a Washington institution. In this city of lawmakers and policy, Sholl's Cafeteria has adopted a policy of its own: for over 70 years, the downtown landmark has never turned away a hungry soul. This cafeteria, this "triumph of charity," has fed thousands with warm, free meals. In recent months, however, Sholl's has faced dire straits with the recent economic downturn. Declining tourism and rising rent have forced Sholl's Cafeteria to consider closing its doors to the thousands of devoted patrons who have frequented the famed eatery. With all that Scholl's Cafeteria has done for our community, it is time for us to give back and maintain what has become a 70-year tradition. With that said, Mr. Speaker, I submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter written by Sholl's Chairman Jim McGrath to the Washington Post on October 14, 2001.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 14, 2001]

ON THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION

As the nation mobilizes to combat the insidious foe of terrorism, another drama of a

far different kind and scope is playing itself out in downtown Washington—the struggle for survival of Sholl's Cafeteria. Despite heroic sacrifice and Herculean labors by many—most notably its beloved proprietors, George and Van Fleishell—absent a substantial financial remedy, Sholls will be forced to close its doors as soon as Oct. 31.

The Sholl's story could easily get lost amid the tumult of our national preoccupation and suffering in the wake of Sept. 11, but that would be a profound shame, because the cafeteria's story has been one of special triumphs: of old-fashioned, all-American food, wonderfully prepared and wonderfully served; of humane pricing, so that nearly anyone can afford to eat there, of multiculturalism, with terrific employees, many there for generations, reflecting every spectrum of the human family; of kindness, with an atmosphere that welcomes everyone. It is a story of the triumph of charity—Sholl's has given away enough free food to feed an army 100 times over.

During the past several years, however, Sholl's has suffered from the decline in downtown dining. Its tour-bus trade has eroded because of the weak economy. It has endured bus-unfriendly parking restrictions. It has had to deal with prolonged building renovation and reconstruction while paying a huge rent. It has been put through the economic wringer.

Now another mobilization is needed to save this beloved institution. I am not alone in expressing those sentiments. They have been voiced by many, from the high and the mighty to the mighty humble. They have come from legions of senior citizens, bus loads of squealing kids and homeless people.

On Aug. 10, 1999, for example, the World Bank wrote to the cafeteria's owner: "You are correct characterize Sholl's as a charitable landmark. It would be a significant loss to our neighborhood if you were to close your doors, particularly for the large number of senior citizens, young kids, disabled and homeless people whom you serve."

On July 8, 1998, U.S. Sen. Max Cleland of Georgia read into the Congressional Record, "Patrons of Sholl's have described members of the Sholl family, who have owned and operated Sholl's over the last 70 years, as having the biggest hearts in Washington."

On March 7, 1999, Mike Kirwan, the late, great apostle to the homeless, said, "The stories I've heard from people on the streets, their quiet moments of dignity, respect, warmth and a full and nourishing meal at the hands of this wonderful cafeteria could fill a book of essays."

Possibly, the one who said it best, though, was a child who, on arrival from Pennsylvania on a school bus, told a WTOF reporter. "If it weren't for Sholl's Cafeteria, we couldn't afford to come to Washington."

The hour is late, and the odds are long. Although some say the time for Sholl's has passed, I profoundly disagree, and I hope others do too. Long live Sholl's Cafeteria.

JIM MCGRATH,

*Chairman of the Save Our  
Sholl's Cafeteria Committee.*

THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. INSLEE. As our country recently prepared for its annual commemoration of the first Thanksgiving, my state was also honoring

those who founded the city of Seattle 150 years ago. On November 13, 1851, the Denny Party, composed of 22 men, women, and children arrived at Alki Point in the pouring rain. They arrived only to find the cabin which the leader's brother, David Denny was supposed to prepare, unfinished and without a roof. David Denny himself lay sick and feverish.

Like those who survived the first tough winter in Plymouth, the Denny Party persevered. Their dreams of a city would not have survived, however, without the help of Native Americans. As the sopping wet and nearly helpless Denny Party struggled to survive, the Duwamish tribe, led by Chief Sealth, chose to camp around the party in order to protect them.

While Seattle celebrates the landing of the Denny Party, we must also remember those who lived here before- and continue to live here today. Without the assistance of Chief Sealth, the Duwamish tribe, and other tribes, the Denny Party could not have achieved their dreams of a city; a city named for the Chief who protected and helped those early settlers in their quest for a new home.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the West Springfield Civic Association for forty years of exceptional service to the Northern Virginia community. Its dedication throughout our region has been, and will continue to be, an asset to the residents of the West Springfield area.

The West Springfield Civic Association was formed in 1961 by residents of West Springfield, Westview, and Keene Mill Manor neighborhoods. The motto of the association is *Utile Dulci*, Latin for "the useful with the pleasant." This civic association, together with many other area civic associations, formed the Greater Springfield Community Council.

With the growth of the community, a need for a new high school became evident. The civic association was influential in naming West Springfield High School after its community, rather than being named for a famous Virginian like most other Northern Virginia high schools are.

Within the community, the West Springfield Civic Association worked hard to keep the area filled with trees. It was also instrumental in the creation of bike paths and sidewalks along main roadways, and replaced a plank bridge covering the railroad tracks.

Since its inception in 1961, the members of the West Springfield Civic Association has always been a positive force for the development, progress and recognition of the Greater Springfield area. Not only has this organization held many meritorious events, but has also served in informing the residents of current issues affecting the community. In addition, the members of the Association have created a website which provides news, information, and events in the area, in addition to previous newsletters and minutes from past.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank the West Springfield Civic Association for their hard work and dedication throughout the past forty years. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating an extraordinary group of devoted men and women.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH IN MORRIS, ILLINOIS

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Immaculate Conception Church in Morris, Illinois.

In the fall of 1852, John McNellis, a local grain dealer, deeded two and a half acres of land to people who were interested in forming a Roman Catholic Church. Mr. McNellis also provided land for a parsonage and two schools, and he built a three story brick school because he felt that education was very important and believed that every child deserved to have an education. The church became the Immaculate Conception Church in Morris, Illinois.

On December 8, the church will start a year long celebration in commemoration of the establishment of the parish. The past 150 years have been full of progress and history. A fire almost destroyed the church in 1903, and in 1988, lightning struck the bell tower, causing an estimated \$90,000 worth of damage, but the church prevailed. Throughout adversity the church keeps growing due to the hard work of the parishioners and the community of Morris. Many additions have kept the grounds looking fresh. A new parish center was dedicated in 1988. A group of parishioners transformed the lawn between the church and the parish hall into a beautiful prayer garden in 1991. Another major project was the restoration of the rectory in the Father Poff Center, which houses the meeting rooms and offices.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the parishioners for all of their hard work and dedication to the church and to the city of Morris.

TRIBUTE TO LODGE FIGLI DELLA SICILIA NO. 227, COLUMBIAN FEDERATION AND VITO MANZELLA, 2001 MAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the Lodge Figli Della Sicilia No. 227 "Sons of Sicily" is a lodge of the Columbian Federation of Italian-American societies, and is one of the largest Italian-American organizations in the State of Michigan. Serving the tri-county area of metropolitan Detroit, Lodge 227 includes over 250 families whose purpose is to promote and preserve the Italian-American heritage through language, culture, music, and social events. Each year the Lodge 227 holds its annual banquet, honoring distinguished Italian-American

cans in the community who have shown outstanding support and activism in their local community. On Saturday, September 29, as the Lodge Figli Della Sicilia celebrated its 65th Annual Banquet, they recognized Vito Manzella as their "2001 Man of the Year".

Faithfully committed to the preservation of Italian heritage, the Lodge Figli Della Sicilia No. 227 has been a cornerstone of the Italian American community since its founding in Detroit on February 10, 1936. As a dedicated member of over 30 years, President Salvatore Previti's outstanding leadership has motivated families to reach out to surrounding communities in friendship and charity. From preparations for the Columbus Day Parade and festivities to annual can and clothing drives for the Capuchin Food Kitchen during the holidays, the Lodge has truly become a part of the Metro Detroit family. The tireless efforts of Lodge 227 are outstanding, and will continue to be appreciated for years to come.

The Lodge Figli Della Sicilia's "2001 Man of the Year", Vito Manzella has demonstrated dedication and commitment to his family, his work, and his community for so many years. Born to Salvatore and Rosa Manzella in Detroit in 1967, who had just emigrated from Sicily 5 years before, Vito grew up in St. Clair Shores as a hard worker for the family business, Manzella's Fruit Market, and an athlete and leader in his community. Upon the untimely death of his father in 1995, Vito took over the store and has since continued the traditions of warmth and generosity Manzella's Fruit Market has always brought to the community. As a sponsor of churches and charities across Macomb County, Manzella's is a drop off site for "Toys for Tots", and after the September 11 tragedies, Vito donated 10 percent of profits from sales on September 19th, 2001. Vito's hard work and innovative ideas have been the driving force in the success of Manzella's, and his generous contributions and active involvement as a distinguished business owner and friend to all truly makes him this year's "2001 Man of the Year."

I applaud the Lodge Figli Della Sicilia No. 227 Columbian Federation and Vito Manzella for their leadership, commitment, and service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting them for their exemplary years of leadership and service.

EDUCATION

**HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, within days, the Conference Committee on House Bill 1 will complete its work and President Bush's campaign commitment to "leave no child behind" will be before Congress for final approval.

As a member of the Conference Committee, I am very proud of the months of work, and the tireless efforts of Chairman JOHN BOEHNER. As a result of JOHN's leadership, America's public schools will have the resources, the tools, the flexibility, and the accountability to close the achievement gap between our best and our poorest performing children.

Since its inception thirty-five years ago, Title One of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-

cation Act was designed to improve the performance of America's poorest and most at risk students. One Hundred and Twenty Five Billion Dollars later the performance of these children has not improved and the gap between our poorest and our best has actually increased. America's children and America's taxpayers deserve better, and this Conference Report demands better.

In my home district in Atlanta, Georgia, there is a talented and nationally syndicated talk show host named Neal Boortz. Neal is a conservative libertarian whose favorite target for criticism is often public schools or as he calls them, government schools. While Neal sometimes carries his criticism to the extreme, he is often on target. Neal will be happy that this Education Reform requires exactly what he has sought: accountability, competition, and results.

There is another reason Neal Boortz should be very happy. His able and talented assistant, Belinda Skelton, is expecting her first child in May, and when that child reaches six years of age America's schools will have improved dramatically because of five major provisions of this reform.

1. President Bush's Early Reading First initiative will ensure that every child reaching third grade will be able to read and comprehend at that level.

2. Every child in third through eighth grade will be annually tested in reading and math to measure the progress of their improvement, identify any problems and provide remediation where necessary.

3. Test results will be disaggregated so that every teacher, every school and every parent knows exactly how each student is performing and progressing. There will be no more hiding poor performers by averaging scores by grade.

4. Schools that fail to improve student performance will be held accountable, and parents of children in failing schools will be given choices including public school choice and parental direction of federal Title 1 funds to public or private supplemental educational services to address their child's needs.

5. Local School Boards of Education will be given flexibility in federal funds to address the educational needs of their children and their community. Federal control and federal mandates are reduced, so schools are held responsible for results in the performance of children and not satisfying bureaucratic red tape.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush's pledge to "leave no child behind" is a promise to Belinda Skelton's child and every child. It is a commitment to America's future, and an acknowledgement of past failures. I urge each member of Congress to join with me and with the President in our commitment to "Leave No Child Behind." Vote yes for real reform, local control, accountability, and parental involvement in public education.

CELEBRATING MADAWASKA  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating

Madawaska Elementary School in Madawaska, Maine, for being named a Blue Ribbon School. This is an incredible achievement, and one which the students and staff in Madawaska are celebrating this week.

The Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Award recognizes schools that are models of excellence and equity, schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to educational excellence for all students, and that achieve high academic standards or have shown significant academic improvement over five years. Madawaska Elementary School had met these high standards, earning a Blue Ribbon School Award.

Madawaska Elementary School is truly a model to which others may look for inspiration. Principal Mary Lunney and the entire staff strive to create an environment where everyone is a learner—students, teachers, staff and the community. The school's mission statement says it all: "Our goal is to create a school system where student learning is optimized; where students achieve clearly stated and understood Learning Results; where we continually ask ourselves what will students know and be able to do and how will they demonstrate their knowledge and skills; and where the focus is on what the student is learning and success for all." The school strives to serve the whole child, paying careful attention to academics, physical fitness, curricular activities, and supportive services.

Education is the foundation for our future. Quality education in Maine means a higher quality of life for all the people of the state. I am pleased that the Madawaska Elementary School has been recognized for its dedication to excellence and high standards. I know that they are extremely proud of their achievements, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to bring them to your attention.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 466, H.R. 3323, the Administrative Simplification Compliance Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 467, H.R. 3391, the Medicare Regulatory and Contracting Reform Act of 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 468, S. 494, the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

#### INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3381

### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced a bill, H.R. 3381, for Mr. CAMP, other members of the Michigan delegation, and myself, that would clarify that certain bonds issued by local governments should be treated as tax-exempt. This issue has particular importance to local governments in Michigan.

In Michigan, counties collect real property taxes to fund their school systems. To facilitate the collection of delinquent real property taxes levied for local school districts, the counties issue bonds (General Obligation Limited Tax Notes). The counties have been doing this since 1973. Until 1987, interest on the bonds was treated as tax exempt.

In 1987, a cloud was cast upon the tax exempt status of these bonds due to issues unrelated to the bonds. Michigan counties have continued to issue bonds under the delinquent property tax program, but since 1987 the bonds have effectively not been treated as tax-exempt, costing the counties millions of dollars per year.

This bill would restore the valuable General Obligation Limited Tax Notes program to a tax-exempt status, reducing borrowing costs, and providing badly needed support for education in the State of Michigan. While it would be highly beneficial to local schools, the Federal revenue cost of this bill would be negligible.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this bipartisan bill.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANN FLETCHER CELEBRATING HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Ann Fletcher, who is celebrating her 90th birthday on Sunday, October 14, 2001. Truly a milestone occasion, 2001 marks 90 years of hard work and is celebration for a unique and endearing individual. Happy Birthday!

A pioneering woman in the fields of engineering and public service, Ann Fletcher has set an excellent example of hard work and dedication throughout her lifetime. Born in Latrobe, Pennsylvania in 1911, Ms. Fletcher was raised and educated in Detroit, attending Cass Technical High School until 1929 and the Wayne State University College of Engineering from 1942–1944. During school she worked as a patent illustrator for Bendix Aviation Corporation Research Laboratories in Detroit, continuing on until 1947. From there her career took her to the Ford Motor Company patent section and the Shatterproof Glass Corporation. Ms. Ann Fletcher became a self-employed technical consultant until her retirement in 1980. Her unflinching commitment allowed Ms. Fletcher to break through the barrier to women that existed in a male-dominated profession.

Married to Stanley Ostaszewski in 1932, they soon celebrated the birth of her son, Carl Ostaszewski, whom she raised while her husband was serving in the military and while she attended Wayne State University. Widowed in 1948, Ms. Ostaszewski married Mr. Cicero Fletcher in 1953. Her commitment to her family is as strong as her commitment to public service and the field of engineering.

Today we can all look up to Ms. Fletcher as a pioneer for working women in America and praise her contributions to Southeast Michigan and the Polish-American community. A former board member of the Engineering Society of

Detroit, Ms. Fletcher was given the Distinguished Service Award, an award which now bears her name. Other awards throughout her notable career include the "Top Ten Working Women in Detroit" in 1966 and the "Distinguished Pioneer" of the Society of Women Engineers in 1994.

Today Ann Fletcher celebrates 90 years of life on this earth. I ask that all my colleagues join me in celebrating Ms. Fletcher's 90th birthday and celebrating all of the hard work she has accomplished as a woman pioneer and Polish-American.

#### ZIMBABWE DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

### HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2001*

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, at the international Relations Committee meeting of November 28, 2001, which considered the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001, I asked a question of my colleagues who were vociferously supporting this misdirected piece of legislation: "Can anyone explain how the people in question who now have the land in question in Zimbabwe got title to the land?"

My query was met with a deafening silence. Those who knew did not want to admit the truth and those who didn't know should have known—that the land was stolen from its indigenous peoples through the British South Africa Company and any "titles" to it were illegal and invalid. Whatever the reason for their silence, the answer to this question is the unspoken but real reason for why the United States Congress is now concentrating its time and resources on squeezing an economically-devastated African state under the hypocritical guise of providing a "transition to democracy."

Zimbabwe is Africa's second-longest stable democracy. It is multi-party. It had elections last year where the opposition, Movement for Democratic Change, won over 50 seats in the parliament. It has an opposition press which vigorously criticizes the government and governing party. It has an independent judiciary which issues decisions contrary to the wishes of the governing party. Zimbabwe is not without troubles, but neither is the United States. I have not heard anyone proposing a United States Democracy Act following last year's Presidential electoral debacle. And if a foreign country were to pass legislation calling for a United States Democracy Act which provided funding for United States opposition parties under the fig leaf of "Voter Education," this body and this country would not stand for it.

There are many de jure and de facto one-party states in the world which are the recipients of support of the United States government. They are not the subject of Congressional legislative sanctions. To any honest observer, Zimbabwe's sin is that it has taken the position to right a wrong, whose resolution has been too long overdue—to return its land to its people. The Zimbabwean government has said that a situation where 2 percent of the population owns 85 percent of the best land is untenable. Those who presently own more than one farm will no longer be able to do so.

When we get right down to it, this legislation is nothing more than a formal declaration of United States complicity in a program to maintain white-skin privilege. We can call it an "incentives" bill, but that does not change its essential "sanctions" nature. It is racist and against the interests of the masses of Zimbabweans. In the long-run the Zimbabwe Democracy Act will work against the United States having a mutually beneficial relationship with Africa.

NEED FOR REESTABLISHING THE  
OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY AS-  
SESSMENT

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, complex issues are facing Congress, many in the realm of science and technology. Current events are challenging our traditional understanding of medicine, engineering, science, environment, and telecommunications. Mail decontamination is just one issue where Congress needs better science advice.

Thousands of people have been affected by anthrax in our mail—millions more by the uncertainty and fear it has caused. Congress still has not received mail, severing a vital link to our constituents. Part of the reason for this delay is that there is no precedent for killing anthrax spores.

If the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) existed today, we could expect to have already received information about rapid ways to decontaminate our mail. During its 23 years of existence, OTA provided Congress with well-respected, impartial analysis and advice, including valuable reports on terrorism, national security, and communication. If OTA existed today, they would have already completed reports useful to us in making decisions about the current war on terrorism.

Congress needs better scientific information. We need unbiased analysis and advice on the impact and use of technologies. We need to understand how technology can be used to hurt us and how we can use it to strengthen and defend our nation.

When OTA's funding was eliminated due to government downsizing in 1995, Congress lost a valuable and unique resource. Please join me, along with 55 of my colleagues, in co-sponsoring H.R. 2148, bipartisan legislation to reestablish the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA).

TERRORISM RISK PROTECTION  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2001*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3210, the Terrorism Risk Protection Act.

In the last two months, the Financial Services Committee, on which I serve, has held two hearings plus a roundtable on the state of

the insurance industry after the September 11 terrorist attack. From these meetings, a consensus on several facts emerged. First, the lack of available terrorism reinsurance may cause significant disruption in the primary commercial insurance markets.

Second, without assurances that commercial firms can receive terrorism coverage, lenders (such as banks or other institutional investors) will not underwrite new loans for construction projects necessary to grow our economy.

Finally, and most importantly, is the fact that prompt congressional action on this issue is essential, since most reinsurance contracts will be renewed on January 1. Absent some form of terrorism coverage, the economic effects to our country will be devastating.

On November 7, a proposed bipartisan solution to this problem was reported by the House Financial Services Committee (H.R. 3210) by a voice vote. Our committee reported legislation that provided immediate assistance in the case of a terrorist disaster; it spread the risk across the industry, helping the industry to essentially act as its own reinsurer; it spread the costs out over time, to minimize the impact of an event in any given year; and it provided limited liability relief to protect insurers and taxpayers against litigation in the event of an attack.

Mr. Speaker, this bill was considered under regular order—the deliberative congressional process—as all legislation should. Our committee held hearings and markups; we took testimony from all interested parties; we vigorously debated all of the relevant issues; and we reported a well-thought out, well-designed, bipartisan product that met the needs of the marketplace.

Unfortunately, the majority leadership decided yesterday that their pre-September 11 agenda was more important than the deliberative legislative process and the will of the Financial Services Committee, which includes almost one-fifth of this House. At 2:30 p.m., yesterday afternoon, the majority leader introduced an entirely new product that did little to address the real needs of the insurance markets, but rather addressed the majority's desire to change long-standing and well established legal procedure in this country. Adding insult to injury, the majority party designed a rule that eviscerated the will of the Financial Services Committee by automatically making in order the leader's bill without allowing the full House the courtesy of a vote on our bipartisan product.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot support disregard for the expertise of committees, the erosion of our legislative process, and abuse of minority rights. I can no longer support business as usual.

The real injustice in the majority's actions is the fact that we must pass responsible legislation to provide terrorism coverage for primary insurers and policyholders. I hope the other body quickly enacts legislation to address the real needs of the marketplace, while eliminating the extraneous provisions attached to the product we are considering today. Our country needs that legislation. I want to vote for that legislation. I look forward to soon being able to vote for a conference report that reflects the priorities of the Financial Services Committee and respects the processes of our institutions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker on December 4, 2001, I had official business in my Congressional District and I missed rollcall votes 466, 467 and 468. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the aforementioned rollcall votes.

HONORING THE 2001 RIVERDALE  
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishment of a dedicated group of young men who worked together in the true spirit of sportsmanship to achieve a distinguished goal.

The Riverdale High School football team of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, won the state 5-A football championship this past season, the school's third state football title in 7 years. The Warriors ended the 2001 season with a perfect 15-0 record by beating Mid-state rival Hendersonville High School 35-7 in the Blue Cross Bowl.

The Riverdale Warriors trained vigorously and played tirelessly the entire season. They deserve recognition for a job well done. I congratulate each player, manager, trainer, and coach for an outstanding season. The Warriors are led by head coach Gary Rankin and assistant coaches Steve Britton, Ron Crawford, Ricky Field, Matt Gardner, Tracy Malone, Thomas McDaniel, Jason Scharsch, Matt Snow, Jeremy Stansbury, Nick Patterson and Greg Wyant. Managers Cody Dittfurth, Markey Burke, Cheryelle Ayers and Jennifer Headly contributed much time and effort to the team, as well, as did trainers Jennifer Snell, Lindsey Robinson and Celcka Akins.

The 2001 Class 5-A state champion Warriors are Corey Hathaway, Ward Poston, Tre' Dalton, Taron Henry, Marcus King, Jamaal Price, Grant Kolka, C.J. Powell, Terrell Coleman, LaBrian Lyons, Kevin Murray, Jervell Ford, Jay Carter, Stephen Britton, Ryan Hallman, Brian Campbell, Keith Bridges, Tron Baker, Alex Watson, Anton Bates, Don Mitchell, Devin Young, Ralph King, Edgar Martin, Jean Paul Gadie, Jeremy Jackson, Spike McDaniel, Edrell Smith, Emanuel Oglesby, Will Bullock, Andrew Morris, Jeremy Hurd, Kevin Davis, David Peterson, Tyler Campbell, A.J. Alexander, John Goodwin, Matthew Pedigo, John Batey, Albert Miles, Brandon Faulkner, Clay Richardson, Daniel Gammon, Brian Sawyer, Kris Kirby, Leon Alexander, Roger Winterbauer, Daniel Puckett, Charles Bigford, Michael Grove, Joe James, Brad Rainer, Ben Brazzell, Matthew Parton, John Awokoya, Ronnie Johns, ndrew Bigford, Wes Hall, William Lee, Marvin Richardson, Edward Belcher, Charles Todd, Kenyon Buford, Travis Livingston, Aubrey McCrary, Cortez Lawrence, Dustin Davis, Daniel Jones, David Varl, David Nickens, Glen Suggs, Curtis Smith, Heath Evans, Chad Neese, Jason Kidd, Jeremy Anderson and Rhyann Maupin.

TRIBUTE TO THE ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION OF GREATER DETROIT

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize a community whose outstanding dedication and commitment has led to a great accomplishment. On Saturday, November 10, 2001, the Islamic Association of Greater Detroit will celebrate the completion of its beautiful Mosque expansion, a project that has been the heart and driving force of this entire community.

Located in Rochester Hills, the Islamic Association of Greater Detroit (IAGD) has always been a flourishing center of religious and social activity. Joyfully celebrating Ramadan and the Eid holidays, while lending a helping hand to those suffering and working for charitable causes, the IAGD has been a welcoming home to all who have walked through its doors.

However as the community began to grow and expand, its ideas and vision for the future began to grow with it. Dedicating over fifteen years of their time and talents to expansion efforts, this community envisioned a center that would continue to cultivate its community roots as well as reach out to younger generations. With new constructions including a large banquet and social hall, classrooms, library, gymnasium, and so much more, the completion of this Mosque expansion has truly become an example to all communities. Donating their time, money and efforts to a vision that is shared by Muslim Americans across the nation, this community's hard work and dedication to the completion of this beautiful new Mosque will assuredly become an inspiration for the next generations of Muslims in America.

I applaud the Islamic Association of Greater Detroit for reaching this historic milestone, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this landmark occasion.

TRIBUTE TO THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF GARDEN VILLAS ELEMENTARY MUSIC MAGNET SCHOOL

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 70th Anniversary of Garden Villas Elementary Music Magnet School, a campus of the Houston Independent School District. The anniversary celebration will be held the week of December 3–7, 2001.

Garden Villas Music Academy was established in 1931 to accommodate those students in grade levels 1–10 residing in the Garden Villas region of southwest Houston. This community has a rich history that dates back to World War II. In the early 1950s the neighborhood was annexed into Houston incorporating Garden Villas Elementary into Houston Independent School District. Located on an acre of land, the school provides a comfortable and peaceful atmosphere, an ideal location for the

cultivation of music skills. Currently, Garden Villas Elementary serves 920 students ranging from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

The mission of Garden Villas Elementary is to provide a safe environment in which students enhance their academic growth and enrich their education by participating in an exceptional music and fine arts curriculum. Students receive specialized instruction in a variety of areas, including strings, band, piano, art, dance, creative writing, and gymnastics. The faculty encourages young artists to work together to prepare performances and create exhibitions that display their appreciation of the arts, develop creativity and build self-esteem. Excellence in the arts is a natural, integrated extension of the academic program at Garden Villas Elementary Magnet School.

In addition to exemplary curriculum, Garden Villas Elementary, participates in programs designed to develop socially conscious, well-rounded students, such as United Way Kids, Red Ribbon Week, St. Jude's Mathathon and D.A.R.E. I applaud the faculty of Garden Villas Elementary for their creativity and leadership.

Again, I would like to recognize the 70th Anniversary of Garden Villas Elementary Music Magnet School and congratulate the students and faculty on 70 years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

**HON. DOUG OSE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, 2001 I was unavoidably absent during rollcall votes 433, 434 and 435.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on vote 433, approving the Journal, "yes" on vote 434, agreeing to the conference report on the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations for FY 2002, and "yes" on vote 435, the motion to instruct conferees on the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations for FY 2002.

I ask unanimous consent that these remarks be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD immediately following these votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

November 29, 2001, rollcall vote 459, on approving the Journal, I would have voted "yea".

November 30, 2001, rollcall vote 465, on agreeing to the conference report for H.R. 2299, I would have voted "yea".

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2001*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to the success of Hispanic businesses in the United States and Latin America and to offer my strong support of H. Con. Res. 277.

The Hispanic community has become the fastest growing minority group in the United States. The Hispanic community plays an essential role in sustaining the viability of the nation's economy and the number of Hispanic-owned firms is growing rapidly. According to the Census Survey of minority-owned business enterprises, Hispanic-owned business in the United States totaled 1.2 million firms in 1997 and employed over one million people. These businesses generated nearly \$200 billion in revenues.

At the center of the growth is the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Over the years, the chamber has worked closely with the concerns and issues that affect Hispanic firms, developing business relationships, promoting international trade, and advocating to the Congress and Administration on behalf of these businesses. The Chamber's commitment to the Hispanic business community is a contribution to the economic empowerment of the Latino population as a whole and its impact has been felt throughout the Nation.

Promoting Latino-owned businesses is particularly important in my congressional district of Upper Manhattan. The Hispanic influence in this community is significant and the Chambers' continuing efforts to promote such ownership, particularly in the small business arena is critical to the economic viability of my community and its future. For the Chamber's initiatives, I commend them.

THE DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT LEE BOLLINGER FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**HON. LYNN N. RIVERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lee C. Bollinger, who will be leaving as president of the University of Michigan at the end of this month to become president of Columbia University in July.

For nearly 5 years, Mr. Bollinger has been a transforming leader at the University of Michigan, whose Ann Arbor campus is in my congressional district. During that time he has achieved a number of major accomplishments.

One of those efforts is the Life Sciences Initiative, which was launched in 1999. With a commitment of \$100 million in campus funds, a \$130 million endowment and additional revenues, the University will become a major source of research on human genomics, chemical and structural biology, and bioinformatics. A new six-story Life Sciences

Institute is now under construction on the Ann Arbor campus. The university will also benefit from the state's Life Science Corridor, a 20-year program to develop new technologies in the life sciences statewide.

Mr. Bollinger has also overseen the most successful fund-raising campaign in history, raising nearly \$1 billion since 1997. In three of those four years, Michigan raised more money from alumni than any other public university. Research expenditures also reached record levels under his stewardship to stand among the highest in the nation.

By far, one of his most significant contributions has been his ardent and effective defense of affirmative action in admissions. Mr. Bollinger has been a strong supporter of the need for diversity in higher education, and his willingness to fight several lawsuits on that issue underscore his strong commitment to that principle. I know of no president who has been so closely tied to students and who has related as well to the thousands of young men and women at the university.

From bringing the Royal Shakespeare Company to Ann Arbor to dedicating the new Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, Lee Bollinger has been a man of vision—a leader of compassion—and a strong advocate for the principles that he and the University embody.

I know he has mixed feelings about leaving behind the Michigan family as he moves on to Columbia next year. But those of us who have seen the progress and growth of the university under his tutelage can only say "thank you" to Lee for his outstanding service to the University, to the people of Michigan and to the nation.

I call upon all my colleagues to thank him for his legacy of service, and to join me in wishing him and his wife Jean well in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHAN WICHAR,  
SR.

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Stephan Wichar, whose achievements span the decades and have touched the lives of so many in the city of Warren and beyond. As family, friends, and community members gathered together on Sunday, November 18, 2001, they honored Steve Wichar for his years of service, as a distinguished Ukrainian-American who has shown outstanding leadership and support in his community and beyond.

President of the Ukrainian Village Board of Directors and distinguished community activist, Steve Wichar has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to both the Ukrainian and American communities. President of the Board of Directors at Wingate Management, Steve has been providing leadership and expertise for over 14 years. He has worked hard to improve safety in Detroit Public Schools and lent countless hours to the Boy's Club of America. His efforts to help prenatualized students overcome the challenges they face in public schools has been remarkable, and he has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Children of Chernobyl Fund.

Faithfully committed to his Ukrainian heritage as well, his unparalleled devotion to Ukrainian senior citizens is reflected in his 13-year tenure as president of the Ukrainian Village Corporation. Steve served in World War II, and his leadership on behalf of Ukrainian American Veterans has been extraordinary. But Steve's efforts and achievements do not stop at veterans' affairs. Steve is the longest serving president of the Ukrainian American Center. He has successfully lobbied for continued aid to Ukraine, has kept an unwavering focus on human rights, and continues to work hard to bring Ukraine into the international community.

Steve has devoted his life to his community, and his efforts have brought great accomplishments for schools, seniors, veterans, and foreign policy. He is a respected scholar, teacher, and friend. It gives me great pleasure to honor Steve, for his leadership and commitment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his exemplary years of dedication and service.

PROMOTING TOLERANCE

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise again to urge this chamber to bring the Hate Crime Legislation H.R. 1342 to the floor for a vote.

This Nation has seen a sharp rise in hate crimes against individuals perceived to be of Middle Eastern descent or Muslim.

I stood right here 3 weeks ago and said there had been over 1,100 reported complaints since September 11th. That number has now jumped to almost 1,500.

What is it going to take to get people to realize that hate crimes aren't like other crimes?

People are attacked and intimidated because of how they look or where they pray.

Assault, harassment, discrimination, death threats, hate mail, and even death are occurring in schools, workplaces, airports, and homes.

My own family received a threat. My sister received a call about an anthrax letter being sent to her.

Hate crimes terrorize their victims. When a group is targeted no member of the group can feel completely safe.

There have been stories of Muslim men shaving their beards and removing their turbans just to feel safe.

Our Nation has the will to fight for the freedom of others in Afghanistan. We should make sure we have the will to fight for the freedom from hate crimes in our own country.

California has seen one of the largest increases in hate crimes of all the states.

Since September 11th in Los Angeles county alone, there have been 156 reported incidents against those perceived to be Arabs or Muslim. This includes 2 homicides.

This is a huge increase over last year, when there were just 12 reported incidents in Los Angeles County.

I am alarmed at these shameless acts.

Our diversity is our strength and we must remain united.

Our children learn prejudice and intolerance from us.

If we ignore acts of discrimination or make derogatory comments about other cultures, religions or ethnic groups what are we teaching our children?

Haven't we had enough? The violence, discrimination and intimidation against our Arab and Muslim neighbors must stop now.

Our children must be taught that it's not okay to use derogatory words against people of another race, religion or ethnic group.

A hate crime does not have to involve an actual act of violence to start the cycle of tension and deterioration of civil society that leads to violence.

Juveniles represent about half of hate crime offenders.

Our children need our help to understand hate crimes and to stop the cycle of senseless acts of hate.

It's time for Congress to take action against hate and intolerance and bring H.R. 1343, the Hate Crimes bill, to the floor for a vote.

HONORING CHARLES WHITE

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles White a longtime United Automobile Workers activist. Charles will be honored by the UAW Region 1C Retirees Legislative Committee on December 7, 2001 in my hometown of Flint.

Born in 1916, Charlie grew up in Missouri. During the 1920s he lived with an uncle who worked at Fisher Body in St. Louis. He moved to Flint and was hired in 1935 by General Motors to work at the Fisher Body 1 Plant. When General Motors attempted to remove the dies from the plant on December 30, 1936 the workers at Fisher Body Plant 1 joined the workers at Fisher Body Plant 2 to begin the historic sit-down strike. Charlie became a Flint Sit-Down Striker at that time.

Over the next weeks, Charlie worked tirelessly at the strike headquarters. He made banners, signs and drew editorial cartoons. When John L. Lewis came to Flint to work with the fledgling United Automobile Workers and help negotiate the settlement with General Motors, Charlie served as his bodyguard.

Continuing a tradition that had started during the strike, Charlie drew editorial cartoons for the union papers during the next forty years. Joining with his fellow UAW members, Charlie has fought for safety laws and improved conditions in the factories. He served as a union president and eventually retired in 1966 from UAW Local 581. In 1971 he became the Chairperson of the Local 581 Retiree Chapter and has continued in that capacity until the present time. He has been supported in his work by his wife, Barbara, and his three daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Charles White as he is honored by the retiree chapters in UAW Region 1C. His contributions have brought more humane working conditions in the our factories and a better life to workers everywhere.

TRIBUTE TO JAMIE ROCHELLE

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a woman of extraordinary ability, Jamie Rochelle, who this month ends an illustrious career at San Antonio's municipally-owned utility, City Public Service (CPS), and concludes her year-long service as chairman of the board for the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. She has proven herself not only a capable leader and chief executive, but also an important member of our community. Her efforts have made San Antonio a better place to work and live.

Jamie Rochelle is a true success story. What began as a computer programming job at CPS started her on a 31-year path that led her to become in 1998 the first female general manager and chief executive officer at CPS, now the second largest municipally-owned utility in the United States with more than \$6 billion in assets. What's best, her leadership has helped keep CPS rates among the very lowest in the country. During her time at CPS, she handled a large debt refinancing yielding \$20 million in interest savings, streamlined company management, managed supply crises well, and struck beneficial deals that helped the company save money and improve service. These experiences made her a successful manager and an astute chief executive.

CPS enjoys a diverse array of energy sources, protecting customers from market fluctuations and supply interruptions. Ms. Rochelle saw to it that CPS expanded its generating capacity while working to protect the environment. Last year, she took pride in bringing on-line a new state of the art gas-fired power plant. Under her leadership, the company was quick to respond last year to surging gas prices in an effort to soften the impact on the many vulnerable families it serves. Even in the absence of crisis, CPS a Project WARM fund to provide financial assistance to help needy families pay their utility bills.

CPS also takes pride in the success of its small and disadvantaged business outreach program. This past year CPS received the coveted Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence from the United States Small Business Administration. Competing against 2,500 utilities nationwide, CPS won this honor for its proven record of reaching out to and including small business in its contracting operation. Similarly, CPS has proven to be a good corporate neighbor. Whether through its Share the Warmth program to provide warm clothes in the winter, or its Weatherization Program to better insulate older, inner city homes in the summer, CPS and its employees reach out with a helping hand.

Jamie Rochelle has helped make CPS a pro-active leader in renewable energy research and development. In April 2000, CPS began to offer wind-generated electricity to its customers. With a financial investment, CPS supports solar energy projects in San Antonio. One project, in cooperation with Solar San Antonio, will assist local government in reducing energy consumption and researching the feasibility of renewable energy sources. One of

its new service centers will become a working showcase in the possibilities of solar energy.

Jamie Rochelle has worked closely with me and my staff on projects important to our community and the Nation. Among other things, she has supported our efforts to transform Brooks AFB into a more efficient entity, known as a city-base, by partnering with the Air Force and academia on innovative energy projects. CPS partners with the Southwest Research Institute, Brooks AFB, St. Philips College and DCH Technology, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a year-long fuel cell research project at Brooks AFB, to find ways to make fuel cell technology feasible for residential uses. CPS has supported the Brooks Energy and Sustainability Laboratory, an effort coordinated by the Texas Engineering Experimental Station of Texas A&M University to make energy consumption in buildings operate at peak efficiency, cutting waste and conserving valuable resources. Most recently, Ms. Rochelle signed off on a partnership with the Department of Energy to develop at Brooks AFB a building cooling and heating plant as a model for efficient energy generation and use.

Jamie Rochelle is more than just a series of accomplishments, though she has had many and will likely have many more in the future. Quiet, confident and sure, she exemplifies good leadership. Knowing of the challenges facing not only CPS but San Antonio, she has provided a positive and inclusive vision for the company. She reaches out to others and has participated in numerous civic organizations, culminating in her past year as the head of the Greater Chamber. It has been my honor to work with her on behalf of the people of San Antonio.

PERMITTING LEGAL IMMIGRANTS  
WHO HAVE FILED FOR NATURALIZATION  
PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 11, 2001,  
TO KEEP THEIR JOBS AT OUR NATION'S AIRPORTS

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 3416 to amend PL107-71, the recently passed Aviation Security Act.

PL107-71 prohibits the hiring of non-citizens in airport security programs no matter how well qualified. This prohibition is an egregious, unfair provision.

It forgets that 34,200 legal residents are active in the U.S. Armed Forces and that 12,600 serve in our Reserves and are willing to give their lives in defense of our freedom.

If legal residents can fight for us in war, they should be able to protect us in airports.

If legal residents are otherwise qualified to serve as our airport security officers, they ought not to be denied employment just because they are not citizens.

My bill, H.R. 3416, does not totally fix the basic problem. But it protects employment rights to legal residents who have filed for naturalization prior to September 11, 2001.

If a legal resident is otherwise cleared for employment and qualified for hire, lack of citizenship should not be a bar to hire if the legal resident has filed for naturalization prior to September 11, 2001.

This bill is fair. It opens the doors to continued employment in security jobs operated by the federal government under PL107-71. Under H.R. 3416, intent to become a U.S. citizen clears the way to being hired. Filing for naturalization should be recognized as giving the employee the bona fides needed to qualify.

There are many places where it still takes 18 months to 2 years to become a citizen after filing for naturalization.

These persons should not be prejudiced for the failure to process the papers in a more timely manner.

I urge my colleagues to support this fair and equitable compromise.

IN MEMORY OF TED GREGORY, A  
CINCINNATI LEGEND

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Ted Gregory, a friend and constituent who passed away on Sunday, December 2. Ted Gregory was a wonderful person who built a legacy based on his landmark restaurants, his generosity and community service.

Born in Windsor, Ontario, he grew up in Detroit. He moved to Montgomery, Ohio when it was still a rural area, bought the former McCabe's Inn and renamed it Montgomery Inn. Six years later, his wife Matula developed a secret barbecue sauce recipe that made the Inn a legend.

The restaurants, combined with Ted's warm personality and business acumen, made him a legend. Eventually, Ted's operation expanded, with the addition of three other dining venues in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. According to Restaurants and Institutions magazine, the industry's leading trade publication, Montgomery Inn is the leading rib restaurant chain in the U.S.—over 15 tons are sold each week. His employees were devoted to him—many were with him twenty years or more.

Although Ted was a good businessman, he was also a lot of fun. Wherever he went, he always brought a smile and his endless good humor with him. When Bob Hope visited Cincinnati to support the Bob Hope House, he and Ted became good friends. Many other former Presidents and celebrities visited Ted's restaurants to enjoy the famed ribs, including Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan, Vice President Dick Cheney, Tom Selleck, and Don Rickles.

His warmth extended to helping others. He generously supported the Cincinnati FreeStore/FoodBank, St. Rita's School for the Deaf, Sycamore High School, Bob Hope House, and Riding for the Handicapped.

All of us in Cincinnati will miss Ted Gregory's warmth, humor and love for life, and we extend our deepest sympathies to Matula and their children, Dean, Tom, Vickie and Terry.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE  
LATE JOHN T. O'CONNOR

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember John T. O'Connor, a community activist and environmental advocate who passed away on November 30, 2001. A longtime resident of Cambridge, Massachusetts, John O'Connor fought for many important causes, from ending poverty to protecting our environment.

He graduated from Clark University in 1978, beginning a career of public service and advocacy. After graduation, he joined the "Volunteers in Service to America", an organization focused on eliminating poverty. He went on to found the National Toxics Campaign in 1983 and fought tirelessly for passage of the Superfund law.

Mr. O'Connor never lost his commitment to preserving our environment and demonstrated this in a number of ways over the years. He served as Chairman of Gravestar, Inc—a development company that focused on environmentally sensitive real estate projects. In 1991, he founded Greenworks, a company that provides a wide range of services from office space, financial support and advice to environmental start-up companies.

Mr. O'Connor paid tribute to his Irish roots by serving on the Irish Famine Memorial Committee. The Committee successfully raised the funds to construct a memorial in Cambridge and dedicated it in the presence of Mary Robinson, then President of Ireland.

Many people have stories to tell about Mr. O'Connor's generosity and his spirit. He helped local young people by providing guidance, advice and even money for college tuition. By these actions, he no doubt changed the course of many young lives for the better.

Mr. O'Connor made the world a better place in so many ways. He was generous with his time and his considerable talents, helping to further so many different causes, both large and small. He dedicated a significant amount of time and money to charitable organizations, making a tangible difference in the lives of so many.

I came to know John O'Connor first as a local businessman, then as an opponent in the 1998 congressional race, and later as a friend. He touched many lives in his 46 years, including mine, and I am saddened by his passage. My thoughts and prayers are with John's wife, Carolyn Mugar, his family and his many friends during this difficult time.

HONORING THE IDAHO PEARL  
HARBOR SURVIVOR'S ASSOCIATION

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a generation of American patriots. They were the men and women at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii that day of infamy, December 7, 1941. The men and women who served and died at Pearl Harbor paid a great price to our nation.

Today as we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, I would like to honor the men and women who make up the Idaho Pearl Harbor Survivor's Association. This group of 50 active members helps keep the memory of those who served so bravely alive. To be a member you must be a military survivor of the December 7th attack, have been within a three-mile radius of the Island of Oahu between 7:55 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.

The nation-wide group has approximately 10,000 members and started with just 11 people in 1958. The Magic Valley Chapter started on Feb. 17, 1979 with five members. Over the years, the members have given back to each Idaho community—buying flags, talking with youth groups, and performing countless hours of community service. They have sounded their motto, "Remember Pearl Harbor—Keep America Alert" in all their activities. How poignant this statement is considering the events of September 11, 2001.

Today, I would like to honor this group by naming each survivor who currently lives in Idaho. This list is according to the Idaho Pearl Harbor Association. The members are:

Harold F. Beebe, Pocatello, Kaneohe NAS; Ralph Eaton, Twin Falls, USS Henley; Richard Hansing, Twin Falls, USS Nevada; C.H. Harame, Pocatello, USS Detroit; William Harten, Idaho Falls, USS West Virginia; Pershing Hill, Idaho Falls, USS Nevada; Leroy J. Kohntopp, Filer, USS Maryland; Gale D. Mohlenbrink, Buhl, USS Northampton; Patrick C. O'Connor, Pocatello, Receiving Station, Pearl Harbor; Robert R. Olsen, Chubbuck, Naval Hospital; Steve F. Phillips, Challis, Ford Island NAS; David R. Roessler, Gooding, 24 SIG.; Tony Sabala, Jerome, 21st INF.; Irvin A. Satterfield, American Falls, USS Argonne; Nicholaus Galyos, Post Falls, 407th SIG; Miles R. Gillespie, Nampa, 27th INF.; Roy Hayter, Athol, USS Honolulu; Munith F. Higbee, Meridian, USS Phelps; Don A. Irby, Boise, USS Maryland; Wallace R. Jacobs, Lewiston, USS California; Dale E. Magnus, Pinehurst, USS Cummings; James R. Mallory, Boise, USS St. Louis; Ernest R. Mangrum, Boise, USS West Virginia; Eugene N. McDonough, Boise, 24th INF.; Dallas F. Pohlmann, Boise, Pack Train; Glenn R. Rosenberry, Caldwell, HQ 18th Bomb EG.; Carrol V. Rowell, Boise, 2d Marie Air WG; Robert W. Arent, Nampa, USS Maryland; Richard L. Artley, Lewiston, USS Oklahoma; Ray Aznavoorian, Post Falls, USS Ontario; Conway B. Benson, Boise, USS Tennessee; Thomas A. Brown, Boise, USS Phoenix; Frank A. Cannon, Orofino, USS Wasmuth; Robert A. Coates, Nampa, USS Nevada; James R. Critchett, Silverton, Kaneohe, NAS; Frank R. Dallas, Meridian, HQ 18th Bomb WG.

USS Ogalala; Harold M. Sr. Erland, Boise, HQ HAW.; Dan C. Fry, Banks, Kaneohe; Horace E. Dresser, Caldwell, USS San Francisco; Raymond W. Garland, Couer D'Alene; USS Tennessee; John R. Sandell, Kamiah, HQ 5th Bomb GP; James K. Thomas, Boise; Franklin Elliott, Eagle.

HQ Hawaiian AF; Kenneth F. Walters, Lewiston, USS Pennsylvania.

On behalf of all Idahoans and Americans everywhere, "thank you" for your sacrifice and service to your country. You've reminded Americans that we can never become complacent and must keep our defenses strong. We will remember Pearl Harbor and always be on alert.

TRIBUTE TO ROLLIN "RUFFY"  
JOHNSON ON THE OCCASION OF  
HIS RETIREMENT AS A VFW AS-  
SISTANT DEPARTMENT SERVICE  
OFFICER

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a U.S. military veteran—a special veteran, one who after completing his own tour of duty has spent a career providing assistance to other veterans. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rollin "Ruffy" Johnson on the occasion of his retirement as a Veterans of Foreign Wars assistant state service officer for the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

It is conventional wisdom that no person in any organization—and that includes you and I, Mr. Speaker—is truly irreplaceable, but Michigan veterans may look long and hard before they come up with an individual who has worked and battled so hard for the rights for our former military men and women as Ruffy Johnson has. I guess that, in Ruffy's case, his work on behalf of veterans blends innate Yooper cussedness with the personal style of a person who has claimed that his nickname "Ruffy" comes from his early days of enjoying a good fight. If you combine those characteristics with the important task of fighting for veterans' benefits, you know you have a mixture that can make people at the Department of Veterans Affairs sit up and listen.

After graduating in 1951 from Negaunee High School in Michigan's U.P., Ruffy enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving the first two years on the destroyer U.S.S. Beale and two more years at a base in the Mediterranean. His four-year hitch completed, he returned to the U.P. and was one of the first dozen civilians hired at K.I. Sawyer, a Strategic Air Command Base near Marquette, which is now closed. Following his Sawyer job he worked for a number of years for the U.S. Post office, but he took the job that really concerns us here in 1988, when he accepted a position with the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars as an assistant state service officer in Detroit.

At least one Detroit colleague remembers Ruffy arriving from the U.P. with his wife Doreen in their pickup truck, and that colleague recalls checking to see if there was a hunting rifle in the rear window. Doreen remembers there was no gun, but she believes the rack was probably there.

Mr. Speaker, I said that Rolling Johnson was a fighter for veterans. An example of his tenacity is what occurred after Ruffy learned that veterans were being pressed for the co-payments of their prescription drugs. He inquired about the appeal process and was told by the VA there was no appeal. Well, Mr. Speaker, the VA had tangled with the wrong guy, and through the tenacity of Ruffy Johnson a national appeal process was established.

Ruffy was transferred from Detroit back to the U.P. in 1992. His initial veterans' service area was the eastern U.P. but by the end of the decade he was assisting across the Upper Peninsula. I know what's involved in that effort, Mr. Speaker, because I have put more

than five hundred thousand miles in driving around my congressional district. Ruffy has clearly been up to the task, serving above and beyond the call of duty by going to every convention and every meeting that involved veterans. He was instrumental in creating a program to name a U.P. Veteran of the Year, and he has been active as a judge in those great VFW programs, Voice of Democracy and National Youth Essay.

Ruffy has held numerous positions at his own local post, Negaunee's Post 3165, including serving as post commander in 1980–81. He is currently 14th District Junior Vice Commander.

Ruffy has counseled widows of veterans on the benefits they are due, fought to keep veterans in nursing homes, and helped process myriad claims for deserving former military individuals. All his great attributes aside, however, Ruffy has one blind spot. Maybe it was those years in Detroit, but despite the advice of friends, despite the wishes of his own children, he remains a Detroit Lions fan in the heart of Green Bay Packer country. We'll forgive him this flaw.

Mr. Speaker, on Dec. 8, Ruffy Johnson will be honored by friends, peers, his wife of 45 years, his career-Army son, and two of his three daughters who are able to make it, at a gathering in Ishpeming, Michigan, I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in saluting Rollin "Ruffy" Johnson, a true friend of veterans in northern Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO MS. DEBBIE TAMLIN

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the House to congratulate and call attention to one of Colorado's truly out-

standing citizens. Ms. Debbie Tamlin of Fort Collins, Colorado, this week, has been named Realtor of the Year by her peers and colleagues of the Fort Collins Board of Realtors, a commendation she richly deserves for a variety of reasons. Debbie is a true professional who never lets up until her clients are well served. Her standard is excellence, and her dedication to her profession is legendary.

Debbie is proprietor and president of her own firm ZTI Group. She has been a real estate broker in Colorado for over twenty years, and president ZTI Group since 1989. Recently she was awarded for her work receiving the Distinguished Service Award twice from the Colorado Association of Realtors (CAR), and the 2001 Political Service Award from CAR.

Debbie is a familiar face at the Colorado State Capitol, at the County Courthouse, at City Hall, and even here in the nation's Capitol. She is clearly my community's most forceful and most competent advocate for the improvement of laws to benefit consumers and to build a stronger, healthier community. As one who for thirteen years has been on the receiving end of Debbie's lobbying, I can tell you, she's not to twist arms, make threats, or mislead. She's a skilled negotiator, a brilliant intellectual, and an honorable decent woman whose word is her bond, and whose integrity precedes her. Of course she's persuasive. Many of the best laws related to property rights and housing at the federal, state, and local level have only been accomplished because of Debbie Tamlin's devotion to her community and her profession.

Debbie Tamlin is a political activist. She's backed me in each of my efforts to represent Colorado, and I humbly warrant I would not have succeeded were it not for her assistance. In fact, there are many leaders in office today who owe their election victories to Debbie. Conversely, there are many aspirants whose political ambitions have been dashed because of Debbie \* \* \* well, let's just say because Debbie didn't see things exactly their way.

Mr. Speaker, Coloradans know and appreciate Debbie Tamlin's numerous achievements, but to me, Debbie is a close friend, one I've known since I first arrived in Colorado. She's a devoted mother, a pious believer, and one of the most honorable people I've ever met. Whenever there is a cause, Debbie is there to be its champion. Whenever there is a need, Debbie is there to help. Whenever there is a challenge, Debbie is there to face it. She's a profile in courage, a heroine of endless generosity, and a loyal friend to many.

Debbie Tamlin is an authentic American and an enthusiastic patriot. She loves the West and all its traditions. She embodies the spirit of freedom and the hope of a brighter tomorrow; and she inspires all around her to achieve great things that once seemed only distant dreams. She's a leader—one whose mark on her community is unmistakable and always positive—the kind of leader who makes her friends and neighbors proud, sets the bar high, and leaves us in awe. She is respected across the country and beyond even that. Her passion for excellence in her professional life and personal life make her extraordinary. She is a splendid woman.

Mr. Speaker, it's difficult for any of us to describe the essence of a particular State. Colorado, for example, is known for many things—a rich history, rugged mountains, wild majestic skies and hard-working people. Debbie Tamlin is the face of Colorado. Her life's work embodies the qualities we all admire. She's a loving wife, a caring mother, and gentle soul and impressive figure in Colorado's bright future.

I am grateful for our colleagues from throughout the nation who join us tonight in expressing our warmest commendations and congratulations to Debbie. She's more than the Realtor of the Year, she's Debbie Tamlin. May God continue to richly bless her and her family.

## 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, December 6, 2001 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## DECEMBER 7

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings on the nomination of Sean O'Keefe, of New York, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.  
SR-253

## Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the employment-unemployment situation for November, focusing on payroll employment figures.  
1334 Longworth Building

## DECEMBER 10

10 a.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings on the nomination of David L. Bunning, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky.  
SD-226

## DECEMBER 11

9:30 a.m.

## Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the local role in homeland security.  
SD-342

10 a.m.

## Judiciary

Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine homeland defense issues, focusing on sharing information with local law enforcement.  
SD-226

## DECEMBER 12

10 a.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the future of the Microsoft settlement.  
SD-226

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the state of human rights, democracy and security concerns in Kyrgyzstan, focusing on human rights and democracy in the Central Asian region.  
334 Cannon Building

## DECEMBER 13

9:30 a.m.

## Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine security of the passenger and transit rail infrastructure.  
SD-342

10 a.m.

## Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine housing and community development needs in America.  
SD-538

## Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.  
SD-226

## DECEMBER 18

10 a.m.

## Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the limits of existing laws with respect to protecting against genetic discrimination.  
SD-106