Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.'' I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 187, H.R. 1877, on Approving the Journal. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 188, H. Res. 426, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 3129, Customs Border Security Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 189, H.R. 3448, Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 190, H.R. 3717, the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 191, Paying Tribute to the Workers at Ground Zero in New York. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

TRIBUTE TO DR. VIRGINIA CAROL DEMCHIK

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and congratulating Dr. Virginia Carol Demchik of Shepherdstown, West Virginia who has been honored by the West Virginia Academy of Science as Science Teacher of the Year.

The West Virginia Academy of Science is an organization meeting and working with professional associates in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geology, Mathematics, Mining, Physics, Psychology and Education, History and Philosophy of Science and Social Science. It is a corporation chartered by the authority of the West Virginia legislature for the advancement of scientific knowledge and the promotion of scientific work in West Virginia. In receiving the coveted Science Teacher of the Year Award, Dr. Demchik has accomplished no small feat.

Dr. Demchik received her BA from Fairmont State College and her MA and Ed.D from West Virginia University. Based on summer grants she has received, Dr. Demchik has attended the College of Graduate Studies at the University of Maryland, American University, East Carolina University, University of Iowa and Shepherd College.

In honor of Dr. Demchik's hard work, dedication and commitment to her students and community, I ask my friends in Shepherdstown, and my colleagues here in the nation's capital to join me in recognizing May 23, 2002 as a day of celebration and recognition for Dr. Virginia Carol Demchik.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to cast my votes on rollcall vote Nos. 171, 172, and 173 on May 20, 2002. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on rollcall Nos. 171, 172, and 173.

MEDICARE PROVISIONS OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer an amendment to strike Section 1404 from this bill. This provision would assist a mere handful of hospitals in Pennsylvania and New York, at the expense of every other hospital in the country. Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to drain funding from any of our nation's hospitals, especially as we debate a bill that is meant to strengthen our ability to respond to medical emergencies that could strike anywhere across the nation.

Mr. Speaker, hospitals in my State of Maine cannot afford any further reimbursement cuts, no matter how small. My state already has the 5th–lowest Medicare reimbursement rate in the country. Our hospitals are operating on razor-thin margins. In a state as geographically large as Maine, we already struggle with access to medical services. Further cuts will only exacerbate the problem.

This provision is a clear case of robbing Peter to pay Paul. In fact, it's even worse because there are just a few select Pauls, and a nation full of Peters. Why should the vast majority of Members tell their seniors that their access to care may be jeopardized by a gift to a few select hospitals somewhere else? How can we effectively fight AIDS and infectious diseases through increased spending in this bill, when at the same time we weaken our hospitals? What sense does it make to give money to speed our first response to attacks, while at the same time taking funds from the hospitals who would be on the front line?

If the Pennsylvania and New York counties that are helped by Section 1404 actually met the criteria for geographic reclassification, they would have been approved by the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board. Instead, these counties will be boosting their Medicare reimbursement rates by going around the rules—the rules that the rest of us have to live by.

Mr. Speaker, I know all too well that the geographic adjustment system for Medicare payment rates needs reform. My State of Maine is among the most egregiously affected by the current system, and I would be happy to work with any of my colleagues who wish to seek reform to make reimbursement rates more equitable. I strongly support improved reimbursement for all our nation's hospitals. However, this provision in this bill only serves to benefit a select number of facilities, and will detract from the ability of all others to meet their obligations to Medicare beneficiaries.

Section 1404 is unfair, it's unjust, and it's just plain bad policy. It certainly does not belong in an Emergency Supplemental, and therefore I move that we strike this provision from the bill. If we cannot remove this provision today, then I am hopeful that we can fix the problem in conference. This bill funds vital areas like defense, security and health, and the final bill should not be marred by this destructive measure.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF WEST ALLIS ON ITS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on June 2, 2002, the city of West Allis, Wisconsin will host the centennial celebration of its incorporation as a village. Happy 100th birthday, West Allis.

Native American mounds, likely left by ancestors of the Ho-Chunk or Potawatomi tribes in the ground near what today is Wisconsin's State Fair Park, provide evidence of some of the earliest residents in the area. But it was not until the 1830s that native tribes began to see New Englanders arrive in the region to farm its fertile lands and establish the area's first settlement, called Honey Creek. It may have remained a farming community for many years to come, had it not been for a rapid growth of heavy industry in the city of Milwaukee in the late 1800s and the extension of a street railway line to the area.

Milwaukee was running out of room for large manufacturing plants, and the Honey Creek area had become a highly desirable location for industry. Companies like Kearney and Trecker and the Rosenthal Comhusker Company began to make their home in the area that was now called North Greenfield, and soon Edward P. Allis decided that his company also needed room to grow.

In 1900, Allis moved his company, which had become an industry leader in machinery, to the area that would soon bear his name. Workers soon followed, and the population grew so quickly that the area was chartered as the Village of West Allis in 1902, and as a city only 4 years later.

The city of West Allis expanded to become the second largest city in Milwaukee County and seventh largest in the state. Although the region's decline in heavy manufacturing in the past several decades has brought challenges to the community, the city of West Allis and its mayor, Jeannette Bell, have worked tirelessly to bring in new businesses and revitalize West Allis neighborhoods.

West Allis remains a city that is proud of its industrial past and enthusiastic about its future. To the city of West Allis and its citizens, my heartiest congratulations, and my best wishes for a prosperous second century.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 3375—EMBASSY EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION ACT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3375, the Embassy Employee Compensation Act. Passage of this bill only makes common sense to me. After the tragic events of September 11, 2002, the United States Government vowed to make