

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING 14 YEARS OF  
STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM IN  
BURMA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember September 18th, 1988, a day fourteen years ago that a totalitarian military regime in Burma brutally shot, stabbed, and tortured its way to control. The regime killed an estimated 10,000 innocent people who marched on the streets and called for democracy, including women, children, students, Buddhist monks, teachers and others from all walks of life.

To this day, the 50 million people of Burma still suffer gross human rights abuses. According to credible organizations including the United Nations, U.S. State Department, and Amnesty International, the Burmese regime presses millions of persons into forced labor, holds over a thousand political prisoners, and organizes systematic, mass rapes in the Shan state. Evidence shows that Burma's military regime is among the world's most brutal.

In fact, the regime is so fearful of its own people that it has established a military intelligence service to squash free thinking and prevent even the discussion of ideas like freedom and democracy. On August 17th and 18th of this year, 15 students from the Rangoon University and Rangoon Institute of Technology, all under age 21, were arrested by the regime. Thirteen were arrested simply for forming a literary study group without permission of the authorities. Two others, Thet Naung Soe and Khin Maung Win, were arrested in front of Rangoon City Hall for handing out leaflets calling for the realization of democracy. It is expected that they will be sentenced to long prison terms where they are likely to be in serious danger of torture.

In July, two youth members of the rightfully elected National League for Democracy were arrested for possessing a secretive pro-democracy journal. They were beaten severely by the police and later sentenced to seven years imprisonment in a summary trial held in the infamous Insein prison.

In July, two youth members of the rightfully elected National League for Democracy were arrested for possessing a secretive pro-democracy journal. They were beaten severely by the police and later sentenced to seven years imprisonment in a summary trial held in the infamous Insein prison.

At the same time the regime has abused its own people, it has initiated an international diplomatic charm offensive to curry favor with the United States and other countries. The regime announced to the world on May 6, 2002, "We shall recommit ourselves to allowing all of our citizens to participate freely in the life of our political process."

The United States should not be fooled by false propaganda of the regime while the peo-

ple of Burma sacrifice for the freedom and democracy I believe in. The United States has always supported the struggle for freedom in Burma. Now, at this critical time, we must do all that is in our power to increase international pressure on this regime.

1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has courageously held together her country's freedom movement for the past 14 years, and she and the people of Burma deserve our ongoing support. Fourteen years into the struggle for freedom and Burma, I commend the courageous people of Burma who have never allowed their call for freedom to be crushed. Freedom united their cause. Courage gave it life. Tyranny tried to crush it. But to this day, hope inspires the people of Burma to continue in their struggle for democracy.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN FULLER ON  
HER RETIREMENT AS THE  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY LIBRARIAN

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Susan Fuller, a highly respected citizen of Santa Clara County, California, who is retiring from her position as the Santa Clara County Librarian on Thursday, September 19, 2002.

Susan Fuller has worked as a librarian for over twenty years in Santa Clara County. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley with a Masters degree in Library and Information Science, Susan began her career as a children's librarian before moving on to management positions in the Santa Clara County and San Jose Library systems. She became the Santa Clara County Librarian in 1985.

Susan Fuller's work and leadership for public libraries have not gone unnoticed. In 1995, in recognition of her significant contributions to the Santa Clara County Library, Susan Fuller was acknowledged by the Santa Clara County Valley Chapter of the American Society for Public Administrators as the 'Outstanding Public Administrator of the Year.' In 1998, she was recognized once again as the 'Librarian of the Year' by the Library Journal honoring her remarkable work and sharp leadership skills.

Susan Fuller's dedication to her job and her community helped the Santa Clara County Library earn the title of the number one public library in America in 2000. During her seventeen years as the county librarian, Susan helped increase circulation from 2,500,000 to 8,500,000, an achievement that exemplifies not only her extraordinary leadership, but her tireless dedication to the library system.

Susan Fuller has also been a leader in addressing issues facing libraries in this technology-driven era. She has responded to the

issue of appropriate Internet use by giving countless hours of her time to speak to members of her community about children's safety on the Internet, as well as freedom of speech and access to information at libraries. Her published work on the subject includes an essay in *Managing the Internet Controversy* called "Ethics and the Internet."

Mr. Speaker, Susan Fuller is an exceptional, respected and admired community leader and friend. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this distinguished woman for all she has done for the public library system. We are a better county, a better country, and a better people because of her.

HONORING ARCHIE C. DAVIDSON

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in honor and recognition of our dear friend Archie C. Davidson.

Shortly after Pearl Harbor, Archie enlisted into the U.S. Army and served as Sergeant with the 503rd regimental combat team. Archie proudly served his country in the Pacific Theater in such hostile areas as New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and the Philippines.

Throughout his life, Archie was involved in numerous organizations including: as past president and life member of the New City Volunteer Ambulance Corps, as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, past president of the Lake Lucille Property Owners' Association and former president of the Rockland County Association of Postmasters.

Archie was extremely active in his duties as Postmaster attending crucial congressional hearings held at Bear Mountain in the 1970's that targeted ways in which to improve the U.S. Postal Service.

After retiring, Archie continued to serve his community by becoming a public school bus driver. For almost twenty years, he assisted in driving for the Clarkstown School District. Archie's legacy will live on in the community of Clarkstown and will long be remembered by the people of the 20th District of New York.

As we mark the passing of Archie C. Davidson let us remember his commitments and let his legacy and accomplishments live through his family. His legacy continues with his four children, five grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO LELAND HAWES

**HON. JIM DAVIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Leland Hawes, a respected journalist

• 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.

and historian, who last month marked his 5th year of work at the Tampa Tribune.

In a world of 24-hour-a-day news stations, wireless phones and Internet connections, it is easy to get so wrapped up in the here-and-now that we forget the history that shaped our community and our lives. For 50 years, Leland Hawes has worked to remind Tampa Bay residents of where we came from and how we got here.

Every Sunday, Tampa Tribune readers are treated to Leland's "History and Heritage" page where he passes on a wealth of knowledge about Tampa Bay's rich and vibrant culture. Leland's detailed stories restore the color and texture to the events that we may vaguely remember, and open the door to a fascinating past that we had long forgotten. Most importantly, Leland and his stories make us proud of our community, our history and our heritage.

Those fortunate enough know Leland personally have only the best things to say about him. During his career at the Tribune, he has earned the upmost respect as an award winning journalist, a kind mentor to young reporters, a gentleman, and a loyal friend.

On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Leland for his dedication to telling our story, telling it well, and preserving our history for future generations.

#### HONORING DETROIT SHOREWAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OR- GANIZATION

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, and neighborhood volunteers and community leaders, as they celebrate the success of the Bridge Square Project and the renovation of the historic Courtland Building.

This tangible evidence of community renewal, fostered by the hard work, vision, and persistence of the public and private sector within and surrounding the Detroit Shoreway community, shines within the spirit of the neighborhood—from house to house, and street to street. Hope has risen in the form of the Bridge Square Project—twenty-nine new homes have been built, and over one hundred housing units have been renovated. This significant accomplishment is an example of the sustainability of the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, and other neighborhoods within the Cleveland and Greater Cleveland area.

The preservation and renovation of the Courtland Building, built in 1897, is also a testament to the renewed hope, energy and possibility of this neighborhood. This structure, once a dilapidated magnet for criminal activity, is now a monument to the focus and work of a neighborhood, whose unity, action and determination have made Detroit Shoreway better, safer, and brighter place for everyone.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and celebration of the residents and leaders of the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, the Detroit Shoreway CDO, and all individuals and agencies connected to the

rejuvenation of this historical, diverse and significant community. Due to the collective efforts of those who live and work in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood—an effort that spans many years—a community has been reborn. Out of the darkness of illegal drug activity, blighted neighborhoods, and streets in decline, new life has risen—held aloft by those dedicated to their community—and accomplished one neighborhood meeting at a time, one nail at a time, and one brick at a time—rebuilding the heart and soul of this neighborhood.

#### CALLING ON UKRAINIAN LEADERS TO ENSURE AND DEFEND FREE- DOM OF EXPRESSION, AND TO RESOLVE AND BRING TO JUST- ICE THOSE, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER OF HEORHIY GONGADZE ON THE SECOND AN- NIVERSARY OF HIS DISAPPEAR- ANCE AND SUBSEQUENT MUR- DER

#### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read my address to the attendees of a meeting-requiem, commemorating the memory of murdered Journalist Heorhiy Gongadze and calling for freedom of speech in Ukraine. This event took place on Sunday, September 15, 2002, in Washington, DC.

On behalf of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I extend my greetings to those assembled today in Washington, DC on this anniversary of the brutal and tragic murder of Ukrainian journalist, husband and father, Heorhiy Gongadze. Your presence at this important observance, and your individual participation sends a clear message about our common commitment to the unalienable right to life, our devotion to human dignity, our love for the freedom of speech and our hope that these qualities will one day be secured in Ukraine.

As a child of a Ukrainian immigrant, I celebrated Ukraine's independence in 1991 and its separation from the tyranny of Soviet communism. My heart swelled with pride as Ukrainians broke the shackles of communism and announced their desire to live free. This Ukrainian passion for liberty and justice is, in fact, why Ukrainians and our Ukrainian parents and grandparents came to America. August 24, 1991, was a great day, but today's gathering reminds us that Ukrainians, eleven years later, are still not completely free. The murder of Heorhiy Gongadze proves this.

I commend the organizers of this event and all participants for their civic and political consciousness. This is an important reflection of the gradual awakening of civil society in Ukraine. As the latest Ukrainian parliamentary elections vividly demonstrated, a democratic groundswell has started in Ukraine, and the Ukrainian people will no longer yield to oppression of their liberty and human rights.

My colleagues in the U.S. Congress share our concern about freedom of speech and freedom of the press in Ukraine. If journalists are subjected to censorship in any form, and political parties are denied equal access to mass media, civil society cannot exist.

My heart aches for the spouse, children, parents and friends of Heorhiy Gongadze and other journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of political speech. I call upon Ukraine's leaders to solve these cases of murder and render swift justice to the guilty. I urge Ukrainian investigators to fully utilize the talents and expertise of our Federal Bureau of Investigation, just as President Kuchma personally promised he would do in February 2001.

There is no doubt the Ukrainian people are capable of developing a vibrant democratic society. Your peaceful demonstration and steadfast solidarity is proof of this, and I commend your compassion. Your sincerity inspires my colleagues and me in the Congress to pledge our continued and tireless support for a mature and durable democracy in Ukraine.

May God bless you all and may He bless Ukraine and the United States of America.

#### IN MEMORY OF EDITH SCHERMER FREIDENRICH

#### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a very special woman, Edith Schermer Freidenrich who passed away on January 4, 2001.

Edith, the daughter of Joseph and Jenny Schermer, was born in Seattle, WA, on March 14, 1910. She studied nursing at the University of Washington before moving to San Francisco, where she married her husband of 44 years David Freidenrich on December 17, 1933.

Mr. Speaker, Edith's family was her pride and joy. She was the mother of three sons David Jr., John, and Dennis, the grandmother of seven and great grandmother to three.

Edith was an active school volunteer, an avid reader, a bridge player, and seasoned traveler. She was passionately engaged in the Democratic party and its principles. She passed on this love of politics and compassion to her children who continue their mother's legacy of community and political activism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring the memory of Edith Schermer Freidenrich and to give thanks for all she did throughout her life to make her community and our country better for human kind.

#### WELCOMING MADAME CHEN WU SUE-JEN

#### HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today H. Res. 533, a resolution welcoming Madame Chen Wu Sue-jen of Taiwan to Washington. Madame Chen's visit comes at an important moment in our Nation's relationship with Taiwan and the People's Republic of China, PRC. Although the United States has repeatedly asked Beijing to resolve its difficulties with Taiwan through peaceful means, the

Chinese military has placed hundreds of ballistic missiles on the coast of China aimed at Taiwan. To make matters worse China is building more and more of them. The communist authorities portray the peaceful cause of Taiwan independence as a terrorist movement. Nothing could be further from the truth. Taiwan threatens no one. On the contrary Taiwan has been 100 percent supportive of the war against terrorism and generously gave humanitarian support for the new Afghan Government. China on the other hand helped the Taliban build a 14,000 secure telephone line system.

China has also assisted Iraq in building a fiber optic communications network that is used by the Iraqi military. It is clear who supports terrorism and who does not.

First Lady Chen Wu will be bringing with her a strong message from her husband and the people of Taiwan that Taiwan's cooperation with the United States in the antiterrorism campaign will continue and be strengthened further. This is the sort of mature behavior that the world has come to expect from Taiwan. We hope that Beijing will soon follow in Taiwan's footsteps and become a truly constructive member of the world community. Such a change in behavior will benefit the Chinese and Taiwanese people and the region and the world as a whole. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 533, and welcome Madame Chen to the United States. I ask that the full text of H. Res. 533 be printed at this point in the RECORD.

#### H. RES. 533

Whereas Taiwan's First Lady Chen Wu Sue-jen, wife and political partner to her husband President Chen Shui-bian, has been unwaveringly and courageously striving for justice, human rights, and democracy in Taiwan and has herself held a seat in the Legislative Yuan;

Whereas Taiwan is now a model vibrant democracy an one of the top ten trading partners of the United States;

Whereas supporting democracy, human rights, and free market economies has been a longstanding policy of the United States;

Whereas the Government and people in Taiwan have consistently provided tremendous support and generous contributions to the United States after the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001;

Whereas First Lady Chen Wu was one of the main forces behind Taiwan's charity and humanitarian assistance for the victims of the terrorist attacks;

Whereas First Lady Chen Wu will visit the United States beginning on September 22, 2002, and will bring with her a strong message from her husband and the people of Taiwan that Taiwan's cooperation with the United States in this joint anti-terrorism campaign will continue and be further strengthened;

Whereas First Lady Chen Wu, on behalf of President Chen Shui-bian, visited France in November 2001 to receive the International Human Rights Award; and

Whereas First Lady Chen Wu, confined to a wheelchair due to a tragic traffic accident during a political campaign, is a strong and effective advocate for Taiwan's physically challenged citizens: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives extends its warmest welcome to Taiwan's First Lady Chen Wu Sue-jen during her visit to Washington, D.C., in September 2002.

## CONTINUING CRISIS IN FOSTER CARE

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, most of us favor federal spending to promote the safety, well-being, and stability of children in the child welfare system. Yet in too many states, federal funds are being used to finance dysfunctional child welfare systems, often operating in violation of federal laws. We cannot continue to perpetuate a system that fails to protect children or their families or provide necessary services and safeguards.

In the following article, The Miami Herald reports that 183 employees of Florida's Department of Children and Families (DCF) had committed felonies, including child molestation, child abuse, sex crimes and drug dealing. In the report, a DCF official acknowledges that "the most vulnerable people in our community are trusted to people in circumstances where there is a potential for these kinds of background."

In Florida and across the nation, state, county and local agencies are facing difficulties in recruiting, retaining, training and supervising child welfare workers. Having poorly trained, overworked, underpaid, caseworkers leads to massive turnovers, which, in turn, exacerbates the challenge of accountability in a system responsible for safety and well being of children.

The child welfare system must be reformed to improve the delivery of mandated services, the efficient operation of accountability systems, and successful permanent placements for children. In addition, there must be immediate and sustained oversight of the child welfare programs by the Department of Health and Human Services, and by state governments.

The article follows:

[From the Miami Herald, Sept. 8, 2002]

STATE CHILD-WELFARE PAYROLL INCLUDES EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE CRIMINAL PASTS  
(By David Kidwell, Jason Grotto and Tere Figueras)

Florida's embattled child-welfare agency—the Department of Children & Families—employs at least 183 people who have been arrested and punished for an array of felonies including child molestation, child abuse, sex crimes, drug dealing, even welfare fraud against the agency itself, a Herald investigation has found.

For instance, the head of the agency's data-security team in Tallahassee is listed on the state's list of sexual predators for molesting a 5-year-old boy.

In other cases, the crimes committed by DCF employees are directly relevant to the positions of trust they now hold.

In Miami, the director of rehabilitative services for a mental hospital has twice been arrested for cocaine buys.

In Chattahoochee, a man who supervises mental patients was charged with attempted first-degree murder in 1986 for firing a shot at his wife and racking a shotgun at her as she cowered with their son in a closet. He pleaded no contest to lesser charges.

In Kissimmee, the DCF hired a child-abuse investigator who two years earlier was convicted of violating a restraining order issued after she threw a brick through her ex-boy-

friend's living room window and smashed his car windshield with a tire iron.

In Gainesville, a night Supervisor at a home for the developmentally disabled was convicted in 1994 in a string of six burglaries at an apartment complex where her job as a maid gave her access to a pass key.

In Tampa, a family services counselor was allowed to keep her job despite charges that she beat up her 68-year-old mother in the front yard during an argument.

Administrators of the DCF—already beleaguered by criticism over the agency's handling of cases involving missing children that led to the resignation of department Secretary Kathleen Kearney—say they have worked hard to screen employees.

In most cases, they say, the agency was aware of the charges and thoroughly reviewed the backgrounds of the employees to make sure their lives were back on track and that DCF clients would not be imperiled. "In a perfect world, none of our employees would have any kind of criminal past," said Tim Botcher, a DCF spokesman in Tallahassee. "But we just know that is unrealistic. In reality, we are no different that any other large organization." He said the 183 employees found by The Herald should be considered in the context of an enormous agency with 24,000 employees statewide. "When it comes to our attitude on employees who have broken the law, we have considered the offenses and acted accordingly."

The DCF, however, had not complied with Herald requests to provide personnel files to verify many of the agency's actions in these cases. DCF administrators acknowledged that in some cases the agency did not know about the criminal pasts of its employees.

This week, three submitted their resignations after Herald inquiries. They include the Miami rehabilitative services director, a human-services worker at Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee who pleaded no contest to selling cocaine in 1994, and a human-services analyst in Miami caught in an insurance-fraud scheme in 1997.

#### DIDN'T DISCLOSE

DCF administrators said each of them failed to disclose their arrests to the DCF as required by the agency.

Among the 183 employees charged were three who have been punished for child abuse, 22 for grand theft, seven for aggravated battery, two for DUI manslaughter, three for dealing drugs, 10 for aggravated assault with a weapon and nine for welfare fraud.

The Herald also found one man, a \$61,446-per-year supervisor in the DCF's data-processing center in Tallahassee, on Florida's registry of sexual predators.

Carl Avery Anderson, 43, was hired in 1988 while he was still on house arrest for molesting a 5-year old boy in his care. According to police records, he admitted to the charges and pleaded no contest to lewd and lascivious assault on a child in 1987. The charges cost Anderson his data job at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Anderson now insists he is innocent and that police tricked him into a confession. "I have never been in trouble in my life," he told The Herald. "If I had tried to fight that . . . maybe I could have gotten off. I pleaded because I was ignorant. People who know me know I didn't do this."

#### DATA SECURITY

He is now head of the DCF's data-security team, where he supervises three others and is responsible for making sure the agency's enormous stockpile of sensitive and private information remains that way.

"He has been an excellent employee who has been promoted during his career here," Botcher said. "It would be a concern of ours

if he had direct contact with clients, but we don't feel his job is relevant to the crimes.

"He does have security clearance that would allow him to access client information," Bottcher said. "We did not consider him to be a risk."

Some of the names on The Herald's list entered pretrial diversion programs in which prosecutors agreed to drop the cases after the charges were filed and the people completed a program of probation, counseling or specialized classes.

Among them: Bart Harrell, 40, who was hired as a patient-activities coordinator at the Chattahoochee mental hospital less than seven months after he was charged in 1989 with sexual battery on a person younger than 18 in Alabama, according to records and interviews.

#### NOT REQUIRED

Employees were not required to disclose arrests to the DCF before a policy change in 1994, said Walt Cook, the DCF's assistant director of human resources.

Harrell declined to speak about the case but said: "Those records are supposed to be sealed and expunged. You are about to ruin my life again over something that didn't happen 13 years ago."

Among others who were hired or kept their jobs after agreeing to pretrial intervention: Sabrina Barnes, 32, a child-protective investigator in Kissimmee. In 1996, police reports say, she smashed an ex-boyfriend's windshield and threw a brick through his window. Barnes was later convicted of violating a domestic violence injunction after another confrontation with the same man.

Susan Arnick Alston, 55, a family services counselor in Tampa. According to police, she beat up her 68-year-old mother in the front yard in 1993.

In both cases, DCF administrators say they were aware of the charges. "People make mistakes in their lives, and there's such a thing as rehabilitation," said Yvonne Vassel, a DCF spokeswoman in Barnes' district. "The process was followed, and she was truthful with her disclosures to the state." Alston, who licenses foster homes, was put on administrative duties until the completion of her court case. "Had she pleaded guilty or no contest, she would have been disqualified from her employment," said Shauna Donovan, spokeswoman for the agency's Tampa district. "But since the charges were dismissed, she was allowed to return to her normal duties."

In Miami, two employees resigned Friday amid The Herald investigation.

Calvin Eugene Dandy, 54, the \$45,000-per-year Miami director of rehabilitative services at the South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center. He resigned after being confronted by district administrators about a 1999 arrest for buying cocaine that he failed to disclose.

All employees are required to disclose any arrests immediately, and employees in sensitive "caretaker" positions—those who spend more than 15 hours a week in direct contact with DCF clients—are reassigned until the criminal case is closed.

If employees in caretaker positions are convicted or plead no contest to most felonies and first-degree misdemeanors, they will be fired unless they apply for and are granted an exemption.

Lucian Bledsoe, the agency's human resources director in Miami, said Dandy failed to disclose his 1999 arrest, which came 14 months after the agency granted him an exemption for a similar charge from 1993. He was sentenced to probation in 1993. In 1999, the charges were dropped because lab reports on the drugs did not come back in time for a crucial court date, according to Miami-Dade state attorney's office records.

Dandy did not return repeated messages left at his home and office.

"The bottom line is he knew his responsibility to disclose that arrest, and he didn't do it," Bledsoe said.

Also resigning Friday: Mercedes Medina, 52, a \$28,000-a-year human-services analyst in Miami, failed to disclose a 1998 arrest for insurance fraud. She pleaded no contest to a string of staged auto accidents, court records show. "I was trying to help some people out," Medina told The Herald. "But it was so stupid. The stupidest thing I have ever done in my whole life." Medina acknowledged she never told the DCF about the insurance-fraud allegations or 1997 arrests for drunken driving. She said she didn't think it was required.

The Herald found two DCF employees in caretaker positions who have been charged and punished for child abuse, including Jennie Arnett Barkley, now 54, another supervisor who oversees mental patients at Chattahoochee. She pleaded no contest and served two years' probation on 1986 charges of grand theft and child abuse after she took her 15-year-old daughter on a shoplifting spree at Gayfer's, court records show. Barkley declined to be interviewed.

The Herald also found nine current employees who were charged and punished for defrauding the agency itself out of welfare money, including one woman who was hired in June while still on probation for the charge.

#### RECENT HIRE

Another recent DCF hire was 27-year-old Amy Curtis, who in May became a night supervisor at Tocachale in Gainesville, an institution of group homes for the developmentally disabled. Curtis was convicted in 1994 in a series of six burglaries at an apartment complex where her job as a maid gave her a pass key, court records show. She had twice been denied the job because of her past, but in May the agency relented, Tom Barnes, the DCF's district spokesman, said "there was a feeling she had moved from blaming her crimes on her circumstances. She was now taking responsibility." Barnes said such demanding jobs that pay so little sometimes force the agency to "strike a balance."

"We are very aware that the most vulnerable people in our community are trusted to people in circumstances where there is a potential for these kinds of backgrounds," he said. It's a constant battle to keep these positions filled."

Another institution with a concentration of employees with past criminal charges is the mental hospital at Chattahoochee.

The Herald found 46 hospital employees with felony charges in their backgrounds including aggravated battery, robbery, fraud, burglary, arson and trafficking in stolen property.

#### LONGTIME WORKER

Among them is Frank Dickens, 55, who for 36 years has supervised mental patients at the facility. In 1986, Dickens was charged with attempted first-degree murder and battery after his wife called police and told them he fired a shot at her head in a drunken rage. According to police reports, he shot at her with a pistol in the kitchen after she tried to stop him from whipping their son with a belt. Dickens pleaded no contest to shooting within a building and aggravated assault. He served 90 days in Gadsden County Jail and was placed on probation for five years. But he was not convicted because a judge agreed to withhold an adjudication of guilt. Dickens told The Herald the gun went off accidentally and that his wife fabricated most of her allegations. "Your wife can tell on you tomorrow, and the police could pick you up for it," he said.

Dickens was granted an exemption as a caretaker employee in 1997, spokesman Bottcher said, in large part because of his long career of service at Chattahoochee.

Dickens said his crimes are minor compared with what he has seen inside the walls of the mental hospital in his 36 years as an employee there.

"We've had women killed in that place, strangled. We've had people shot," Dickens said. "I've been beat up, threatened at knife point. It's a disaster up there, and You're asking me whether I should be working there?"

"Some of these people have committed the worst crimes you can imagine," Dickens said. "And they're worse than I am, because they've been convicted."

### HONORING THE PERMIAN BASIN GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL

#### HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the girls and leaders of the Permian Basin Girl Scout Council in Texas for exemplary service in their communities. Working through the "90 Days of Service" project, these Girl Scouts joined with their Texan sisters to provide 356,737 hours of service throughout the state.

Juliet Low founded Girls Scouts of the USA in Savannah, Georgia in 1912. In honor of the 90th anniversary of the organization, many Girl Scout Councils participated in a 90 day long service project. The girls and leaders of the Permian Basin Girl Scout Council worked to improve the environment through adopting highways, cleaning up parks, desert lands and beaches, recycling, and working in a graffiti abatement program. They sought to aid the less fortunate through collections for Lions Clubs, food banks, humane societies, homeless programs, and children and baby organizations. These dedicated young women contributed to society by planting flowers, working with Habitat for Humanity, tutoring senior citizens in computer skills, making quilts for the needy, painting murals, rewiring lamps and providing flag ceremonies. Through hours of hard work, these girls celebrated their own special anniversary by giving others reasons to celebrate.

It is with great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, that I honor these dedicated young women for their selfless service to their communities. The Girl Scouts of the Permian Basin Girl Scout Council demonstrate the promise of America's youth. I wish to congratulate these girls for their hard work and dedication in serving fellow Americans.

### ON INTRODUCING THE "REDUCING EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT ACT"

#### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, millions of American parents sent their children off to college. For many of them, however, the worry about how to pay for college

dampened their excitement. To ease that burden for parents and students alike, I rise today to introduce legislation that will make the interest on college loans fully tax deductible, permanently, for every student.

Over the course of a lifetime, a college graduate can expect to earn \$1 million more than someone with a high school diploma alone. Yet, as higher education has become more necessary, it has become more expensive. A study released in May by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education shows that the price of tuition is now beyond the reach of many working families. Private colleges are just plain unaffordable, and public colleges are becoming less affordable each year. To pay these high costs, students and their parents increasingly take out larger and larger educational loans. The average college graduate with loans begins working with \$11,000–\$18,000 of debt.

I believe that education is the single most important investment we can make in our children's future. Our government believes that home ownership is an investment that the government should support, and it allows the interest on home interest loans to be tax deductible. Congress should extend the same kind of support to student loan interest.

CONGRATULATING COLORADO  
STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Colorado State University football team for winning the 2002 Rocky Mountain Showdown. On August 31, in front of a crowd of 75,531 fans packed into Invesco Field at Mile High, the Rams defeated in-state rival University of Colorado 19–14.

This win is a result of great offensive play, with two touchdowns from running back Cecil Sapp and one from quarterback Bradlee Van Pelt. In addition, the Rams determined defense helped beat the University of Colorado by capturing four key turnovers.

Although Colorado State was a seven-and-a-half point underdog going into the game, by the end they proved themselves a team not to be underestimated. The Rams have won the Showdown rivalry three of the last four seasons and are compelled to challenge their 18-54-2 record against the University of Colorado football team. Dedicated and powerful, Colorado State players are headed by Coach Sunny Lubick's skillful leadership, which will continue to drive their dominance.

I commend the starting line up for a great game. Starting for the defense Peter Hogan LE, Brvan Save NT, Patrick Goodpaster DT, Andre Sommersell RE, Jeff Flora, Drew Wood MLB, Eric Pauly OLB, Dexter Wynn LCB, Landon Jones FS, David Vickers SS, Rhett Nelson RCB. The starting offensive lineup: Bradlee Van Pelt QB, Cecil Sapp RB, Joey Cuppari WR, Chris Pittman WR, Joel Dreessen HB, Matt Bartz TE, Aaron Green OL, Morgan Pears WG, Mark Dreyer C, Albert Bimper SG, Erik Pears ST. Also, playing special teams: Joey Huber P, and Jeff Babcock PK.

In addition, I congratulate the other team members and coaches who contributed to the

CSU victory: Rahssan Sanders RB, Eric Hill WR, Adam Wade LB, Brandyn Hohs WR, Steve Tufte DB, Jason Hepp, Benny Mastropaolo DB, Henri Childs RB, Miles Kockevar DB, Hayward Adam LB/S, J.J. Stepien WR, Doug Heald LB, Courtney Jones LB, Lavell Mann DL, Jamie Amicarelia OL, Michael Brisiel OL, Russell Sprague WR, Thomas Wallace DE, Brandon Alconcel TE, James Sondrup TE, Jonathon Simon DL, Chris Kiffin, Assistant Coaches John Benton, Mick Delaney, Tom Ehlers, Dan Hammerschmidt, Larry Kerr, Matt Lubick, Marvin Sanders, Brian Schneider, and Jesse Williams.

Congratulations to Colorado State for their victory. I wish them success throughout the remainder of the 2002 football season. Go Rams!

A CALL FOR ACTION: THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES NEEDS TO ADDRESS CRNA BILLING ISSUE IMMEDIATELY

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to submit, for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, a letter to Mr. Thomas Scully, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), requesting that he address a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) billing issue immediately. This Member is taking this unusual step for additional visibility in the hope that this serious problem will be fixed immediately.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, September 17, 2002.*

Mr. THOMAS SCULLY,  
*Hubert Humphrey Building,  
Washington, D.C. 20201.*

DEAR MR. SCULLY: On behalf of the Nebraska Hospital Association, Nebraska's 56 Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) and the communities they serve, I respectfully request that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) address a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) billing issue immediately.

As you are aware, most CAHs are eligible to bill for CRNA services on a "pass-through" basis. This means that they receive cost-based reimbursement for those CRNA services. To receive periodic payments for CRNA's services, the CMS has instructed Nebraska hospitals to bill these services, including professional services, on a UB-92 form rather than to the Medicare Part B carrier on a HCFA-1500. The hospitals have also been instructed to use the revenue code "964" to bill for the CRNA's professional services on the UB-92 form.

However, it is my understanding that the CMS non-outpatient prospective payment system code editor (OCE) will not allow CRNA claims to be processed (and as such cannot be paid) with revenue code 964. Consequently, Nebraska hospitals have not received their Medicare payments which have been due for more than a year. Many Nebraska hospitals are having their cash flow suspended by hundreds of thousands of dollars in some cases. Therefore, this is a significant issue to these hospitals.

We have been informed that the CMS will not be able to change the 964 edit until April

1, 2003. A system fix should be made now or at the next quarterly update rather than wait until April 1, 2003. A temporary "fix" has been used by other fiscal intermediaries through the use of revenue code 379 in lieu of 964, which is a generic "anesthesia" revenue code. This will at least allow the hospital claims to be paid. However, one or more fiscal intermediaries are concerned with compliance and fraud and abuse issues and will not allow hospitals to use revenue code 379 as a temporary fix.

In order for CMS to address this problem immediately, I am requesting that CMS issue a letter of instruction or a program memorandum to Nebraska and other fiscal intermediaries (whatever document may be issued in the least amount of time). This letter should be clear in its direction to fiscal intermediaries to use the revenue code 379 as a temporary fix in order to get the hospitals' claims processed without delay. I am aware that a draft program memorandum has been issued with regard to this matter. If the CMS could make that program memorandum final, then fiscal intermediaries could utilize revenue code 379.

In my opinion, the CMS also needs to designate an individual that fiscal intermediaries or hospital associations can contact regarding critical access hospital issues. This individual needs to understand how a CAH operates, as well as how policies changed by the CMS will affect other issues, particularly billing. The 964 revenue code is a good example of problems many CAHs are experiencing. I am certain that any critical access hospital in Nebraska would be glad to host this individual for a tour and orientation of how a CAH operates.

Again, I respectfully request that you address this CRNA billing issue immediately, as it seriously curtails the financial viability of rural hospitals. I look forward to your prompt response and for your information, I intend to place this letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Best wishes,

DOUG BEREUTER,  
*Member of Congress.*

IN RECOGNITION OF TOUCHPOINT  
HEALTH PLAN

**HON. MARK GREEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to recognize and honor, before this House, Touchpoint Health Plan for receiving an "Excellent" Accreditation Status by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for its commercial managed care organization.

Being named the "highest performing plan in the nation overall," Touchpoint established itself as one of the premier managed care plans in the country, setting four national benchmarks in the areas of Breast Cancer Screening, Beta Blocker Treatment After Heart Attack and two measures of diabetic care.

No plan in the nation has distinguished itself more consistently in terms of performance measures than Touchpoint. It has a proud history of providing superior care to folks in my northeastern Wisconsin district, receiving a Full Accreditation from NCQA three years ago—the highest level available.

According to NCQA, this accreditation places Touchpoint among "an elite group of

health plan products by virtue of their commitment to clinical excellence, customer service and continuous improvement.”

Mr. Speaker, Touchpoint has worked hard to earn this mark of distinction, and I'm proud to honor them here today.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF LATINAS

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, as we begin to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Latinas across our nation and highlight their contributions.

Today there are over sixteen million Hispanic women living in the United States. Latinas have been contributing members of our society since its inception. We are writers, scientists, community organizers, and business leaders. Latinas have made inroads in all facets of society and today I stand, as a Latina Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, to honor the often overlooked achievements of this population.

We are recipients of the MacArthur “Genius” Award—like writer and poet Sandra Cisneros, and immigration advocate Cecilia Munoz;

We are recipients of NASA's Exceptional Service Medal—like astronaut and scientist Ellen Ochoa;

We are part of the National Women's Hall of Fame—like the co-founder of the United Farm Workers Union, Dolores Huerta, and Antonia Novello, the first female and first Hispanic Surgeon General of the United States.

In the face of societal obstacles like unequal pay, educational disadvantages, unmet health care needs, and civil rights struggles, Latinas have already accomplished so much. Yet we know we can do much more. During Hispanic Heritage Month we celebrate our success, but we must be more aware of helping, Latinas maximize their great potential all year-round.

Recuerda que el éxito se alcanza convirtiendo cada paso en una meta y cada meta en un paso. Hoy es el día de realizar nuestros sueños. (Remember that success is achieved by taking each step as a goal and each goal as a step. Today is the day to realize our dreams.)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVE BUYER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2002*

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 3253, as amended, which reflects the House-Senate compromise that was reached. This legislation was originally introduced by Chairman Chris Smith to establish at least four medical emergency preparedness centers at designated VA medical centers. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I want to thank

Chairman Smith for his leadership in moving this important legislation towards final passage.

I also want to thank Chairman Smith, members, and staff in both chambers for preserving H.R. 3254, the Medical Education for National Defense (MEND) for the 21st Century in the final package. That language is incorporated in Section 3 of H.R. 3253, as amended, and is entitled: Education and Training Programs on Medical Responses to Consequences of Terrorist Activities.

Section 3 of H.R. 3253, as amended, would establish an education program to be carried out through the Department of Veterans Affairs. The education and training curriculum developed under the program shall be modeled upon the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine of the Department of Defense's Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS) core curriculum, which includes a program to teach its students how to diagnose and treat casualties that have been exposed to chemical, biological, or radiological agents.

As a Nation, we must be prepared for the new face of terror that we have been forced to confront in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks. What has become all too clear is that our health care providers are not resourced or trained with the proper tools to diagnose and treat casualties in the face of biological, radiological, and chemical weapons.

It is imperative that such a program be disseminated to the Nation's medical professionals and current medical students. This section of the bill takes advantage of the nexus that already exists between the medical education community and the VA. Currently, 107 medical universities are affiliated with a VA medical center. This nexus is already in place and that is what we plan to exploit.

The VA's extensive infrastructure of 163 medical centers, 800 clinics, and satellite broadcast capabilities, will enable the current and future medical professionals in this country to become knowledgeable and medically competent in the treatment of casualties that we all hope will never materialize.

We cannot afford to assume that our country will never again experience a biological, chemical, or radiological attack on the American people. We must, as elected Representatives, act to ensure that if the worst of our fears are realized that the country's medical professionals will be ready and able to deal with these situations.

It is not the intent of this legislation to create new community standards of practice. We must recognize that diseases such as smallpox, botulism, and the plague are not normally treated or recognized in this country. It is extremely important that all of our health care professionals are familiar with and able to diagnose and treat suspected exposure to weapons of mass destruction.

The American Medical Association endorsed H.R. 3254, and the American Association of Medical Colleges has thrown its full support behind this plan. These two organizations know how vital it is to receive this important educational curriculum that addresses the medical aspects of biological chemical and radiological attacks, and they have recognized that the VA is in a unique position to assist with the dissemination of this information to the Nation's medical community.

It is often said that knowledge is power, and in this instance nothing could be more accu-

rate. The knowledge that would result from the implementation of this act is critical. Our medical professionals need to be offered training methods that would enable them to save lives . . . and I can think of no greater power than that.

Please, join with me and support final passage of this important piece of legislation.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE  
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH ACT (H.R. 5395)

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today a bill that is critical to solving the economic and environmental problems posed by aquatic invasive species—the Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act. This Act authorizes funding to conduct research to support our efforts to detect, prevent and eradicate invasive species. It complements a bill being introduced today by Mr. GILCHREST in the House and Mr. LEVIN in the Senate to reauthorize the National Invasive Species Act. Many people may wonder what an invasive species is and why it is so crucial to keep them out of U.S. waters and so I will start off with some background.

The introduction of non-native invasive species is not new to United States. People have brought non-native plants and animals into the United States, both intentionally and unintentionally, for a variety of reasons since the New World was discovered. Some examples include the introduction of nutria (which is a rodent similar to a muskrat) by trappers to bolster the domestic fur industry, and the introduction of the purple loosestrife plant to add rich color to gardens. Both nutria and purple loosestrife are now serious threats to wetlands. Non-native species may also be introduced unintentionally, such as through species hitching rides in ships, crates, planes, or soil coming into the United States—zebra mussels, for example, came into the Great Lakes through ballast water from ships.

Not all species brought into the country are harmful to local economies, people, and/or the environment. In fact, most non-native species do not survive because the environment does not meet their biological needs. In many cases, however, the new species will find favorable conditions (such as a lack of natural enemies or an environment that fosters propagation) that allow it to survive and thrive in a new ecosystem. Only a small fraction of these non-native species become an “invasive species”—defined as a species that is both non-native to the ecosystem under consideration, and whose introduction causes or may cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. However, this small fraction can cause enormous damage—both economic and environmental.

Aquatic invasive species can be very costly to our economy. Estimating the total economic impact of harmful non-native species is extremely difficult. No single organization accumulates such statistics comprehensively. However, researchers at Cornell University estimate that invasive species cost Americans \$137 billion annually. This includes the cost of

control, damage to property values, health costs and other factors. Just one species can cost government and private citizens billions of dollars. For example, zebra mussels have cost the various entities in the Great Lakes basin an estimated \$3 billion during the past 10 years for cleaning water intake pipes, purchasing filtration equipment.

Beyond economic impacts, invasive species cause ecological costs that are even more difficult to quantify. For example, sea lamprey control measures in the Great Lakes cost approximately \$10 to \$15 million annually. However, we do not have a good measure of the cost of lost fisheries due to this invader. In fact, invasive species are now the number two threat to endangered species, right behind habitat loss. Quantifying the loss due to extinction of these species is nearly impossible.

To protect our environment and our economy, it is critical that we prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species to U.S. waters and eradicate any new introduction before the species can become established (once an invasive species is established, it is almost impossible to eradicate it). Spending millions of dollars to prevent species introductions will save billions of dollars in control, eradication and restoration efforts once the species become established. Prevention requires careful, concerted management, but it also requires good research. For example, it is impossible to know how to prevent invasive species from entering the United States without a good understanding of how they get here, an understanding that we would develop through the pathway surveys conducted under this bill. We cannot screen the planned importations of non-native species for ones that may invade without a thorough understanding of the characteristics that make a species invasive and an ecosystem vulnerable, a profile that would be created in this bill. Finally, we can't prevent invasive species from entering our waters through ships' ballasts (a known pathway) without good technologies to eradicate species in ballast waters. This bill supports the development and demonstration of technologies to detect, prevent and eradicate invasive species.

In fact, research underlies every management decision aimed at detecting, preventing, controlling and eradicating invasive species; educating citizens and stakeholders; and restoring ecosystems. Research is also crucial to ensure that resources are optimally deployed to increase the effectiveness of government programs. This bill sets up a comprehensive research program to support efforts to detect, prevent and eradicate invasive species through informing and reviewing management initiatives. Now let me explain some of the details of the bill.

The bill is divided into six sections. In the first three sections of the bill, a comprehensive research program is established through the United States Geological Survey, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct surveys and experimentation on invasive species, and analyze and disseminate the results. The goal of this program is to support efforts to prevent the introduction of, detect and eradicate invasive species. This will be done by notifying early detection and rapid response efforts, informing relevant policy questions, and assessing the effectiveness of implemented policies. For instance, infor-

mation about new invasive species discovered in the monitoring effort will be directly disseminated to those agencies that can respond rapidly. And policy makers will learn about the pathways and practices that are most responsible for bringing invasive species into U.S. waters so that they can set up targeted responses to reduce the risk posed by those pathways.

In the fourth section of the bill, a research, development and deployment program is set up to promote environmentally sound technologies to better detect, prevent the introduction of, and eradicate invasive species. This includes programs to develop dispersal barriers, and the expansion of a program geared toward demonstrating technologies that prevent invasive species from being introduced by ships. The fifth section of the bill focuses on setting up research to directly support the Coast Guard's efforts to set standards for the treatment of ships with respect to preventing them from introducing invasive species. The National Academy of Sciences will be asked to make recommendations for standards, and researchers will be asked to evaluate the effectiveness of any standard and recommend protocols to test technologies on ships to make sure they meet that standard. Finally, invasive species research depends on strong academic programs in systematics and taxonomy and so the National Science Foundation will be given funding to support academic research in those areas.

Preventing aquatic invasive species from entering U.S. waters and eradicating them upon entry are critical to our economy and environment, and good policy decisions depend on good scientific research. I urge all of my colleagues to support this very important bill.

TRIBUTE TO MORRIS MICHAEL  
SCIONTI

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Morris Michael Scionti, a passionate political activist who lived every moment of his life with tremendous enthusiasm and flair. As Chair of the Hillsborough County Democratic Executive Committee, Mike displayed unwavering loyalty to his country and his party.

Mike first shared his love for the political process in the classroom. For thirty years, he taught high school civics and history classes with the same affection and conviction that he later brought to politics. After teaching, Mike dove full force into politics, playing an integral role in Lawton Chiles' successful campaigns for U.S. Senate and Governor, among other races. He then went on to work for the Division of Business and Professional Regulation and as executive director of the Florida Athletic Commission.

Tampa Bay, however, will remember Mike most for his countless contributions to Hillsborough County's Democratic Executive Committee. Never one to shy away from a good political argument, Mike was an excellent choice to take the helm of the organization. With his boundless energy, he always found a way to excite people about politics.

Despite all of his commitments in the community, Mike, a father of three, always found

time for family. I would like to express my heartfelt sympathies to Mike's children and family members. Morris Michael Scionti will be remembered in Tampa Bay as a passionate and fiercely loyal competitor. Our community will miss him greatly.

HONORING JOHN AND ANN MARIE  
WOOLLEY, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John and Ann Marie Woolley, two extraordinary citizens of Humboldt County, California who have dedicated their lives to public service. They are being honored for their life-long contribution to one of the nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. Their contributions are worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Ann Marie Woolley, a member of the faculty of College of the Redwoods, is Coordinator of the California Early Childhood Mentor Program. She has served as Head Start Coordinator and Regional Supervisor, North Coast Children's Services and is a full time instructor of Early Childhood Education at College of the Redwoods. She has been an advocate for services for young children for 25 years. In addition, she has coordinated and directed parenting workshops and consumer homemaking programs. Ann Marie Woolley was named College of the Redwoods Outstanding Associate Faculty Member of the Year, 2001–2002. She is an accomplished musician, has edited an environmental newspaper and written music reviews and is a member of numerous environmental and social justice organizations.

John Scott Woolley, Third District Supervisor, County of Humboldt, has been actively involved in community service projects throughout his career. At Humboldt State University, the Center for Community Development, John was responsible for the initial development of community programs that assisted seniors, women and children throughout the region. As the Community Economic Development Planner at the Northern California Indian Development Council, John coordinated statewide programs which included federal tribal recognition petitions, an American Indian health satellite clinic and labor and business training in natural resources improvement contracting. He is an outstanding county supervisor who works hard for his district and represents the county on the boards of the North Coast Emergency Medical services, North Coast Railroad Authority, Whole Child Inter-agency Council, and North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District. His civic and philanthropic contributions to our community are numerous.

They share the happiness of family life with their two sons, James and Kevin.

John and Ann Marie are being recognized for their outstanding contribution to the political process by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as "Democrats of the Year, 2002."

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize John and Ann Marie Woolley for their unwavering compassion and for their contribution to the ideals and traditions that have made America great.

## 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, September 19, 2002 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## SEPTEMBER 23

- 2 p.m.  
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Public Health Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine Hispanic health problems, focusing on coverage, access, and health disparities. SD-430
- 2:30 p.m.  
Armed Services  
To resume hearings to examine U.S. policy on Iraq. SH-216

## SEPTEMBER 24

- 9 a.m.  
Environment and Public Works  
To hold hearings to examine the Federal government's role and response to September 11th recovery efforts. SD-406
- 10 a.m.  
Indian Affairs  
To hold oversight hearings to examine the role of Special Trustees within the Department of the Interior. SR-485
- Judiciary  
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the Washington, D.C. judicial circuit. SD-226

- Governmental Affairs  
Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia Subcommittee  
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold joint hearings to examine the emerging threat of the West Nile Virus, focusing on the adequacy of federal and state response to increasing disease incidence, and future challenges to respond to health threats posed by naturally occurring infectious diseases. SD-342

- 2 p.m.  
Judiciary  
Constitution Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the detention of U.S. citizens. SD-226

## SEPTEMBER 25

- 9:30 a.m.  
Appropriations  
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee  
To continue hearings to examine stem cell research. SD-124
- Environment and Public Works  
Finance  
To hold joint hearings to examine alternatives for financing the U.S. surface transportation system. SD-215

- 10 a.m.  
Indian Affairs  
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by a hearing to consider the nominations of Quannah Crossland Stamps, of Virginia, to be Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services, and Philip N. Hogen, of South Dakota, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission. SR-485

- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Business meeting to consider S. 2499, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish labeling requirements regarding allergenic substances in food; S. 830, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer; S. 1806, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to health professions programs regarding the practice of pharmacy; S. 969, to establish a Tick-Borne Disorders Advisory Committee; S. 2821, to establish grants to provide health services for improved

nutrition, increased physical activity, obesity prevention; the nominations of Maria Mercedes Guillemard, of Puerto Rico, to be a Member of the National Museum Services Board; David Wenzel, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability; Marco A. Rodriguez, of California, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability; Milton Aponte, of Florida, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability; Michelle Guillermin, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service; Glenn Bernard Anderson, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability; and Barbara Gillcrist, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability, and other pending calendar business. SD-430

- Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine asbestos litigation. SD-226

- 2:30 p.m.  
Foreign Relations  
African Affairs Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the current situation in Angola. SD-419
- Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Housing and Transportation Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine affordable housing production and working families. SD-538

## SEPTEMBER 26

- 10 a.m.  
Indian Affairs  
To hold oversight hearings on intra-tribal leadership disputes and tribal governance. SR-485
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine the benefits and challenges of web-based education. SD-430

## SEPTEMBER 27

- 10 a.m.  
Governmental Affairs  
International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the annual report of the Postmaster General, focusing on the Postal Service Transformation Plan, the progress of cleaning anthrax-contaminated postal facilities, and further steps the Postal Service will take to reduce debt and increase financial transparency. SD-342