

the 1960s, featuring local bands and musicians such as Stan Drzewicki, Gene Kochaney, Pat Lepeak's Starliners and nearly every other polka band in the region. Later, out-of-town bands joined the line-up as polka music and dancing grew in popularity.

Since then, Joe's tremendous energy and enduring passion for the polka has been instrumental in keeping the music alive and flourishing in Bay City and beyond, particularly at Pulaski Hall. The list of bands that Joe has managed to bring to Bay City is a veritable "Who's Who" of the polka industry, including The Polish Kid, Tony Blazonczyk, Polkamotion Crusade, Lenny Golmulka and The Chicago Push and many others. In fact, Lenny Gemulka's retirement party was held at Pulaski Hall.

Over the years, Joe also has extended his polka promotion efforts throughout the state and across the country. He has attended events produced by the United States Polka Association and the International Polka Association. Of course, Joe's wife, Rita, and daughter, Jeanne, should also be commended for their support of Joe and his keen interest and involvement in anything and everything associated with the polka.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joe Urban upon the occasion of his induction into the Michigan State Polka Music Hall of Fame. It is an appropriate and well-deserved honor for someone who has made so many contributions to ensure that generations to come will continue to stomp their feet and dance to the energetic beat of the polka well into the future.

EIGHTH AVENUE SENIOR CENTER  
9TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 3, 2002*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to commemorate the 9th Anniversary Celebration of the Eighth Avenue Senior Center sponsored by the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association in my district.

Founded in 1988, the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association began as a small social services agency dedicated to providing assistance to the Asian American community. Since then, that community has blossomed with over 250,000 residents that form the heart of Brooklyn's Chinatown.

The B.C.A. has expanded with the Eighth Avenue Senior Center, which serves the community with daily meals, bilingual information, English as a Second Language classes, Citizenship classes, medical check-ups, and even field trips. Its membership is 1,800 and serves more than 200 senior citizens each day. Such dedication to this community should be commended.

On October 3, the Senior Center will host its Millennial Roundtable celebration in similar style, by pairing guests with 12 senior members aged 84 and older—a combined age of 1000 years. The Double Millennial Roundtable pairs guests with 23 members aged 87 years or older, for a combined age of 2000 years. This is a great tribute to the age, wisdom and contributions our senior citizens have made, and continue to make, to our community.

GENE AND POCO GERTLER

**HON. BOB STUMP**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 3, 2002*

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the spirit of charity and two very good people in my district.

Gene and Poco Gertler joined us in Prescott just a few years ago, but they have made quite a difference for our community. While they came to enjoy retirement in Arizona, they ended up working harder than they ever imagined—not for themselves, but to improve the lives of other Arizonans.

One day, while cleaning out closets for the winter, they decided to donate their surplus clothes to the citizens of the Hopi reservation 250 miles north of Prescott. And, since there was extra room in the pickup truck, Gene sent an e-mail to 21 neighbors and friends, giving them the opportunity to add their contributions.

Well, instead of the few bags of clothing Gene and Poco expected, neighbors showed up with over 600 pounds of donations—enough that they had to rent a trailer. Many of the donations came from families the Gertlers didn't know, but who had heard about the trip by word of mouth.

Word continued to spread, and the Gertlers' one-time visit to the reservation became a regular shuttle. Furniture and other household items joined the clothes, and soon there was too much for the pickup and trailer. It seemed like every load was bigger than the last. Many people would be overwhelmed, or say, "I've done my part." Gene and Poco bought a bigger truck and a bigger trailer and kept on hauling.

The years bring new challenges to all of us, and sadly, Gene and Poco have found that they are no longer able to carry on their work. But that wasn't until they had rounded up and personally delivered over 25,000 pounds—yes, over twelve tons—of clothing, furniture, and other assistance for Arizona's Native Americans. All for no remuneration other than knowing they'd helped keep other people warm.

The Bible says, "By their works shall ye know them." We sure know about Gene and Poco. And we are proud to call them our neighbors.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE,  
LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTH  
CARE ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

**HON. JEFF FLAKE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2002*

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, today I voted "no" on final passage of H.R. 4600, the Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, and Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act. My vote was a difficult one, but after consulting with both supporters and opponents of the bill, I was not convinced that the federal government should preempt state law in this area.

Those supporting this bill have made some compelling arguments as to why Congress should step in and institute these reforms.

They cite the national nature of insurance plans, whereby a doctor in Arizona might have to pay more for malpractice insurance due to an over-the-top jury award in Texas. They also note that, as doctors close up shop or stop providing high-risk care in specialties such as emergency medicine and obstetrics and gynecology, patients are forced to cross state lines in order to seek out treatment. We have all watched with dismay as hospitals have been forced to shut their doors and doctors have opted to treat patients without malpractice insurance due to the high costs of premiums. Certainly, the trial attorneys who line their pockets with egregious fees aren't suffering as a result of the mess they've made with unscrupulous lawsuits. These arguments only underscore an already evident need for the states to pursue medical malpractice reforms. However, as one who believes firmly in federalism, I am unwilling to support legislation that would, in effect, preempt the constitution of the state of Arizona, which prohibits caps on damages.

The natural evolution of health care delivery suggests that a federal solution such as H.R. 4600 may one day be necessary. Even today, we need tort reform badly. It's up to the states to begin that process, and I plan to be part of those efforts. The states should follow California's example, which has been an undeniable success over the past 25 years.

HONORING THE FEMINIST MAJORITY  
FOUNDATION AND MS. MAG-  
AZINE

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 3, 2002*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader in the movement to establish equality for women in the United States—the Feminist Majority Foundation.

Co-founded by Peg Yorkin and Eleanor Smeal, the Feminist Majority Foundation has been instrumental in the fight to create gender equality, eradicate domestic violence and promote feminist women and men as they seek elected office across the country.

Yorkin's involvement with feminist causes can be traced back to 1977, when she was elected as a delegate from California to the National Women's Conference. In 1986, she worked with Eleanor Smeal, then the president of the National Organization for Women to produce NOW's 20th Anniversary show, and in 1987, the two joined to found the Feminist Majority Foundation.

Nineteen ninety-one was a banner year for the Feminist Majority, which received a historic \$10 million gift to ensure a legacy of empowerment for young women. The first endowment made was a drive to make the so-called abortion pill RU-486 available to women.

That year also saw sexual harassment propelled to new heights as Clarence Thomas was vetted for a spot on the U.S. Supreme Court. Testimony by Anita Hill, coupled with the Senate's treatment of her and her allegations of sexual harassment, prompted the Feminist Majority to open the Sexual Harassment Hotline to provide information and help to harassment victims.

The groundbreaking efforts of the Feminist Majority continued, and in 2001 the organization bought a building in Beverly Hills to house