

training program in preparation for about 12,000 miles of travel within Israel and interviewed more than 1,200 people." The child of a first-generation Russian-American mother and a Polish immigrant father, Mr. Uris's pool of talent was seemingly bottomless, and his spirit indomitable, renewed daily by his commitment to the twin causes of freedom and justice, and propelled by a quintessentially American-immigrant zeal. A successful genius who rose from "hardscrabble beginnings," the Washington Post wrote in its epitaph yesterday, Mr. Uris was a man of uncommon and extraordinary character.

Mr. Speaker, Leon Uris was one of the great novelists of the twentieth century, and has secured his place among the intellectual and literary giants of our time. It is with great sadness and deep admiration that I bid farewell to Mr. Uris, and I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family.

---

TRIBUTE TO HERB ZOBEL

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Herb Zobel of Ouray, Colorado recently donated his time to aid 2,000 of his fellow biking enthusiasts as they pedaled through the Rocky Mountains for a good cause. In recognition of this dedication to community service, I would like to honor Herb here today.

Herb volunteered with "Ride the Rockies," a week-long tour of the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Herb has participated in "Ride the Rockies" six times, an impressive athletic accomplishment, especially considering he is 74 years old. The riders pedal 35 to 100 miles daily, and although they pass through some incredible scenery, they must also pedal up some difficult mountain passes. By working as a Marshall for this year's event, Herb stood in the same spot for five to six hours every day to help direct riders through confusing parts of the route. He also dished out plenty of encouragement as the cyclists passed, since he understands how challenging the ride can be.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Herb Zobel here today. He exemplifies the spirit of community service that helped make this nation great. By donating his time to "Ride the Rockies," Herb selflessly helped 2,000 of his fellow riders stay fit, healthy, and happy. I congratulate Herb for his athletic achievements, commend him for his service, and wish him the very best for the future.

---

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH  
FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2003*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have over 40 million people without health insurance today. Over the course of this year,

another 20 million or so will find themselves without healthcare coverage for some period of time. The lack of insurance leads to decreased access to care, decreased lifespan, and increased morbidity. When people do not have health insurance, they are more likely to have uncontrolled disease, and the suffering that goes with it. They are also more likely to end up in the hospital or emergency room. A small business that cannot afford to purchase a health plan will, therefore, have workers who are more likely to call in sick, or to need long-term sick leave. And in today's economic situation, many small business owners simply do not have the funds to meet the exorbitant costs of health insurance. So they are caught between a rock and a hard place.

The lack of affordable health insurance costs our nation billions in avoidable costs each year, and has made enormous health care bills the number one cause of bankruptcy for the American people. This is a devastating and complex problem. There is no easy answer to solving it; it will require a well-thought-out bipartisan approach to enact meaningful legislation to improve access to care. The legislation before us today is not all that it could be or should be. However, it is a step in the right direction, that we cannot afford not to take.

The federal government is not the only entity grappling with the challenges of getting adequate health insurance to the American people. States have been working on this issue for decades, and have brokered extensive agreements and regulations with the insurance industry to protect consumers. This legislation will exempt AHPs from those state regulations. This is misguided and dangerous. As we go to conference with the other body, we must work to ensure that we do not undo the good work that states have done in the past. AHPs can be an important piece to the health insurance puzzle, but they should not bypass the safety mechanisms that have protected patients for decades.

If this bill is signed into law as written, people in my state of Texas will lose the right to demand independent external review of their claims. AHPs will not be required to cover emergency services, or diabetes care, or mammograms, or to charge fair premiums to the old or sick. AHPs will also have the ability to "cherry pick," that is to offer inexpensive plans to some associations—maybe groups of fitness clubs or software companies that tend to be full of younger or healthier people—while gouging associations that employ more experienced workers, or the disabled. The CBO and the Urban Institute have issued studies that predict that AHPs would do little to improve the uninsured problem, and may actually make it worse—unless we make them responsive to the demands of state legislators.

The states have been quite successful in regulating the insurance industry and protecting their consumers. Why should we undermine that? The CBO and numerous other groups have predicted that this bill will destabilize the health insurance industry in America—and actually increase the number of people without insurance while raising the costs of those with it. That is why over 500 groups have expressed formal opposition to this bill, including the National Governors Association, both the Republican and Democratic Governors Associations, the AFL-CIO, physicians groups, providers groups, insurance trade as-

sociation, many chambers of commerce, and at least a hundred consumer/advocacy groups.

I am voting for this bill today, because our nation's small businesses need relief, and their employees desperately need health insurance coverage. I will follow this bill as it goes through conference. If we can find a way to harvest the good that AHPs can do, while protecting consumers from "cherry picking," or price gouging, or benefit reductions—by keeping AHPs under control of state regulations—I will proudly support the bill. If it comes back in the form it is in today, I will vote against it.

---

HONORING TOM RETZER, U.S.  
NAVY SEAL

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2003*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the flags of Kenosha County in Wisconsin will fly at half-staff in honor of U.S. Navy Seal Tom Retzer who was killed in the line of duty in the Near East on June 25, 2003. His father-in-law and mother-in-law live in Kenosha, and his wife and children reside in northern Virginia.

The loss of this brave U.S. serviceman saddens us and reminds us of the dangers our military men and women face every day as they work to protect our country and stand up for freedom. Throughout our nation's history, courageous individuals like Tom Retzer have been willing to put their lives on the line to defend our land and liberty. We owe them and their families our support and our deepest gratitude. Without them, America's freedom would be fleeting. We honor the memory of Tom Retzer and offer prayers for him and his family.

---

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TERRY  
MARSDEN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize a great leader in the Mancos, Colorado community. After 10 years of service on the Mancos Library Board of Trustees, Terry Marsden is retiring from his position as President. In his five years in that post, Terry has been a dynamic force in the rapid evolution of the Mancos Public Library. As we recognize Terry's retirement, I commend him for his dedication and leadership within the community.

Terry Marsden's leadership has been an influential factor in the numerous enhancements made to the Mancos Public Library over the past 10 years. In his first few years on the Board of Trustees, Terry helped oversee the implementation of an automated circulation catalog system. During his time as President of the Board, Terry was also instrumental in providing for the renovation of the building, hiring additional staff and increasing the library's hours of operation, all in an attempt to make