

district and throughout the country. Rural hospitals have been especially hard hit, and without the support of two important provisions in the Medicare bill, their livelihood will be threatened.

I support keeping a full market basket for hospitals in HR 1. Without this annual reimbursement adjustment to keep up with inflation, hospitals could stand to lose 12 billion in inpatient payments. For my home state of Illinois, this could mean a loss of \$92 million over three years. Providers, especially those in rural areas like my district, depend on this money to stay open in traditionally underserved communities.

Restoring the Indirect Medical Education payments is another one of my priorities for the Medicare bill. IME payments go to teaching hospitals, whose role is crucial to the survival of our health care system. These payments acknowledge teaching hospitals' higher costs due to the specialized treatment provided to sicker patients. Not only do they provide unique care, teaching hospitals are also producing our next generation of caregivers. Unfortunately, these hospitals will lose more than 4 billion dollars over the next four years because of a cut last year. The reinstatement of the IME to 6.5% would enable these hospitals to continue their mission.

These important provisions will enhance the quality of care and will make a major difference for Medicare beneficiaries all over the country.

I applaud my colleagues on the Conference Committee for the hard work they have done and continue to do to reach agreements for the good of our constituents.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ASHLAND UNIVERSITY ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS CHARTER

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to stand before my colleagues in the House to pay tribute to an outstanding institution of higher education. Ashland University is marking a "Year of Celebration" on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of the school's chartering in Ashland, Ohio.

Ashland, Ohio's original settlers trace their roots back to a small group of "brothers" who emigrated in 1708 from Schwarzenau, Germany in search of religious and intellectual freedom.

Like Ashland's first citizens, the history of this vibrant institution reads as a truly American story. It all began in the summer of 1877 at a town meeting. The German Baptist Brethren Church proposed the establishment of an institution of higher education if the community could raise ten thousand dollars. The resulting fundraising campaign proved successful, and on February 20, 1878, Ashland College was chartered.

Classes started on September 17, 1879 with eight faculty members and between fifty-five and seventy-five students. From this modest beginning, Ashland's enrollment has grown to five thousand six hundred graduate and undergraduate students.

Ashland College became Ashland University in 1989. The University is and remains a lib-

eral arts institution in the finest tradition of higher education. As such, it is a teaching university, empowering its students not only with current knowledge but also with the power of deliberate reasoning to face the challenges and new horizons known only to the future.

I would note that the University's Ashbrook Center for Public Policy is a nationally recognized academic forum for the study, research and discussion of the principles and practices of American constitutional government and politics. The Ashbrook Center's programs are directed to the scholarly defense of individual liberty, limited constitutional government and civic morality, which together constitute our democratic way of life.

Mr. Speaker, truly great institutions of higher education not only educate their students, but also inspire them toward a lifetime of service as well. Indeed, Ashland University's 125 years of teaching provides our state with a rich legacy of intellectual, spiritual, social, cultural and physical development.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ashland University's "Year of Celebration," and to extend to the entire Ashland University family our very best wishes.

HONORING RAYMOND G. BOLAND

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Raymond G. Boland who served as Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs for eleven years.

Throughout his tenure, Secretary Boland initiated a number of programs aimed at bettering the lives of Wisconsin veterans. Although it is impossible to quantify all Secretary Boland has accomplished, I would like to highlight three programs that demonstrate his unyielding dedication to veterans.

The 1994 establishment of the Veterans Assistance Program made great strides towards ending homelessness among veterans. In working to better the lives of veterans and increase job accessibility, Secretary Boland implemented the Troops to Teachers Program in 1995. This important program has allowed veterans with baccalaureate degrees to obtain teaching certification at an accelerated pace. Finally, Secretary Boland's dedication to veterans was demonstrated by his 1998 creation of the Wisconsin Women's Veterans program, which continues to focus on the specific needs of women veterans.

Secretary Boland's outstanding work has not gone unnoticed. In 1997, Secretary Boland received the American Veterans Silver Helmet Award as the Civil Servant of the Year. The following year, he was awarded the Department of the Army Distinguished Civilian Service Medal. Most recently, in recognition of his commitment to ending veteran homelessness, Secretary Boland was presented with the second annual Jerald Washington Memorial Founders' Award by the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

I am proud today to stand with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans of Wisconsin in recognizing Secretary Raymond G. Boland for his outstanding work and dedication to better the lives of veterans.

IN HONOR OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DALLAS STARS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 10th Anniversary of the Dallas Stars first regular season NHL hockey game in Dallas. The Dallas Stars had a successful start to their career in Big D, as the Stars defeated the Detroit Red Wings 6-4 at Reunion Arena on October 5, 1993.

In the ten years since the Stars moved to Dallas from their previous home in Minnesota, The Stars have advanced to the playoffs eight years, with playoff berths in 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2003. The Stars won Lord Stanley's Cup in 1999 in a six-game series against the Buffalo Sabres. The championship Stars team was captained by defenseman Derian Hatcher, the very first American born Captain of a Stanley Cup championship team in the history of the NHL. The Stars then repeated as Western Conference Champions the following year.

In addition to the exceptional record of the Dallas Stars over the past ten years, the moving of the Stars to Dallas has created a huge expansion of hockey throughout our schools and communities in North Texas. Before the Stars came to Dallas, it was almost unheard of for schools to have interscholastic hockey teams. The North Texas community has not only fully embraced the Stars, but has taken a heart to the sport of hockey. Without the Stars, none of this expansion of hockey throughout North Texas would have occurred in such a rapid fashion.

Under the leadership of head coach Dave Tippett, general manager Doug Armstrong, and owner Thomas O. Hicks, the Dallas Stars are poised to start another great season. I wish the Dallas Stars all the best for their season opener against the Mighty Ducks on October 8th at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, and for the rest of the upcoming season. Congratulations to the Stars franchise on their 10th year anniversary of their move to the Lone Star State of Texas.

A PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORT TO IMPROVE CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the award-winning educational videotapes given free to our nation's high schools, community colleges, and others produced by the Committee for Citizen Awareness (CCA). In particular, I would like to focus on those Americans across the country who are working with the CCA to enable these civic videotapes to be seen free by their fellow citizens in their locale.

All Americans can agree on the need for a well-informed citizenry. The involvement of our people in our republic is the guarantee of our freedom. Surveys have shown that the information contained in these videotapes help our citizens understand and exercise their civic responsibility.