These students are shining examples of the best and brightest in Texas and America. They deserve a Lone Star size applause. Congratulations. We are proud of you.

**COMMEMORATING THE INTRODUCTION OF “MEDAL OF HONOR”**

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

**OF TEXAS**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, October 21, 2003**

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the upcoming introduction of the book, “Medal of Honor,” at the National Boy Scout Museum in Irving, Texas. The book honors the more than 3,400 Medal of Honor recipients that have served our Nation so valiantly in time of war or crisis and will be introduced on November 8, 2003. Mr. Speaker, this event is being coordinated by the North Trail District of the Boy Scouts of America under the direction of Chairman Gary V. Hill and Mr. Rob Kyker, the Friends of Scouting Chairman and host of this event.

Mr. Speaker, during the introduction of the book, seven (7) of the living 138 Medal of Honor recipients will be presented and honored along with Mr. Michael E. Thornton, U.S. Navy—retired, who is the spokesman for all Medal of Honor recipients. These individuals embody the virtues of sacrifice, courage, and leadership, which the Boy Scouts work to instill. Since 1861, the Congressional Medal of Honor has been awarded to our Nation’s bravest Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen. This book, by Mr. Peter Collier, honors them for their courage, character, and leadership and will serve as a wonderful example to future generations, especially the Boy Scouts of the future.

The introduction of this book, affords a new generation the opportunity to once again learn of the leadership and courage of those service men and women who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor. This presentation at the Boy Scout National Museum is a great moment to honor and remember all the Medal of Honor recipients and I count it an honor to be involved and to be present at this wonderful ceremony.

**AMENDING TITLE XXI OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT**

**SPEECH OF**

**HON. TOM UDALL**

**OF NEW MEXICO**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Monday, October 20, 2003**

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for passage of H.R. 3288, but do so with disappointment that the House did not take up S. 1547, thereby failing to expedite the process of ensuring that New Mexico does not lose its unused SCHIP funds.

My New Mexico delegation colleagues in the other chamber were able to secure passage of S. 1547 on July 31, 2003 by unanimous consent. This legislation allows states, including New Mexico, to keep unused allotments under the SCHIP Program.

Prior to recessing for the August District Work Period, we in the House passed H.R. 2854—what was supposed to be a final compromise covering $2.7 billion in SCHIP funds, about half of which technically expired September 30, 2002, and the rest of which was scheduled to expire September 30, 2003. Without this action, the funds would have reverted back to the Federal treasury, consequently depriving New Mexico and other states of sorely needed health care funds.

However, because of a technical error in H.R. 2854 that excluded New Mexico from retaining their SCHIP funds, S. 1547 was passed to ensure that New Mexico was rightfully included. As of this legislation today, New Mexico and other states will again be required to wait for their much-needed SCHIP funds since this bill will now have to be referred back to the Senate, passed once again, and then sent to the President for his signature.

While I by no means seek to diminish the importance of the other states now included under H.R. 3822 for a similar fix that was required for New Mexico, I am nevertheless dis-appointed that S. 1547 could not be passed as a lean technical fix to expedite New Mexico’s funds. New Mexico is ranked second in the Nation for uninsured individuals, which makes the SCHIP program that much more important so that children can have health coverage.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3288, but do so in the hope that this legislation can be expeditiously passed in the other chamber. The sooner we can get this legislation into law, the sooner the funding can go to its intended purpose—providing health insurance coverage for the children in our respective states.

**FIVE TRUE HEROES IN AMERICAN LIFE**

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

**OF VERMONT**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, October 21, 2003**

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, if we were to believe the television and radio and even the newspapers, we would think that the most important figures in America are professional athletes, movie stars, rock performers, and financial tycoons.

But we all know that this is not true. There are millions of Americans who do heroic work every day. Some are teachers, some nurses, some work in day care. Some prepare meals for the elderly; others take care of their elderly parents or of spouses or children who are ill or disabled. Men and women all over America go off to work each day, sometimes at two or even three jobs, to make sure that there is food on the table for their families, and money to send their children to college.

Today, I want to recognize five citizens of Vermont who are heroes: Mary Jean Inglee, Emma Katherine Ely, Bev Priest, Theresa Emmons, and Christina Crawford. They come from every corner of Vermont, and each has been tireless in advocating for the needs of the low-income citizens of our state.

Mary Jean Inglee was born in Whitehall, New York, and is the mother of ten children. She attended New York State University and is an accomplished teacher. She has been a teacher in the New York City public schools for 34 years. In her role as a teacher, she has worked in special education classes and has been an advocate for children with disabilities.

Emma Katherine Ely is another outstanding advocate for Vermont students. She has dedicated her life to helping low-income students in Vermont. She has been a strong advocate for families who need assistance to pay for their children’s education. She has been active in many roles in education, including serving on the Champlain Valley Early Childhood Conference. In addition to this work, she has also volunteered as a mentor for children in need.

Ms. Ely has been active in many roles in Vermont, including serving on the Vermont State Head Start Parents Association. She has also been involved in the Vermont State Teachers Association. Ms. Ely has been an advocate for low-income students in Vermont, and she has been a strong voice for the importance of education for all students.

Ms. Ely’s work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Vermont State Teacher of the Year Award. She has also been named the Vermont State Parent of the Year. Ms. Ely’s dedication to education and the needs of low-income students has been an inspiration to all Vermonters. She is a true American hero.