

Sisneros, Cynthia Crookston, Meghan Meehleis, Amberley Meehleis, Caitlynn Meehleis, and Ashlee Meehleis.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor Rick and Michelle Meehleis of Fort Collins, Colorado. As the founders of the High Country Cloggers, this extraordinary couple have dedicated themselves to the success of the young dancers. At its inception, 5 years ago, the dance group held evening lessons in the Meehleis family garage.

Rick and Michelle have turned the once family hobby into a family-run business with the participation of tremendous dancers throughout the community. The clogging group now holds lessons in its own studio and performs around the nation.

In addition to performing in Detroit, over the past year they have danced in Branson, Missouri; Atlanta, Georgia; and in Oklahoma.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the High Country Cloggers and the Meehleis before the Congress today because they are remarkable examples of dedication, strong family values, and achievement.

TRIBUTE TO BRYANT RANCH
SCHOOL

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bryant Ranch School in Yorba Linda, CA, for exceeding the President's expectations in fostering a positive learning environment and building a solid foundation for our future leaders. The school recently received the coveted Blue Ribbon distinction by the U.S. Department of Education.

Bryant Ranch is more than just a school; it's the pride and joy of a community that comes together to raise and educate its children. The school has excellent teachers who go the extra mile to make a difference in the lives of their students. It has parents who are willing to get involved in school activities. It has administrators who give the teachers the flexibility and support they need to cater their curriculum to their classroom. And it has students who understand the importance of learning and the value of a proper education.

Mr. Speaker, Bryant Ranch has brought all these elements together to build a first rate educational institution. President Bush has distinguished this school as a model for others to follow, and this Congress should commend the teachers, parents, administrators and students for this accomplishment.

THE PRINCESS WORE CLEATS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an exceptional young woman from my district. Vanessa Lucero of Las Vegas, New Mexico has made quite a name for herself this month.

Vanessa is a member of the West Las Vegas High School football team. On October

12, the 5-foot-1-inch, 103-pound freshman made history in New Mexico.

Vanessa—a tailback—scored a touchdown running in for the score from the 1-yard line. She is believed to be New Mexico's first high school female player to score a touchdown in a game. Her contribution to the team has already improved the West Las Vegas Dons' record to 5–2. Amazingly, Vanessa is also on the wrestling team.

As if this accomplishment were not enough, during half-time of the same game, Vanessa was crowned Freshman Princess for homecoming, still wearing her No. 11 jersey. The gown she wore to the dance that night was green and yellow—the Dons' colors.

Since this wonderful achievement, Vanessa has received enormous attention from the New Mexico and national media. In addition to news stories chronicling her actions, she has been the subject of glowing newspaper editorials. She was also invited on NBC's Today Show and interviewed by Matt Lauer. This media interest has not only made Vanessa's family and friends proud of her, it has brought favorable attention to our great state.

What has happened in Las Vegas is larger than just an athletic accomplishment. With Vanessa's dual victories, she is helping to break down stereotypes that, unfortunately, are still common in our country. We should be happy with all of the progress we have made providing girls and women with opportunities previously denied them. However, we must continue our efforts to promote gender equality. As Vanessa is fond of saying, "It's only a guy's sport until a girl joins." Indeed.

At a time when far too many American children have sedentary lives where they do not move off the couch, and many are obese, we must support programs that lead to improved fitness and health. Adolescent female athletes are more apt than nonathletes to develop a positive body image, less likely to become pregnant, and are less at risk for developing women's diseases such as osteoporosis and breast cancer.

In addition, sports provide a safe and healthy alternative to drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, and to antisocial behavior.

Vanessa, unknowingly, has become a role model for girls everywhere. I am very proud that she and her family hail from my congressional district. Both of her accomplishments have made us so proud.

Mr. Speaker, Vanessa Lucero is a special young woman and a valued citizen of San Miguel County and the state of New Mexico. I am honored to join with my colleagues in congratulating her for all of her successes.

HONORING THE NATIONAL
GUARD'S 41ST BRIGADE COT-
TAGE GROVE, OREGON UPON
BEING DEPLOYED TO IRAQ

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I regret the congressional schedule keeps me from attending the deployment ceremony to honor members of the 41st Brigade. This ceremony marks just a portion of the honor and debt of gratitude that our state and our nation owe you for your

service. We also owe a debt of gratitude to your family and friends for their understanding, support, and sacrifice.

The media talks so much of high tech and secret weapons, but the enduring strength and real secret behind the military power of the United States is men and women like you who have volunteered to serve as the new citizen soldiers, highly trained and motivated. You constitute the key to the success of our total force—a military second to none in the world. You and the other 8,000 Members of the Oregon National Guard continue a long and honored tradition of service to Oregon's citizens in times of disaster, crisis, or strife, while training and preparing to defend our nation in time of need.

The mission ahead of you will be both difficult and dangerous—to bring stability and order to a ravaged nation in the midst of one of the most volatile regions on Earth. All Americans and our allies around the world will be more safe and secure if this region can be moved toward peace, but this course is not easy or certain.

I pledge to do all I can in Congress to ensure that you have the best training and equipment necessary to accomplish your mission and return home safely. I further pledge that your service and sacrifice will not be forgotten and will be reflected in the treatment and benefits you and your family receive.

From the bottom of my heart and on behalf of all the citizens of Oregon's 4th Congressional District, thank you and Godspeed.

HONORING ASHLAND, KY CITY
WORKERS FOR HEROIC FLOOD
RESCUE

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to three remarkable individuals from my home state of Kentucky. My brother-in law William Gambill, Kermit Nethercutt, and William Ott, all employees with the Ashland, Kentucky Water Department, were involved in a courageous rescue of a local woman during the heavy rains and flooding that occurred in my state last spring.

On May 5, Mrs. Mary Newmark of Ashland became stuck in mud and waist-deep water while clearing a creek near her home. For a terrifying hour, with creek waters rapidly rising around her, nobody could hear her desperate pleas for help. Gratefully, her shouts were soon detected by three city employees working on a nearby water line.

The three men responded immediately, frantically searching for Mrs. Newmark in the dense greenery surrounding the creek. Mrs. Newmark was finally able to end her ordeal by tossing a ball, that she'd earlier cleared from the swollen creek, into the air allowing the men to locate and assist her.

The joint effort of Mr. Ott, Mr. Gambill, and Mr. Nethercutt demonstrates a selfless and admirable devotion to their community. Their quick action saved a young mother from what could have been a very serious injury.

On behalf of the citizens of Ashland, I am honored to recognize William Ott, William Gambill, and Kermit Nethercutt for their Good

Samaritan spirit before this chamber of Congress today. We are fortunate to have their service.

DIETARY SUPPLEMENT ACCESS
AND AWARENESS ACT (DSAA)

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Ms. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, with the support of my colleagues, Representative HENRY WAXMAN and Representative JOHN DINGELL, I rise today to introduce the Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act of 2003.

This legislation presents a balanced, reasonable approach to improving the safety of dietary supplements while maintaining market access for responsible supplement manufacturers.

Hallie Bechler looks almost exactly like her father. She was born in late April, almost two months after her father, Baltimore Orioles pitcher Steve Bechler, collapsed from a heatstroke during spring training. A county medical examiner linked his death to the use of a dietary supplement containing ephedra. Steve Bechler was 23 years old.

Like any person interested in losing weight, Steve Bechler may have been lured by the dietary supplement's claims of "rapid and extremely dramatic results." In fact, for an athlete like Steve Bechler, playing baseball in the Florida heat, ephedra did not cause rapid and extremely dramatic weight loss, but rather contributed to a rapid and extreme heatstroke, which killed him.

Dietary supplement use is not limited to adults. Teenagers are certainly vulnerable to pressures regarding weight and athletic expectations. Teenage athletes are especially vulnerable to these pressures. Last year, Illinois high school student Sean Riggins took an ephedra product to improve his football performance. He had a heart attack and passed away at age 16.

The ephedra crisis has raised public awareness about dietary supplements and the absence of accurate information concerning risks and benefits. Much of the confusion surrounding dietary supplements can be attributed to the changes made in 1994 by the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA).

Cited as the greatest removal of FDA jurisdiction in the history of the agency, DSHEA has greatly curtailed its authority. Simply put, this legislation deregulated the supplement industry. Consequently, there has been an explosion of herbal remedies. Moreover, natural, yet risky, stimulants have also entered the market. The FDA, however, is prohibited from screening out any of these potentially dangerous dietary supplements. What if ephedra is only the tip of the dietary supplement iceberg?

Former FDA director David Kessler wrote in the New England Journal of Medicine, "Congress has put the FDA in the position of being able to act only after the fact and after substantial harm has already occurred." This is because DSHEA shifted the burden of proof from dietary supplement manufacturers to the FDA. Consumers have no way of learning about reported side effects and the FDA does

not possess the authority to require such reports. As a result, American consumers have been unwitting victims of a multibillion-dollar industry!

Today with my colleagues, Representative HENRY WAXMAN and Representative JOHN DINGELL, I am proud to introduce the Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act. This bill will address the gaps created by DSHEA through greater information exchange and accountability.

Our legislation contains commonsense provisions requiring dietary supplement manufacturers to provide the FDA with a list of their products and reports of all serious adverse events. These actions will alert the FDA to problematic dietary supplements and will give the FDA access to information it needs to take action more swiftly. If the FDA determines that a specific supplement may have serious health consequences, it can require the manufacturer to do a postmarket surveillance study to ensure that the product is safe.

The ephedra tragedies have shown us that proving a dietary supplement to be unsafe requires a Herculean effort and mountain of evidence. Sadly, the evidence is often a growing body count. Our legislation engages manufacturers in determining the safety of dietary supplements. By providing their studies and other related data, manufacturers and the FDA would come together to make a comprehensive and accurate decision for American consumers.

Our legislation gives the FDA the authority to prohibit sales to minors of dietary supplements that may pose significant risk. Many young athletes emulate the practices of their professional sport heroes. Their developing bodies are especially susceptible to the effect of stimulants and steroid-like products such as "andro."

Numerous supplement products have emerged in the market in the last ten years. They range from vitamins and minerals to herbals and hormones. This boom has created an uncertain situation as to the quality and safety of dietary supplements. According to Bruce Silverglade from the Center for Science in the Public Interest, "the challenge for most consumers is to determine which supplements are beneficial and which are nothing more than 21st-century snake oil—or even dangerous." That is why this legislation includes authorization of funds for physician and consumer education programs regarding adverse reactions.

Certainly, some dietary supplements offer benefits. Folic acid intake by women, for example, has been shown to reduce birth defects in unborn children. We are all familiar with the benefits of taking vitamin C and monitoring adequate calcium intake. Despite claims to the contrary, the Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act will not take away vitamins and minerals from consumers. In fact, my colleagues and I included language to specifically exempt them from this legislation.

The FDA has its hands tied behind its back. Limited funding and manpower has made the FDA's efforts to protect the public scattershot. The measures and education programs in this legislation will enable the FDA to gather solid data about the dangers some dietary supplements pose. With this information in hand, the FDA can make sensible, informed decisions and policies about dietary supplements. Consumers can have greater assurance than they

currently have about the safety of the products on the market. We cannot continue to stand on the sidelines and let this insidious public health threat go unchecked. The health and well being of our young people and loved ones are at risk.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE FAA
CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to recommit this privatization plan back to Conference Committee.

Privatization simply doesn't make sense. It compromises the safety of the American public and it is simply bad policy.

Studies have shown that it has no operational or economic advantages and that it can even lead to more accidents.

How does this make Americans safer?

In a post September 11th world, we must make safety a priority.

Air travel has declined over the past two years because people do not feel safe. We must not make this situation worse!

In Canada, privatization has led to an accident rate that is twice the rate here in the United States. And their air travel system is only 7% the size of ours!

I remember in 1981, President Ronald Reagan fired the federal air traffic controllers for striking. The President said that they were violating Title V and that air traffic controllers must not have the right to strike because of public safety concerns. Now, under privatization, Title V will no longer be applicable. The Republicans cannot have it both ways. Do they want to deny private employees the right to strike and collectively bargain, or do they want to keep the current system in place to ensure America's safety?

So I ask again, why are we doing this?

Is it cheaper? The answer is no.

Privatization increases costs.

The British Government had to pay \$131 million to rescue its privatized system. \$131 million! That is nearly double the price at which they sold it.

Is this good policy? The answer is no.

Privatization has failed miserably in other countries.

According to recent reports, the U.S. system is 74 percent more efficient and 79 percent more productive than the privatized European system.

The U.S. air traffic control system is the safest and most sophisticated in the world. So why do we want to change it?

It handles over half of the world's air traffic and cargo.

Approximately 20,000 hard-working men and women of the FAA ensure the safety of more than one million passengers each day. And we should trust them to continue to do their jobs.

These are the same federal air traffic controllers that landed nearly 700 planes on September 11th and completely cleared the air space in two hours.