

discoveries have changed the world in remarkable and unmistakable ways. Even today, America's space program is coordinating our most sophisticated space exploration effort ever. The Mars Rover program is a tremendous scientific success developed by NASA's best and brightest scientists.

Yet if academic indicators are correct, America will face a vast drain of scientific knowledge and ambition in the near future and we must begin to ask ourselves where we will find America's next Dr. Salk or the talent to develop America's future missions in space.

Congress has a clear interest in ensuring that America's great scientific past and present continues into the future. The Congressional Science Competition is an effective way for Congress to demonstrate leadership in promoting scientific education as a national priority, to show support for the process of scientific inquiry, and to foster enthusiasm for science. I urge all of my Colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation and in doing so, indicate their support for making science education and interest a national priority.

TRIBUTE TO DR. STUART D. COOK

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of respect that I rise to acknowledge the accomplishments made by Dr. Stuart D. Cook during his tenure as president of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). As Dr. Cook steps down from the presidency after six years, the Concerned Citizens at UMDNJ and the UMDNJ-University Hospital are proud of the contributions he has made to this institute of excellence.

During his presidency, Dr. Cook partnered with the Board of Trustees at UMDNJ, faculty, staff and students to create a compelling vision for the future. Through his efforts, federal research support to UMDNJ more than doubled over the past five years. Over the past four years, the university's funding from the National Institutes of Health has increased at a faster rate than the average for all schools and universities in the nation. The National Science Foundation, in its most recent rankings of research universities across the nation, ranks UMDNJ as the number one research university in New Jersey as measured by federal research expenditures and 71st out of the top 100 research universities in the country. This marks the university's highest ever ranking.

Under Dr. Cook's leadership, the university is in the midst of a \$535 million statewide capital construction program to upgrade existing space and provide new space for scientists and clinicians. On the Newark campus, which is in the heart of the 10th Congressional District, the University Behavioral Health Sciences Building and the International Center for Public Health have been completed. Additionally, construction of the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School-University Hospital Cancer Center and a second Ambulatory Care Center are underway. Construction of a new clinical building for the UMDNJ-New Jersey Dental School will be completed in the first quarter of next year. On the Piscataway campus, a new building

housing a research tower for UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and UMDNJ-School of Public Health was opened. In New Brunswick, the steel structure for the Child Health Institute was completed and the new wing of Cancer Institute of New Jersey facility will open in early 2005. On the Stratford campus, the University Doctors Pavilion is open and construction is underway for a new wing of the Science Building.

Complementing these outstanding efforts, other initiatives include, the establishment of a University Professorship Program which has to date, named 15 researchers to the faculty. This program significantly increased the overhead revenues to the University as the researchers brought with them more than \$7.5 million in federal funding. The University also created a program that is unique in the nation—the Master Educators Guild—which recognizes teaching excellence. The Guild now has 48 faculty members. Through collaboration with other colleges and universities throughout the state, a school of public health emerged. As a result of this effort and Dr. Cook's leadership, the School of Public Health established the Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities.

Mr. Speaker, as he returns to the faculty at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School to continue his clinical practice and research in multiple sclerosis, I urge my colleagues to commend Dr. Cook for all that he has done in his years as president of UMDNJ.

HAPPY 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY,
HENRY AND BARBARA
WIRSTSHAFTER

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two very extraordinary Americans who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary—Henry and Barbara Wirstschafter.

Henry and Barbara are a joy to know. Perky, humorous, and filled with the spirit of life, the two share their love and their youthful spirit with their four children: Gary, Joy, Robert and Greg, and their six grandchildren.

For many years, the two have participated in the life of the community. Henry and Barbara met back in 1953, and were married in June of 1954 in McGee, Arkansas. Since that time they have had the opportunity to tour the country. They even saw the world come together when they volunteered for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

In addition, they recognize the special needs of the community. Henry and Barbara have been loyal and dedicated in helping the less fortunate. They assist the hungry with their involvement with Meals on Wheels, and they assist the poor by providing families with affordable housing units. Their loyalty and dedication to assisting others is a true virtue.

Surely their secret to a long happy life together is to be warm, outgoing, motivated, optimistic, and to be of service to others. For Henry and Barbara, their marriage has been filled with many wonderful memories. All who know Henry and Barbara have been charmed by their presence. Happy 50th wedding anniversary, and best wishes.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM MAURER

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I share with my colleagues the news that a distinguished Veteran and longtime friend, Bill Maurer, has passed away. I submit the following announcement:

William W. "Bill" Maurer, 72, of Fort Collins died Tuesday, April 13, 2004, at Poudre Valley Hospital. He passed peacefully with his family members at his side.

While in the Wyoming National Guard he rose from the rank of private to sergeant first class and was ultimately commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1953. He was called to active duty in the Army in mid 1953 and attended the Artillery Basic Officers Course at Fort Sill, Okla., and then joined the 37th Infantry Division at Fort Polk, La.

He married Joyce Marie Huntzinger in Douglas on Dec. 28, 1953. They were blessed with two children, Deborah Ruth and David William. During their marriage, Bill and Joyce traveled to many duty assignments around the world with tours of duty in Fort Polk, La.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Riley, Kan.; Germany; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; and Washington, D.C. During his military career Bill commanded the 5th Battalion, 29th Artillery in the Republic of Vietnam and the 1st Infantry Division Artillery at Fort Riley. He also was a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. During his military career he served in many high-level positions that included tours of duty as an Army liaison officer to the U.S. Senate, deputy chief of legislative liaison, Office, Secretary of the Army and deputy secretary of defense legislative affairs. He retired from the Army on June 30, 1979, with more than 30 years of service at the rank of brigadier general. His military decorations include the Silver Star, one OLC; Legion of Merit, one OLC; Defense Superior Service Medal, the Soldiers Medal, the Bronze Star Medal for valor, one OLC; the Purple Heart medal, one OLC; the Meritorious Service Medal, two OLC; the Air Medal for valor, 12 OLC; and the Army Commendation Medal, three OLC, and numerous foreign and service awards.

After his retirement he joined Chrysler Corporation as director of the Washington office of the Chrysler Defense subsidiary. In 1981 Chrysler Defense was purchased by General Dynamics Corporation, he assumed new duties in the General Dynamics Washington Corporate Office as manager of legislative affairs. In 1984 he was promoted to corporate director of legislative affairs and later became corporate vice president for congressional relations in 1991. He retired from General Dynamics in March 1994, and Bill and Joyce relocated to their retirement home in Fort Collins, where he still remained active as a consultant to General Dynamics.

He was a 43-year member of the American Legion, a life member of the Retired Officers Association, the Reserve Officers Association and the Army War College Alumni Association.

Bill was a generous, caring man who will be missed by all who knew him. He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather.

Bill is survived by his daughter, Debbie Prentiss; his son-in-law, Paul; grandsons, Jason and Steven Prentiss of Fort Collins; his son, David Maurer of Fort Collins; and his brother, Richard C. Maurer of Manassas, Va.

Bill was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Joyce of 48 years; and his parents, Richard and Lenore Maurer.

INTRODUCTION OF BIA REFORM
LEGISLATION

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the entire Connecticut House delegation to introduce legislation to provide uniform criteria for the administrative acknowledgment and recognition of Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

Today's legislation seeks to codify in statute the seven mandatory criteria for the recognition of Indian tribes and to end the "revolving door" exemption that allows former BIA officials to represent and lobby on behalf of groups seeking recognition immediately after they leave the federal government.

The Connecticut congressional delegation recently met with Interior Secretary Gale Norton. At that meeting, I raised the two issues contained in this legislation. With regard to putting the seven criteria in statute, Secretary Norton said that she had no "immediate objection to it." When asked about ending the "revolving door" exemption, she responded even more favorably, saying that since coming to the Interior Department she had been "troubled by it." Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged that we have found common ground with Secretary Norton on these two key issues and I'm hopeful that our delegation can work with her and the BIA to pass this bill.

Tribes need to be granted the federal status they deserve and accorded their sovereign rights, but the determination to acknowledge such tribes cannot and should not be made unless these groups clearly meet all seven of the criteria. To ensure these standards are met, my legislation would codify each of these seven criteria, ensuring that "federal acknowledgement or recognition shall not be granted to an Indian tribe unless the Indian tribe has met all of the criteria listed." This law will provide an equitable process to groups that clearly meet all seven tests, while preventing claims from groups that fall short of one of these standards. No longer will the BIA be able to pick and choose among these criteria to find in favor of a petitioner.

What's more, Mr. Speaker, my legislation would end the so-called "revolving door" exemption that allows former BIA officials to immediately begin representing petitioning groups before their former colleagues and employer. When members of Congress or other members of the executive branch leave government service for the private sector they must refrain from lobbying for one year. It is unfair to have one particular agency exempted from this law. Moreover, it is particularly troublesome that this agency enjoys such an exemption given the significant role that money, gambling, and political influence have come to play in recognition decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to support these two much-needed reforms to the BIA to make our Indian recognition process more transparent and more equitable for all parties involved.

HONORING WALLA WALLA
COUNTY'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, today I come before the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Walla Walla County on its 150th birthday. Nestled in the valley of the Blue Mountains, Walla Walla County anchors the southern end of the 5th Congressional District of Washington State.

During their exploration of the Louisiana Purchase, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark passed through Walla Walla County on the Nez Perce trail on their return trip East. In the 1800s, numerous settlements, forts, and trading posts were established in the region by fur-traders. The Walla Walla Valley was also home to a diverse Native American population including the Walla Walla, Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla and Cayuse tribes. In fact, the name Walla Walla is of Indian origin and means "many waters."

The 1st Washington Territorial Legislature created Walla Walla County on April 25, 1854. After the Washington Territory was established in 1853, Walla Walla County was established a year later and stretched from the crest of the Cascades to the crest of the Rockies, an area now represented by 13 congressional districts. Today, Walla Walla County is home to many wonderful towns, including Walla Walla, Waitsburg, Prescott, Burbank, Dixie, Touchet, Lowden, Wallula, and College Place.

Walla Walla is known for its gorgeous scenery, expansive farmlands, miles of beautiful forests, and historic cityscape. Although the area is famous for its sweet onions, Walla Walla farms produce vast amounts of wheat, barley, apples, asparagus, alfalfa, carrots, cherries, corn, garbanzo beans, and green peas. More recently, Walla Walla has become one of the fastest growing wine producing regions in the country.

Walla Walla County is a wonderful place to live. It offers year-round cultural events including theater, musical performances, art displays, and wonderful festivals. The county is also home to three institutions of higher learning: Walla Walla College, Walla Walla Community College, and Whitman College, all of which add greatly to the vitality of the area. The city of Walla Walla is also home to what Sunset magazine named as the "Best Main Street in the West."

If you haven't made vacation plans or visited Walla Walla and its surrounding area before, this is surely the time to come to Washington and join us in celebrating Walla Walla County's 150th birthday. Walla Walla County is one of the most beautiful places in America, and I am proud to say I represent this area and the people who call it home.

THE PRESERVING ACCESS TO
AFFORDABLE DRUGS ACT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be joining Senator CORZINE and my Democratic Colleagues from New Jersey in introducing the Preserving Access to Affordable Drugs Act to preserve the drug benefits that millions of seniors in our country currently enjoy. Unfortunately, the misguided Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, which was recently signed into law, threatens to reduce or eliminate the prescription drug benefits that millions of seniors across the country already have. Based on these and other detrimental provisions in the new law, which seniors continue to oppose vehemently, we should simply repeal the entire bill outright. But in the meantime, the bill I'm introducing today highlights the most egregious loss of benefits that seniors will suffer under the new law, and provides mechanisms to "hold harmless" those seniors who already have good drug coverage.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that as many as 1.7 million retirees could lose their employer-based prescription drug benefits as a result of the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. Also as a result of the new law, hundreds of thousands of seniors currently enrolled in state pharmacy assistance programs (SPAPs) will be forced out of those programs and into a private Medicare drug plan. Approximately 6 million seniors who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid will lose access to their Medicaid prescription drug benefits, which is more generous and has greater access to a variety of drugs. And, despite the fact that the new Medicare law has huge gaps in coverage, seniors who choose to enroll in the new drug benefit will be prohibited from purchasing Medigap coverage to pay for prescription drugs not covered by the new Medicare benefit.

In my home state of New Jersey, alone, 94,000 retirees will lose their employer-based prescription drug benefits. More than 150,000 low-income seniors in New Jersey who are dually eligible for, and enrolled in, both Medicare and Medicaid will lose access to the Medicaid drug benefits they currently rely on. And 220,000 New Jersey seniors who are currently enrolled in Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) and Senior Gold, the state's pharmacy assistance programs for the aged and disabled, will face disruption in coverage and will likely receive less drug coverage than they currently receive.

It is my view—and based on what I have heard in town hall meetings in my district, the view of an overwhelming majority of seniors in this country—that no senior should be made worse off by the new Medicare law.

The legislation I'm introducing today will:

Preserve employer-based retiree prescription drug coverage by allowing employer expenditures on drug costs to count toward the out-of-pocket threshold of \$3,600. By not counting toward the catastrophic cap any costs covered by employer-provided retiree benefits, those employers that maintain their retiree health benefits would see their retirees