

INTRODUCTION OF THE  
WAKEFIELD ACT**HON. JIM MATHESON**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Wakefield Act, which reauthorizes the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

It is the only Federal program that focuses on saving the lives and health of children needing emergency medical treatment.

This year is the program's 25th anniversary and I am proud to be the lead sponsor along with Representative PETER KING.

Unfortunately, millions of kids find themselves in our Nation's emergency rooms every year. Thanks to the Wakefield Act, doctors, nurses, and first-responders now have much greater knowledge about what works and what doesn't work, when these small patients come through the emergency room door.

Since the program began, child injury death rates have dropped 40 percent. The research that resulted from this legislation helped establish pediatric emergency medicine as its own specialty. Data collection and training seminars—including from the Emergency Medical Services for Children Data Analysis Center based in my district at the University of Utah—have been provided to thousands of medical personnel.

The program's authorization expired in September 2005. In the summer of 2006, the Institutes of Medicine released a report which documented the value of the program. It also noted the gaps that remain in providing quality emergency care for children. There is a serious gap between the percentage of kids who end up in the ER and the percentage of emergency rooms that are staffed, trained, and equipped to respond appropriately. The report's bottom line—this program is "well positioned to assume a leadership role" in closing the gap.

It's endorsed by over 50 organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Madam Speaker, this legislation enhances the program by authorizing the funding needed to ensure that progress continues in this specialty. I look forward to working with my colleagues toward its adoption.

## A TRIBUTE TO HOWARD WEAVER

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Howard Weaver's 40 years of service and journalistic integrity in the newspaper business. Mr. Weaver is retiring from the McClatchy Company leaving a lasting legacy in Sacramento where his leadership and expertise will be deeply missed. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of our Nation's finest journalists.

After earning his bachelor's degree in social and behavioral sciences from Johns Hopkins University and his masters in philosophy from

Cambridge, Mr. Weaver has spent more than three decades in the newspaper industry. He began his career in 1972 as a reporter for the Anchorage Daily News. In 1977 he founded the Alaska Advocate, a statewide weekly newspaper. After the closure of the Alaska Advocate in 1979, Mr. Weaver returned to the Daily News as an editorial writer. He was named managing editor in 1981 and assumed full editorial responsibility in May 1983.

During his tenure at the Anchorage Daily News, the newspaper won numerous awards including being named one of the world's 25 best designed newspapers, best sports section, and best feature writing. Mr. Weaver twice led the Anchorage Daily News to win Pulitzer Prizes. He was one of three reporters whose coverage of the Alaska Teamsters Union during construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline, "Empire: The Alaska Teamsters Story," won the Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Public Service in 1976. In 1989 he again was awarded prize for his work as editor and a lead writer on the Daily News' "A People in Peril," coverage of alcoholism and suicide among Alaska Natives and has served as a Pulitzer Prize juror at the invitation of the Pulitzer Board four times. Mr. Weaver is the past president of the Alaska Newspaper Association and the Upper Yukon River Press Club and was a Distinguished Lecturer in Journalism at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

In 1995 Mr. Weaver moved to Sacramento to assume the position of assistant to the president for new media strategies at McClatchy Newspapers and was named editor of the editorial pages for the Sacramento Bee in 1997. Most recently he served as vice president of news and is senior editorial executive for the McClatchy Company. In addition, his writings have been published in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and Time Magazine. While at McClatchy Newspapers, which publishes 31 daily and more than 50 community newspapers and related Web sites, the editorial pages in the Sacramento Bee were named best in California by the California Newspaper Publishers Association and individual editorials won the Best of the West competition. Mr. Weaver was primarily responsible for the opinion content at the Sacramento Bee and for many years he chaired the editorial board meetings at which the paper's editorial positions were decided. His excellent writing and years of expertise has ensured that Sacramento's residents continue to receive up-to-date accurate information about pressing issues in our communities and across the Nation.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Howard Weaver's distinguished commitment to the newspaper industry and keeping Sacramento's residents informed. Mr. Weaver's outstanding leadership and dedication to journalism has allowed the McClatchy Company and the Sacramento Bee to embrace new venues of media and the Internet. As Mr. Weaver's wife, Barbara, colleagues, family, and friends gather to honor his career, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing him continued good fortune in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING WALTER DIAS FOR  
HIS COMMUNITY SERVICE ON  
GUAM**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Walter Dias for his civic involvement and community service on Guam. Walter Dias, known to his family, friends, neighbors and coworkers, as "Wally," has resided on Guam over the past 15 years and been active in our non-profit community. Wally was recently promoted by his employer, Continental Airlines, and is relocating to Hong Kong to assume the position of Managing Director of Greater China and Southeast Asia.

Wally is the eldest of five sons and two daughters of Walter Sr., and Virginia Dias. He grew up in a small town in the resort area of the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania and earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Accounting from Pennsylvania State University before beginning his career at Price Waterhouse and later at Geo Source Inc. In 1987, Wally started his airline career in the finance division of Continental Airlines, and in 1993, he moved from its corporate headquarters in Houston to Guam to serve as the Director of Marketing for Continental Micronesia. Wally was later promoted to Vice President of Sales and Marketing, a position through which his involvement with our non-profit community on Guam grew.

Wally promoted travel to the Pacific islands of Micronesia through a "Warmth of Paradise" campaign that he developed while at Continental Micronesia. Through this campaign, the cultures of the Pacific islands, including of the Chamorro people of the Marianas, is showcased. Wally also sought to foster greater relations between the civilian and military community on Guam, and to support education initiatives focusing on Guam's military history. When Guam celebrated its 50th Annual Liberation Day in honor of the island's liberation from Imperial Japanese Forces in 1944, Wally helped coordinate the travel of more than 2,000 liberators to Guam for this special event. Wally also worked with the Military Historical Tours to fly veterans from the Battle of Iwo Jima for the battle's 50th anniversary commemorative program.

His work in our community extended beyond those of us who call Guam home. Wally helped coordinate the transportation of 2,000 Kurdish refugees from Iraq to Guam, and later from Guam into the mainland of the United States for settlement, in 1996. He was instrumental in the founding of the Ayuda Foundation, a humanitarian organization that has helped thousands of people from the Micronesian islands access medical supplies and health care. Wally also helped establish the Wings for Life One Pass medical account program. To this day, the program has helped transport more than a hundred patients to receive proper medical treatment. These are lasting examples of Wally's efforts on behalf of our community on Guam and the greater Micronesia region.

It is on the occasion of his promotion and relocation to Hong Kong, that the people of Guam recognize him for his community service and his leadership in helping to develop our visitor industry.