

sent to your cosigner, Representative Henry A. Waxman.

When Ethicon originally provided distribution information to FDA, the manner in which the figures were reported was misunderstood by FDA. The number of sutures understood by FDA to have been distributed was considerably larger than the actual quantity. The 2% recovery rate therefore was inaccurate. The correct recovery figure was approximately 25%. This is based on distribution of 293,452 dozens and recovery of 72,929 dozens of sutures. If you have any questions regarding this information, we would be happy to discuss it with you further.

We trust this responds to your concerns. If we may be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

MELINDA K. PLAISIER,
Interim Associate Commissioner
for Legislative Affairs.

IN HONOR OF DANIEL JOSLYN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the winner of the Plain Dealer Cuyahoga County Spelling Bee, Mr. Daniel Joslyn.

Daniel Joslyn is an extraordinary student at North Olmsted Middle School. He is very dedicated to his school work and it shows through this accomplishment. Daniel is the first North Olmsted Middle School student to win this competition in its twenty year history.

The National Spelling Bee is a wonderful program that motivates students to focus on the fundamentals of their education. It is a remarkable achievement for this young man to receive such an honor and to represent his school at the national level.

I would ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring young Daniel for his accomplishment and wishing him luck in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEATH
TAX INFLATION ADJUSTMENT ACT

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to announce the introduction of The Death Tax Inflation Adjustment Act, legislation which would provide an annual cost-of-living adjustment for the unified credit—a major estate tax reduction tool—beginning in 2007.

Despite a tax system that discourages savings, many American families work hard to set aside a portion of their earnings because they hope to be able to leave something to their children. Not only are these lifelong savings subject to the death tax, however, but the value of the unified credit—a major death tax reduction tool—had, until recently, been seriously eroded by inflation.

As a result of the historic "Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997," the unified credit will now be

gradually increased from an affective exemption of \$600,000 in 1998 to an effective exemption of \$1,000,000 in 2006. Regrettably, while both the House- and Senate-passed versions of that landmark tax reduction package indexed this \$1,000,000 exemption annually for inflation, this provision was dropped from the final conference report and was not enacted into law.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation I am introducing today would simply provide for an annual cost-of-living adjustment to the unified credit beginning in 2007. While many of us in Congress would like to eliminate the death tax entirely, I hope we can all at least agree that the value of this important benefit should never again be eaten away by inflation. The time to act is now. I would urge all of my colleagues to co-sponsor The Death Tax Inflation Adjustment Act.

TRIBUTE TO JOEL SKLAR

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Joel Sklar, an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to public service and education. He will be honored on Thursday, June 24, during the graduation ceremony at Lehman High School in my South Bronx Congressional district for his outstanding contributions to the community. Mr. Sklar, Principal of the Lola Rodriguez de Tio Academy of Future Technologies at Intermediate School 162 will be leaving his current position at the end of this month. He has devoted his entire career of 28 years to bettering the lives of the students in district 7.

A graduate of Yeshiva University and the City University of New York, Mr. Sklar began his teaching career in 1970 at P.S. 5 where he was a 6th grade teacher. A year later he moved to the Middle School level and became a science teacher at I.S. 162. While teaching science at I.S. 183, Mr. Sklar demonstrated the active engagement of students as they pursued the challenges of the world of science. After becoming a grade leader at I.S. 183 Mr. Sklar was soon recruited to the District 7 Office where he worked in the Curriculum & Instruction Unit. This led to his becoming the assistant to the Deputy Superintendent in the Office of Funded Programs.

Mr. Speaker, Joel Sklar's leadership abilities were fine-tuned during his tenure at the District 7 Office. He soon found his way to I.S. 151, where he helped redefine the instructional program before being appointed principal of I.S. 162 on August 7, 1987. During his twelve years at the helm of the school, he brought the students to the new age of technology. A New York State Magnet School in 1995 led the way to the birth of the Lola Rodriguez de Tio Academy of Future Technologies at I.S. 162. A model middle school for New York City and New York State, it has been the number one choice of middle schools for more than half of all the students graduating from District 7 elementary schools over the past 4 years. The Academy is cur-

rently the top middle school in District 7 in both reading and mathematics achievements. Its technology program is one that is being replicated in schools throughout the City of New York, as well as in New Jersey.

Mr. Sklar leaves us with many lessons learned in leadership, education and wisdom. A talented leader and educator, Mr. Sklar will continue sharing his knowledge and views with Yeshiva University High School for Boys, his alma mater.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing continued success to Mr. Joel Sklar and in recognizing him for his outstanding achievements in education and his enduring commitment to the community.

CONGRATULATING TRINIDAD
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Trinidad Catholic High School Girls basketball team on their Class A District 6 Championship. The Trinidad Catholic players, led by Coach Mike Vecellio, made their families and community proud in their achievement.

All teams, no matter what the sport, continually strive to find that special and unique combination of teamwork, leadership, skill and effort which unlocks the door to success. Under careful tutelage, hard-working teams not only win games, but also build the confidence necessary to win championships. Clearly, these dedicated hoopsters have found this winning formula and attained the next rung of sporting success.

May the Trinidad Catholic High School girls team rise to next year's challenge and find themselves the winner of the Colorado Class A State Championship. No matter what the outcome of next season, this team has proven it has the heart of a champion, and can take pride in the District 6 Championship.

CHILDREN'S CONGRESS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the children who are here in our Nation's Capital this week for the first Children's Congress. Children from all 50 States are meeting with Members of Congress to discuss funding for research to find a cure for juvenile diabetes.

The Children's Congress was organized by the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International. JDF was founded in 1970 by parents of children with diabetes. The mission of JDF is to find a cure for this disease through research within their children's lifetime. I can't think of a better way to understand the daily frustrations experienced by children with diabetes than to listen to their concerns. These