

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

children are helping others by sharing their own experience with diabetes and teaching us about its impact on their lives.

Many may not realize the extent of the negative effects diabetes can have on people. This dreadful disease attacks 16 million Americans and is a leading cause of blindness, kidney disease, heart disease, and amputations. The reality is, people with diabetes live 15 years less than those without. As Members of Congress, we have the unique opportunity to help find a cure for diabetes by funding further research.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the cause of the Children's Congress and support allocations for more resources and medical research. I would like to thank the courageous young boys and girls of Children's Congress for taking the time to educate my colleagues and me on this terrible disease.

TRIBUTE TO ELFLORA K. AIKMAN

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Elflora K. Aikman of Marion, IL. On July 1 of this year, Elflora will retire from the Marion Senior Citizens Center as Administrator. For twenty years, since February of 1981, Elflora has done an outstanding job at Marion Senior Citizens Center where she will be sorely missed. Elflora has been a blessing to both the Marion Senior Citizens Center and to the residents of Southern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, as the nation ages, and our senior citizens live longer and longer, it can sometimes be a burden to families both financially and psychologically to give appropriate care to the seniors they love. I know everyday that families across the Southern Illinois and America struggle with this hardship. Elflora has eased this burden on countless families by providing a nurturing and wonderful place for the elderly. I am sure that her hard work and diligence at the Marion Senior Citizens Center has provided many families, who sought caring geriatric care for their loved ones, with answers to their prayers.

Elflora helped to create the Marion Senior Citizens Center in 1981 and since then has played a leading role in making it the exceptional Senior Center it is today. She has also been extremely active in the community as a whole and particularly at her church, where she has served as a Sunday School teacher, member of the Church Council, Logos instructor, organist, pianist and choir member. This year on Christmas Eve, Elflora will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of her marriage to her husband Sam. She has a large and loving family, who I am sure she will spend a great deal of her time with, when she is not playing her piano or gardening. Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish Elflora the best of luck in her retirement and God's speed. Her accomplishments will not soon be forgotten and never overlooked.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GORDON
BYNUM

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to, and say good-bye to, a dear friend. Gordon Bynum was the living definition of the word, "friend." This spring, on what turned out to be his last trip down to Coosaw, he called my wife Jenny ahead of time to say he wanted to come early to get things ready for the party. He was there and helped. This was part of a well worn pattern in the way he lived his life. Getting there early, staying later—going the extra mile—was what he thought normal. If I had ever found myself in real trouble with the option of only one call, it would have been to Gordon.

In his forty-four years he did not spectate on life, he lived it. When Atlanta was still sleeping, I remember leaving town in the early morning hours to go on one of his crazy mountain canoe trips. Exotic locations, atlases, wilderness maps were part of Gordon's world; Jenny and I still have at the house National Geographic books he had sent after our wedding. In fact his birthday card to me, this year, one I received two days after his death, had penned at the bottom. "Adventure soon?"

Finally, he lived a life that towers as an example to each of my four boys. At dinner on Tuesday upon hearing the story of Gordon's death a friend asked, "Was he a Christian?" I said, "Absolutely." Whereupon he asked, "How do you know?" I said because Matthew 5:16 says let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works give glory to your father who is in heaven. He had the light, you could see it in his eyes and in his actions. One of those actions was his work at the Sheppard Clinic. He loved the patients and they loved him, despite the fact volunteerism is a trait lost on most bachelors. In short, he didn't spend his time talking about his faith, he lived it. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self control are what the Bible calls the fruit—the byproduct—of the spirit. He had it in abundance. He would have given love and more generously to Laura Lee, who he was to have married two weeks after his death. Love was the easiest word to describe him, and I suppose what I will most miss.

Good-bye.

A TRIBUTE TO JERRY BERGER,
SUFFOLK COUNTY BOARD OF
ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true community leader, a visionary in the election process—Jerry Berger, the Suffolk County Republican Commissioner of Elec-

June 24, 1999

tions, who will be sorely missed upon his upcoming retirement.

Jerry Berger started at the Suffolk County Board of Elections on June 1, 1974 working on voting machines in the warehouse. Shortly thereafter, Jerry was appointed to the position of Campaign Finance Director. Since this was a new position, Jerry worked with the New York State Board of Elections and proceeded to co-author the first Campaign Finance Guide Book that was used throughout New York State. In 1978, he was appointed Deputy Commissioner, and in 1992 he was appointed Commissioner of Elections and was re-appointed in 1994 and 1998.

As Commissioner, Jerry implemented the computerization and modernization of the Suffolk County Board of Elections which has been the first throughout New York State to certify its election results during his entire tenure as Commissioner. Due to Jerry's innovative thinking, an inspector's instructional video was developed and is being used at all inspector training seminars. A natural leader, Jerry knows that ensuring the outstanding management of the election process meant forming an effective training system of its administrators—a move that will benefit the voters of Suffolk County for years to come.

Jerry's propensity for fairness and his devotion to his position as Commissioner can only be emulated, never replaced. He has worked tirelessly for the people of Suffolk County, putting aside politics in the most political of environments. Jerry typifies what the public wants in a "Public Servant" and we have been truly blessed to count him as our friend and neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Jerry Berger and to recognize his commitment to promoting all that is good in Suffolk County for his family and his community. We will sure miss Jerry, and we wish he and his wife, Marion, a wonderful retirement in West Palm Beach, Florida.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN R. JONES

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Escambia County and the State of Florida have been blessed with a man who has dedicated his career to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of life. This gentleman distinguished himself as a community leader and the model of an honest and effective public servant. The man that I speak about is John R. Jones.

Most of the residents of Northwest Florida remember John R. Jones for his over 40 years of public service, during which he served as an Escambia County Commissioner and as the Escambia County Property Appraiser. We are better because of his belief that the needs of each taxpayer are equally important, and his insistence that he wasn't just elected by the people of Escambia County, he was employed by them.

However, what I admire most about Mr. Jones, is that he always went above and beyond the call of duty to help others. At a time