

not apply to civil cases that may arise from certain violations of criminal law or egregious misconduct. Nor do they apply in States that elect to opt-out with respect to cases brought in State court in which all parties are citizens of the State. The product seller liability provisions are strictly confined to product liability actions and protect the ability of innocent victims of defective products to fully recover damage awards to which they are entitled.

Mr. Speaker, the provisions of this legislation have previously won bipartisan support in both houses of Congress. Although limited in scope, their enactment into law will reduce unnecessary litigation and wasteful legal costs and improve the administration of civil justice across this country. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this limited but meaningful civil justice reform bill with strong bipartisan support.

CELEBRATING THE LIBERTY
FESTIVAL

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 1999

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group in my home state of Maine. This dedicated group of volunteers has banded together to produce an exceptional celebration of our nation's Independence called the Liberty Festival.

The neighboring cities of Lewiston and Auburn for years hosted the traditional 4th of July fireworks display. Several years ago, a group got together and shared a dream of a more elaborate celebration of our nation's freedoms, ideals and history. They envisioned an event that would give families a place to gather, enjoy time together and celebrate our country.

These volunteers worked hard and created the Liberty Festival, which has quickly become one of Maine's premier 4th of July celebrations. The three day event features performances by many of Maine's finest bands and the Portland Symphony Orchestra. This year the celebration will be opened by the first ever greater Lewiston/Auburn Air Show. It will conclude with an impressive fireworks display in the heart of the downtown district, launched over the majestic falls of the Androscoggin River.

More than 100,000 citizens—including me—are expected to celebrate our nation's independence at the Liberty Festival. I want to publicly commend all who have given so much of their time and effort to make this outstanding event possible. Your vision, your dedication and your patriotism are deeply appreciated.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF PROSTATE CANCER

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 21, a resolution emphasizing the importance of early detection in the fight against prostate cancer. I commend Mr. BASS of New Hampshire for his efforts on fighting cancer, especially prostate cancer and breast cancer.

The National Cancer Institute estimates this year that 179,300 American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and that some 37,000 will die from this disease. These cold numbers do little to convey the very human emotions of fear and uncertainty experienced by our fathers, brothers, uncles or grandfathers who are diagnosed with prostate cancer. Every day, too many men in the United States hear the life-changing words "You have prostate cancer."

Like all cancers, the best battle plan is one that emphasizes prevention and early detection, so that we can beat the cancer before it even starts.

According to the American Cancer Society, the chance of having prostate cancer increases rapidly after age 50. More than 80 percent of all prostate cancers are diagnosed in men over the age of 65, and is about twice as common among African-American men as it is among white American men.

It is believed that a good course of action to prevent prostate cancer includes exercise, a diet low in fat and consisting mostly of vegetables, fruits, and grains. Results of most studies suggest that men who eat a lot of fat in their diet have a greater chance of developing prostate cancer. Recent research also suggests that a diet high in calcium and low in fructose (fruit sugar) increases prostate cancer risk.

Early detection is very important, especially if men have the risk factors associated with prostate cancer. Cancers found by early detection testing (using the prostate specific antigen blood test or physical examinations) are, on average, smaller and have spread less than cancers discovered because of symptoms they cause. Since prostate cancer grows so slowly, for men with cancer that is proven not to have spread beyond the prostate gland, the five-year relative survival rate is nearly 100 percent, whether or not they are treated.

More awareness of prevention and early detection strategies of prostate cancer could save hundreds of lives every year. I urge that the House pass H. Res. 211, and I again commend the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) for his work in this area.

June 25, 1999

ALBERT BORJA IS NAMED WINNER OF THE 1999 CONGRESSIONAL ARTS COMPETITION

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the winner of the 1999 Congressional Arts Competition, "The Artistic Discovery," is fifteen-year old Albert Borja, a recent graduate of Simon Sanchez High School in Yigo, Guam. Albert is the son of Tom Borja and Lou Milligan.

The Congressional Arts Competition was held at the Hilton Hotel, Guam. Albert's art work, entitled "My Planar Self," garnished first place and will be displayed in the Capitol corridor. His winning art work, completed in acrylic, is a two dimensional geometric self portrait. The colors are quite vivid and eclectic. Although it is very exciting that this is his first trip to Washington, D.C., the very fact that his art work represents the talented youth of Guam, for all visitors to the Nation's Capitol to see, adds even more enthusiasm to his visit.

Prior to this competition, Albert has contributed his artistic talent by painting murals in his school. Last year, he received an outstanding recognition award for this contribution. Albert is also academically gifted. He is a co-captain of the Academic Challenge Bowl, Simon Sanchez High School Team Guam. His team won second place in the 1998 island-wide championship. He is also a member of the National Honor Society. When he is not creating artistic masterpieces, he spends his leisure time swimming, biking or hiking.

Albert Borja plans to pursue his post secondary education at the University of Guam, and major in Biology. His undergraduate studies will serve as his foundation for his next journey in life. He plans to obtain a degree in medicine. Mr. Speaker, this young artist aspires to be a medical physician.

I am thankful to the Congressional Arts Caucus for sponsoring a "showcase" of art works from young artists nationwide. I am pleased to have Albert's work represent Guam and I look forward to seeing it in the halls of the Capitol this year.

Congratulations Albert. You have made your parents and the people of Guam proud.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ERNESTINE B. ELLIOTT OF DECATUR, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 1999

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mrs. Ernestine Elliott of Decatur, Alabama for her many years of outstanding service to our community.

Mrs. Elliott's work as a HUD Housing Counselor has been essential in building the quality of life the people of Decatur enjoy today. She is retiring today after 32 years of service.

Today the work and immeasurable contributions of Mrs. Elliott to the betterment of Decatur are being celebrated at a public reception at Decatur's City Hall.