

home building industry and to keeping home ownership possible and affordable in Tulare and Kings Counties.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Building Industry Association for its outstanding leadership and service to its members, communities, and home buyers in the Tulare and Kings Counties for 10 years. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the BIA many more years of continued success.

OPENING OF SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday we opened the new Saratoga National Cemetery, and I was in the company of 2,000 distinguished veterans and a very special former colleague in this House. Two of my former colleagues, as a matter of fact, spent a lot of time on that project. One of them, Sam Stratton, was a Member of this body for 30 years. He has since passed away.

But another, thank God, was there for the event. That was Congressman Jerry Solomon, who served in this House for 20 years and rose to be Chair of the Committee on Rules. It was a great honor to be in the presence of all those veterans and to be able to look Congressman Solomon in the eye and say: "Thank you for your dedication through the years, and for the opportunity to be your partner in these efforts for the past 10 years."

And now, to be able to realize that heroes like Pete Dalessandro, who was a Congressional Medal of Honor winner from my district, will be one of the first veterans who finds the Saratoga National Cemetery as his final resting place. It was just another opportunity to be with great Americans, and to thank God for my life and veterans for my way of life.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF TILLMAN'S HISTORIC VILLAGE INN

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Tillman family, proprietors of Tillman's Historic Village Inn, on the Inn's 175th Anniversary.

Tillman's Historic Village Inn, located in the Hamlet of Childs in the Town of Gaines, NY, was established in 1824. It boasts a long and storied history. In its early years, the Inn served as the final stagecoach stop on historic Ridge Road in Western New York. Through the decades, more than 5,000,000 meals have been served to hungry locals and weary travelers alike. Indeed, the Inn has witnessed the history of America as the nation developed and expanded westward.

Four generations of the Tillman family, all born and raised in the Rochester area, have worked tirelessly for the past 50 years to pre-

serve and improve the Inn for future generations. An extended family of over 2,500 young people from the community has been employed at the Inn during the course of the past 50 years. Many have stayed with the Inn for 10, 20, and even 30 years. In recognition of their contributions and service to the local community, the Tillman family has been named Entrepreneurs of the Year by the Orleans County Chamber of Commerce.

Today, the Inn stands as a symbol of the beauty and charm of the Hamlet of Childs. Childs is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its quaint cobblestone architecture. Some of the best examples of this type of architecture are located within this picturesque village. In fact, nearby Tillman's Inn is the Cobblestone Museum Complex—the definitive museum of cobblestone architecture in America.

The Inn is a valuable thread in the fabric of our heritage in Western New York and, indeed, the nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join with me in offering best wishes to the Tillman family on the 175th anniversary of Tillman's Historic Village Inn.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2490) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Lowey provision within the Treasury-Postal Appropriations bill. Last year, we passed this language with bipartisan support, and I believe we can and will do so again today.

Before this provision was enacted, 81% of all federal employee health benefit (FEHB) plans did not cover the most commonly used types of prescription contraception while an entire 10% covered no prescription contraception at all. At a time when nearly half of all pregnancies in this country are unintended, the need for access to reliable, effective contraception has never been more imperative.

Access to contraception helps children and families more than anyone else. Parents want to prepare for responsible parenting and want their children to grow up in a loving, supportive environment when they are prepared to provide it. They need the power to plan for pregnancy in order to do this.

This is just common sense—access to contraceptives is access to basic, essential prescription drugs and devices that can decrease the number of abortions in this country, which is an objective all Members of Congress seek to achieve.

Contraception is not abortion. Doctors, scientists and the Food and Drug Administration, which approves contraceptive drugs and devices all confirm that contraceptives prevent pregnancy. It does not end it. This bill states an unequivocal prohibition on the coverage of abortion. It also makes a clear distinction between the five major forms of contraception and mifepristone, better known as RU-486. If RU-486 is ever approved by the FDA as a method of abortion, it will not be included in this bill as a contraceptive. I applaud the efforts of our colleagues, who have worked very hard to ensure that this language addresses contraception, and contraception alone.

In addition to contributing to the national effort to lower the number of abortions, this provision narrows the gender gap in out-of-pocket costs for medical care. Women of reproductive age spend approximately 68% more in out-of-pocket health care costs than men. Requiring health plans to cover contraception, which without coverage can significantly affect and add to a woman's annual costs, helps both women and men in managing their families' expenses. Saving money while practicing responsible family planning is something we should all espouse.

The money saved by these families generates minimal cost to the government. This provision has what Congressional Budget Office calls a "negligible" cost.

Finally, this language explicitly excludes religious providers from this requirement and gives individual providers the chance to opt out of providing contraceptive services.

I urge my colleagues to join me in maintaining the Lowey provision of the Treasury bill. It creates vital access to contraception, helps to lower the number of unintended pregnancies, narrows the chasm between women and men in out-of-pocket costs for medical care, and has virtually no budgetary impact. America's families need our leadership and sound judgment. We must respond and vote to maintain this sound legislation.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 75th Anniversary of the New York State Association of Counties.

Since its inception in 1925, NYSAC has seen its membership grow to nearly 6,000 executive, legislative and administrative officials. Through legal research, education, training and assistance to its members, NYSAC plays a key role in helping county governments deliver essential services to residents across New York State.

As a former County and State official, I know first hand the tremendous job that NYSAC does in promoting the issues and concerns of New York's 62 counties at both the federal and state level.

Indeed, despite New York's tremendous diversity—from the skyscrapers of Manhattan to