

we are taking today, we could minimize this threat. I support H.R. 764 because it is time we in Congress enact legislation that addresses future problems. H.R. 764 does this, and should serve as a precedent for future bipartisan cooperation in Congress to meet the present and future needs of the Nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PFIZER
INC.

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today to congratulate Pfizer, Inc., on its 150th anniversary. Pfizer is one of the world's premier pharmaceutical companies, recognized for its success in discovering and developing innovative drugs for humans and animals. In its Lincoln, Nebraska, animal health facility, that is located in Nebraska's 1st Congressional District which this Member represents, Pfizer employs 736 men and women who have helped the company in offering its worldwide livestock and companion animal customers one of the broadest product lines in the industry.

German immigrant cousins Charles Pfizer and Charles Erhart founded Pfizer in 1849. From the start, the company sought to chart new courses. The company made many important breakthroughs and developed popular and effective drug treatments in its first 75 years. Pfizer medicines were heavily relied upon by Union Forces during the Civil War, and its ability to mass-produce penicillin in 1944 saved many lives on the front lines of Europe during World War II.

During the era that followed World War II, Pfizer continued in its search for effective antibiotics. Soon, Pfizer began opening plants worldwide and was on its way to developing into an international powerhouse. Today, Pfizer products are available in 150 countries.

In the 1970s, Pfizer began to devote much of its resources to research and development, making long-term investments that would pay off years later. Those investments not only benefited the company, but also the millions of people around the world who have relied on Pfizer drugs to treat a variety of conditions.

From the first Pfizer innovation to the high-performance medicines of today, throughout its 150 years Pfizer has been driven by pioneers—people who were willing to take risks to make the advances that made history. Today, the company spends close to \$2.8 billion annually on Research and Development in a wide range of challenging medical fields. Pfizer employees, including the 736 men and women who work in this Member's District, go to work each day dedicated to improving our nation's health.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on October 5, 1999 and, as a result, missed rollcall votes numbered 474 through 478: on passage of the National Medal of Honor Memorial; on Commending the Battle of the Bulge Veterans; on the Jackson-Lee (TX) Amendment to McCollum Substitute Amendment; and on the Jones (OH) Amendment to McCollum Substitute Amendment to the Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the aforementioned rollcall votes.

COMMENDING GARRISON KEILLOR,
NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS
WINNER

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a great Minnesota and American humorist, Garrison Keillor. Keillor, best-selling author and radio host of "A Prairie Home Companion," was recently awarded the 1999 National Humanities Medal at a ceremony at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Keillor was one of only 20 individuals selected by the White House to receive the National Medal of the Arts and Humanities for supporting the growth and availability of the arts and humanities to the American public.

During the long, cold Minnesota winters and mosquito-infested summers, the characters of his fictitious small town, Lake Wobegon, make us laugh and remind us of the common human thread that runs through all our communities. And Mr. Keillor doesn't just stick to fictitious characters. With no shortage of raw material, he sometimes takes jibes at us politicians in Minnesota. But we don't mind too much because as Mr. Keillor writes:

"In Minnesota, you learn to avoid self-pity as if it were poison ivy in the woods. Winter is not a personal experience; everyone else is as cold as you are; so don't complain about it too much."

Garrison, I commend you for this great accomplishment. Keep writing, keep telling us your stories and keep us laughing.

I submit the remarks by President Clinton at the National Medal of the Arts and Humanities Dinner as well as a September 30 Associated Press article listing all the 1999 Medal of the Arts and Humanities winners for the RECORD.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT NATIONAL
MEDAL OF THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES DINNER
SEPTEMBER 29, 1999

The President: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the White House. A special welcome to all of our honorees of the National Medals of Arts and Humanities. The nice thing about this evening, apart from being here in America's House slightly before we celebrate

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its 200th birthday, is that there are no speeches and lots of entertainment—unless, of course, Mr. Keillor wants to substitute for me at this moment. I'll be living down that crack I made about him for the rest of my life.

I want to say again, as I did today and as Hillary did, that this is one of the most enjoyable and important days of every year to us, because it gives America a chance to recognize our sons and daughters who have enriched our lives, made us laugh, made us think, made us cry, lifted us up when we were down. In so many ways, all of you have touched so many people that you will never know. But in all of them accumulated, you have made America a better place, you've made the world a finer place.

And as we look to the new century, I hope that as time goes on we will be known more and more for things beyond our wealth and power, that go to the wealth and power of our spirit. Insofar as that happens, it will be because of you and people like you. And it was a privilege for all of us to honor you today.

I would like to ask all of you here to join me in a toast to the 1999 winners of the Medal of Arts and the Medal of Humanities. And welcome. Thank you.

ARTS MEDALS

(By Joseph Schumann)

WASHINGTON (AP).—As Aretha Franklin, Steven Spielberg and August Wilson passed through a White House receiving line, President Clinton was overheard telling one guest, "If I could make Keillor laugh, I knew that I had achieved."

Humorist Garrison Keillor, director Spielberg, soul diva Franklin, playwright Wilson, and 14 others, as well as the Juilliard School for the performing arts, were awarded national arts and humanities medals Wednesday, chosen by the White House as American cultural treasures.

The medals go to individuals or institutions supporting the growth and availability of the arts and humanities to the general public.

"It gives America a chance to recognize our sons and daughters who have enriched our lives, made us laugh, made us think, made us cry, lifted us up when we were down," Clinton said at a White House dinner honoring the medal winners.

Earlier in the day, Clinton referred to Keillor—a writer and radio impresario best known for his public radio show, "A Prairie Home Companion"—as "our modern-day Mark Twain."

"With imagination, wit and also with a steel trap mind and deep conviction, Garrison Keillor has brought us together," said the president.

He said Keillor's humor and variety show about life in a fictitious small town in Minnesota "constantly reminds us how we're all connected and how it ought to keep us a little humble."

At a ceremony at Constitution Hall near the White House, Clinton said this year's winners of the National Medal of Arts and the National Humanities Medal "defined in their own unique ways a part of who we are as a people and what we're about as a nation as we enter a new century and a new millennium."

American Indian ballet dancer Maria Tallchief and folk singer Odetta were among the musicians, writers and arts patrons so honored this year.

Odetta's 50 years of performing American folk and gospel reminds "us all that songs have the power to change the heart and change the world," Clinton said.