

Although Congress' stated goal in the Balanced Budget Act was to provide more choices to seniors, it seems that the reverse has happened. BBA did provide some security for seniors whose Medicare HMOs abandon them—they are guaranteed the ability to enroll in four of the ten standardized Medigap plans: A, B, C, or F. But none of those plans offers any prescription drug coverage. They can apply for one of the plans that offers it: H, I, or J, but insurance companies can refuse to enroll them, place pre-existing conditions on those policies, or discriminate in pricing because of the patient's health status, effectively denying them access.

In the closing days of the 105th Congress, I introduced the Medigap Access Protection for Seniors Act. This bill helps beneficiaries maintain their outpatient drug coverage when they are dropped from a Medicare HMO that provided that benefit, by guaranteeing them enrollment in plans supplemental plan H, I, or J.

Today, I am reintroducing this legislation. Seniors across the nation placed their trust in Congress when they selected a Medicare HMO. They did so because of the promise of additional benefits, little or no additional premium costs, and with the belief that these plans would remain accessible to them. In doing so, many gave up their supplemental policies. Now, they can only return to the most limited of Medigap plans, ones with no coverage for prescription drugs.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling upon my colleagues to join me in taking this important step to restore prescription drug benefits for thousands of beneficiaries and I am calling upon this Congress to pass this bill early in the first session and renew seniors' faith in the promise of Medicare.

#### TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA GRIFFITH

### HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 1999*

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary journalist, Patricia Griffith, Washington Bureau Chief for the Toledo Blade and the Pittsburgh Post Gazette for the past 10 years. On Friday, February 12, 1999, Pat will retire after more than 35 years of covering national politics. A native of San Francisco, Pat first came to Washington to serve as press secretary to Mrs. Hubert Humphrey in the Johnson-Humphrey presidential campaign of 1964.

In addition to the Toledo Blade and the Post Gazette, Pat has also worked for the Herald of Monterey, CA, Washington Post and the San Francisco Examiner. Her reporting has given millions of readers insight into the policy and politics that affect their daily lives. Indeed, Pittsburgh has been honored to have a journalist as reliable and distinguished as Pat. I have always admired her as a reporter and respected her as a person for her commitment to impartial news writing and her pleasant demeanor sometimes in the face of seemingly impossible deadlines.

On behalf of the readership of the Toledo Blade and the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, I thank

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you for your service. You are a journalist of the highest caliber and integrity. Your reporting has always been fair, unbiased and informative and I join your friends and colleagues in wishing you continued success. I wish you good health and best of luck in your retirement and extend to you my heartfelt thanks and congratulations. And so it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this most dedicated individual.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
SUPREME COURT DECISION, ROE  
V. WADE

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 1999*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Friday January 22nd 1999 marked the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade, which ensured the right of all women to make decision concerning their reproductive health. For millions of women, Roe v. Wade has secured the constitutional right to seek access to safe and legal family planning and abortion services. Its impact on the health and safety of the lives of women cannot be overstated.

It is an outrage that despite the Supreme Court's ruling, women still face barriers to seeking abortion without danger. States continue to find ways to restrict access by law, and even more troubling is the recent trend of clinic violence and the harassment of doctors and workers by anti-choice activists. I would like to highlight some cases from this past year of violence and threatening behavior in my home state of California:

In February, a bombing attempt was made on a family planning clinic in Vallejo. The briefcase that contained the alleged bomb was later discovered to be empty.

In April a firebomb was thrown at a Planned Parenthood family planning clinic in San Diego, causing \$5,000 in damages.

A door was broken in El Monte when a rock was thrown at the Family Planning Medical Center.

In July, a San Mateo family planning clinic worker was accused of physical assault by three anti-choice protesters. The protestor's injuries were not found by the police to warrant charges.

In San Diego, a clinic was vandalized, the buildings covered with the words "baby killer."

In September the new Planned Parenthood headquarters in Orange County face over thirty chanting anti-choice protesters.

In Fairfield, a physician was harassed by anti-choice protesters as he arrived for work one morning.

These events are mirrored by others across the country, and show that the fight for reproductive choice did not end with the Roe v. Wade decision. Twenty-six years ago the Supreme Court held up the right to reproductive choice for women, yet it is still debated on the floor of the House of Representatives on a near daily basis. We must keep up the fight for a women's right to choose. I remain committed to do all I can to preserve that choice.

*February 9, 1999*

MEMORIAL TO OFFICER JAMES  
WILLIAMS, JR.

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 1999*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the passing of Officer James Williams, Jr. Officer Williams, a member of the Oakland Police Department and resident of Pinole, California, died in the line of duty on Sunday, January 10, 1999. Like all of his colleagues throughout law enforcement, Officer Williams put himself at risk for the sake of us all, and for his sacrifice we are forever indebted. He has earned our sincerest respect and gratitude, I know that I speak for every Member of this Chamber when I express our deepest sympathy and appreciation to his wife, Sabrina, and children, Alexander, Aaron and Arriana.

IN HONOR OF NANCY EMSHOFF  
MEANY COURT OF COMMON  
PLEAS, DOMESTIC RELATIONS  
DIVISION

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 1999*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for the past 22 years, Nancy Emshoff Meany has been an Investigator for the Domestic Relations Division. Nominated by Administrative Judge Timothy M. Flanagan, Nancy takes pride in having the same job for that period and still enjoying it. She visits the homes of parties in custody disputes to see that the parents provide a decent home, contacts neighbors, references and other agencies having knowledge of the family and does other background research prior to writing a report of her findings for use by the Court's judges and magistrates.

She recalls a number of humorous incidents, but relates that many of them may not be appropriate for a family audience. However, at the beginning of her employment, she recalls one man's getting so upset that his toupee flew off his head; Nancy maintained her composure and did not laugh.

After graduating from American University in Washington, D.C., in three years, she returned to Cleveland prior to beginning employment with the Court. She credits her parents with helping her and her five brothers and sisters to learn to help others, a skill she feels led her to her current position.

She lives in Solon, with her husband Thomas and her 3½ year old son Michael, with whom she spends time walking in the Metro Parks (when she's not chasing Michael). She golfs, swims, reads and enjoys travel.

AGRICULTURE KEY TO OPEN SPACE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, given Colorado's population boom, it is no surprise ours is among America's most sprawling regions. Ten acres are developed each hour in Colorado. During the next twenty years, the state's population could easily grow by another 1.5 million.

Often, irrigated farmland is consumed to fuel the demands associated with growth. While farmers and ranchers make up only three percent of the state's population, they hold most of the rights to Colorado's most valuable resource—water. This vital link between water, farmland and the nation's food supply cannot be overlooked in our search for solutions to regional growth problems.

Lawsuits and petitions filed by various extremist environmental groups over such rodents as the Preble's meadow jumping mouse and black-tailed prairie dog threaten farmers and ranchers with federal intervention and excessive regulation. However, Washington bureaucrats have proven themselves ill-suited to balance the many competing factors relative to growth in Colorado.

When I asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the decision to list the Preble's mouse under the Endangered Species Act, I was told farmers and ranchers could continue to work their land so long as they do it while the mouse hibernates. Farmers and ranchers need not fear the Endangered Species Act, say the agency, if they put up their crops between October and April!

When a member of my staff called the Fish and Wildlife Service for information on the black-tailed prairie dog, he was asked, "is that some kind of hunting dog or something?" These fundamental misunderstandings permeate Washington-based initiatives designed to control the growth and destiny of the West.

Sound policy to offset the effects of Colorado's population boom should focus instead on Colorado's best stewards of the land—its farmers and ranchers. Besides supplying safe and inexpensive food for our tables, farmers and ranchers provide valuable open space and wildlife habitat.

In fact, most of this nation's wildlife survives and thrives on private lands. To preserve these valuable assets we need to protect water and property rights and make it easier for farmers and ranchers to pass their land on to succeeding generations.

We must continue to fight ill-conceived Washington-based programs that threaten Colorado water, like Executive Order 13061 recently initiated by the White House. My fight against this invasive order was victorious for Colorado. Consequently, no Colorado waterways will be subject to subsequent federal control this year, but we must keep a wary eye on the future. Federal reserve water rights

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and bypass flows continue to threaten Colorado farmers and ranchers. As a state, Colorado must continue to stand committed to protecting our water from further federal usurpations.

Colorado's farmers and ranchers are growing older. Factor in inflated property values, rising costs and low commodity prices and its clear Colorado's farmers and ranchers are fighting for their very survival. That is why I introduced legislation designed to keep family farms and ranches in the family.

The Family Farm Preservation Act blocks the death tax from family farms when they are passed along to the next generation. While the death tax has devastating effects on families (up to 55 percent of the farm's value may have to be paid to the I.R.S.), the amount raised by the tax accounts for less than one percent of federal tax revenues, two-thirds of which are wasted on administration and overhead.

Furthermore, Congress needs to further reduce capital gains taxes so retiring farmers can pass farming operations and equipment on to younger agricultural producers.

While certain anti-property rights groups fight for more regulation and government intervention, Colorado must become an aggressive advocate for agriculture. Preserving farms and ranches is one effective way to mitigate Colorado's booming urbanization.

Let us not look to more litigation or to Washington bureaucrats for the solution to Colorado's problems. Instead, let us pursue sound pro-agriculture and pro-environmental policies that help our neighbors and help ourselves.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TRACK COACH DELBERT BEST

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Delbert Best, track coach for the last 24 years at Wellington-Napoleon High School, and athletic director for the past 18 years, was inducted into the Missouri Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

During his career at Wellington-Napoleon High School, Best's track teams won nine boys and one girls 1-70 Conference championships and six boys District championships. His boys teams placed first at the Missouri state finals in 1985, 1987, and 1991; second at state in 1986 and 1983 and third at state in 1992, and 1996. The girls team were second at the state championships in 1993 and third in 1992.

Best was selected 1A boys Coach of the Year once by his coaching peers. In 1994 he was selected as Region 5 National Coach of the Year.

I wish to extend my congratulations to Coach Best for his most deserved induction

into the Missouri Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELECTRIC BOAT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to Electric Boat of Groton, Connecticut, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. On February 7, 1899, the Electric Boat Company was incorporated, heralding the beginning of an enterprise that has performed an invaluable service to our nation. As Electric Boat celebrates its centennial, I would like to pay tribute to this national treasure and thank the men and women who have done so much to ensure our national security.

Beginning with the development of the Holland (S-1), the world's first practical submarine, Electric Boat has led the way in submarine innovation. The working men and women of Electric Boat have created an impressive historical record. They delivered the USS Cuttlefish—the first all-welded submarine—to the Navy in 1933. They produced submarines at an incredible pace paving the way to America's victory in the Pacific in World War II. The company's craftsmen and designers ushered in a new era of Naval technology in the mid-1950s with the USS Nautilus (SSN571)—the world's first nuclear-powered submarine. The list of accomplishments goes on and on: development of the first fleet ballistic missile submarine in 1959; design and modular construction of the Trident ballistic missile submarines that provide the undetectable leg of America's strategic nuclear triad; delivery of Seawolf class of submarines, the most capable attack submarine ever built; and continuing innovation with the New Attack Submarine. Simply put, Electric Boat has played the defining role in every innovation in submarine design and construction over the past century.

More impressive than the company's list of accomplishments, however, are the people who work there. I have an incredible sense of pride in these patriots. I wish more of my colleagues had the opportunity to visit them, to talk to them, and to get to know what great Americans they are. That's truly why I rise today. To make sure that the entire House, the collective representatives of his nation, know about the unique contributions of the men and women of Electric Boat. Our submarine force is often referred to as the "Silent Service." Nevertheless, if ever there was a time to set silence and modesty aside, it's to pay tribute to this great group of people on the occasion of the centennial of the company they have built.

Happy 100th Anniversary, Electric Boat!