

accurate notification of any changes in the formulary will also be necessary. Such an alert will be issued at the time that any such changes occur, and will be repeated in an annual update to enrollees.

In addition, health plans will provide enrollees with a reasonable and understandable explanation of the practice known as "drug switching" or "therapeutic substitution."

As a member of Congress, I am accustomed to hearing Pentagon officials invoke the need for secrecy for the sake of protecting national security. From time to time, I can accept that. However, I cannot accept a similar argument from officials of the health care industry. To protect the health of their beneficiaries—that is, to protecting their security—such a veil of secrecy must be lifted.

Finally, my bill would also instruct current enrollees on steps they can take to ensure that they will continue to have access to the drugs as prescribed by their doctor regardless of changes in their health plan's formulary policies or lists. This would establish the continuity of care and doctors, pharmacists and other health care professionals agree is so crucial to the well-being of their patients and customers.

I am very gratified that this bill has already received the support of Citizens for the Right to Know, one of the nation's largest non-profit organizations representing patients and health care providers and health care trade associations. Their endorsement of and advocacy for this legislation will, I am confident, encourage other members of the House to join in me in fighting for such changes. I greatly appreciate their work on this important issue.

TRIBUTE TO BETHLEHEM A.M.E.
ZION CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Bethlehem A.M.E. Zion Church in Gary, IN, as it celebrates its 84th anniversary as a parish. The church will begin its three spirit-filled days of celebration with a banquet on Friday, November 19, 1999, and culminating with a service at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 21, 1999. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Reverend O.C. Comer, minister, on this glorious occasion.

On November 19, Bethlehem A.M.E. Zion Church opens its 84th anniversary celebration with a dinner at 6 p.m. in the Banquet Hall of Unity A.M.E. Zion Church in Merrillville, Indiana. Dr. Sandra Gadson will be the guest speaker at this gala occasion. Dr. Gadson is the second vice president of Woman's Home and Overseas Missionary Society of the A.M.E. Zion Church. On November 20 the celebration continues with the church's second annual "Back to Church Parade." A motorcade will leave the church at 10 a.m. on a "ride to help bring people back to the church." The three-day celebration will conclude on November 21 with two special services of praise and worship. Reverend Comer will deliver the

message at the 11 a.m. service followed by the 3:30 p.m. service with special guest and speaker, The Right Reverend Enoch B. Rochester, Presiding Bishop of the Midwest Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

A church of humble beginnings, Bethlehem African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is the oldest A.M.E. Zion Church in the city of Gary. In November 1915, 15 people assembled in a storefront in the 1600 block of Washington Street in Gary, IN. The parishioners decided that Bethlehem A.M.E. Zion Church needed a permanent home, thus a frame building located on two lots at West 19th Avenue and Jackson Street were purchased. Later the frame structure was moved to the rear of the lots and used as a parsonage. A brick structure was eventually built on the lots at 560 West 19th Avenue, where the current church stands today. The congregation labored and toiled in the basement structure for over 40 years, but in 1962, under the direction of Reverend Arthur W. Murphy and the parishioners at Bethlehem A.M.E. Zion Church, the upper edifice of the church was constructed and stands today as a monument of faith and spiritual enrichment to both the church membership and the Gary community.

Over the years, the church has experienced some changes and was led by a variety of pastors. In spite of its many changes, the loyal parishioners continued to grow and prosper. On June 24, 1994, the Reverend O.C. Comer was appointed pastor of Bethlehem A.M.E. Zion Church. Under Reverend Comer's guidance, the church has started two new ministries including the Bus Ministry and the Street Ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the parish family of Bethlehem African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, under the guidance of Reverend O.C. Comer, as they prepare to celebrate their 84th anniversary. All past and present parishioners and pastors should be proud of the numerous contributions they have made with love and devotion for their church throughout the past 84 years.

TRIBUTE TO THE LITTLE ROCK
NINE AND MRS. DAISY BATES

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, as we honor today the Little Rock Nine with the Congressional Medal of Honor, I would also like to pay tribute to Daisy Bates, who passed from this Earth last week. Ms. Bates was a mentor to the Little Rock Nine during the Central High School desegregation crisis in 1957. She was a true leader of our time.

Daisy Bates was a participant in a movement that changed history forever. Those young people and Daisy Bates became symbols to all of us of what it means to be courageous, honorable and exceptionally brave. Daisy Bates was a great mentor who had the courage to stand up for what she believed in. Mrs. Bates was a courageous woman under all circumstances and she will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 574, 575, and 576. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H. Res. 94, Recognizing the Generous Contributions Made by Each Living Person; "yes" on H.R. 2904, to Amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to Reauthorize Funding for the Office of Government Ethics, and "yes" on H. Res. 344, Recognizing and Honoring Payne Stewart and Expressing the Condolences of the House of Representatives to His Family on His Death.

HONORING AMERICA'S ARMED
SERVICES DURING THE HOLIDAYS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a spectacular rendition of the timeless holiday tale, "Twas the Night Before Christmas." This holiday season I encourage all of us to remember the men and women of our country's armed services who work twenty-four-hours a day, seven days a week to guarantee our safety and the safety of our beloved children. May they know how much we appreciate their sacrifices for freedom.

'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS
(By an American Marine stationed in
Okinawa, Japan)

'Twas the night before Christmas,
he lived all alone,
in a one bedroom house made of
plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney
with presents to give,
and to see just who
in this home did live.

I looked all about,
a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents,
not even a tree.

No stocking by mantel,
just boots filled with sand,
on the wall hung pictures
of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
awards of all kinds,
a sober thought
came through my mind.

For this house was different,
it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,
one I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,
silent, alone,
curled up on the floor
in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
the room in such disorder,
now how I pictured
a United States soldier.

Was this the hero