

March 4, 1999

She currently resides with her daughter Reather Bell in North, SC.

Please join me in recognizing Mrs. Ella Yon Stevenson as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, March 4, 1999, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 31 and 32. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 31 and "yes" on rollcall 32.

MIAMI'S CEDARS MEDICAL CENTER RANKED AMONG NATION'S BEST

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Miami's own Cedars Medical Center for having been named one of the top 100 hospitals for 1998 by the Health Care Industry Agency (HCIA) and William M. Mercer Incorporated.

For 38 years, Cedars Medical Center has provided top quality health care to the many patients and residents of South Florida and, in fact, 1998 was the second consecutive year that Cedars Medical Center was ranked as a national benchmark in an annual study entitled 100 Top Hospitals: Benchmark for Success. This annual study conducted by HCIA and Mercer's health care provider consulting practice identifies U.S. hospitals that deliver cost-efficient and highest quality medical care, and today South Florida is proud to pay tribute to Cedars Medical Hospital for having been na-

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tionally recognized for its ability to always exceed the needs and expectations of their patients and for continuing to commit itself to excellence.

In addition to being nationally ranked in an analysis of over 3,000 acute-care hospitals across the country, Cedars Medical Center received Mercury awards for its superior overall performance in the specializations of orthopedics and oncology, based on a new study of 21 Miami area hospitals, released by America's Health Network.

I congratulate Steven D. Sonenreich, CEO of Cedars; John H. O'Neil, Jr., Chairman of the Board; Dr. Luis Pagan, Chief of Medical Staff, as well as every employee and member of Cedars for their individual important and unforgettable contributions and for their many sacrificial efforts that together enabled Cedars Medical Center to be among the finest in our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, on March 2, 1999 I was unavoidably detained and was not present for roll votes #29 and #30. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on roll call vote #29 and aye on roll call vote #30.

RELIQUIDATION OF CERTAIN ENTRIES OF SELF-TAPPING SCREWS

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to provide for the reliquidation for certain entries of self-tapping screws and to correct an error of

omission made by the U.S. Customs Office in Philadelphia, PA.

In August of 1993, a customs broker in my district entered industrial screws for liquidation at the Port of Philadelphia under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule provision 7318.12, a provision for wood screws. While the customs broker disagreed with the U.S. Customs Service's position to assess these screws under this provision, the broker did as directed to minimize friction. The company believed at that time that the screws fit a different description and that a lower rate of duty applied. As a result of the Customs' assessment, however, the rate of duty on the imported screws more than doubled from 6.2 percent to 12.5 percent.

In 1996, the U.S. Court of International Trade agreed with the customs broker and ruled that the U.S. Customs Service was incorrect in its classification of the merchandise as a wood screw and that the importer was due a refund. While the U.S. Customs Service did pay a refund on some of the entries, a clerical error in their Philadelphia office prevented several entries from coming properly before the court for judgment. As a result, those entries were not included in the report even though they are subject to the same ruling.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this legislation last year with the intention of including it in the Miscellaneous Trade and Tariff Correction Act. It is my understanding that it was not included in that legislation in the last session because it was opposed by the Customs Service which cited that it posed an undue administrative burden on them. Currently, Mr. Speaker, if you do not include the interest on that money, the U.S. Customs Service has imposed \$106,000 worth of burden on this local business even though the court has ruled against them on this issue.

The U.S. Customs Service currently has more than \$100,000 that it simply has no right to. With that in mind, I will look forward to having this bill included in legislation to correct similar problems, with the full support of the Administration.