

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the VA Central California Health Care System on this outstanding accomplishment. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the administration and staff of the VA Central California Health Care System congratulations on this achievement and many years of continued success.

A GIFT OF LIFE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary little girl from my state of Illinois, Megan Dawson. Five-year old Megan is a liver recipient. An organ became available for Megan in time to give her a chance at what hopefully will be a long and active life. But everyone is not as lucky as Megan. Every two hours, one of the more than 60,000 Americans now on transplant waiting lists dies for lack of an available organ.

Megan's story should remind all of us that organ donation is the most precious gift that one human can give to another. During the first nine months of last year in my state, almost 800 residents had life-saving transplants of the kidney, liver, pancreas, intestines, lung or heart. They all received the gift of life.

Unfortunately, while the science of transplantation has made dramatic gains, the number of organ donors is not keeping pace. As a result, we have growing waiting lists. The only way to address this growing crisis is to discuss transplantation and organ donation with our families.

It shouldn't actually be all that hard a subject to bring up, because what we are really talking about is the miracle of transplantation—the miracle that gives a little girl like Megan a second chance at life. The subject for the family discussion is the wonders of modern medicine. And since we would hope that the miracle of a new chance at life through transplantation would be available to a member of our family in a time of need—and it would be, provided an organ becomes available—shouldn't we agree as a family to do the right and generous thing if the situation is ever reversed. It's really no more than that—the application of the old Golden Rule to modern medicine.

That is why I am proud to have signed on to the First Family Pledge. The First Family Pledge is a non-partisan effort sponsored by the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. I encourage my colleagues and constituents to pay attention to this life-saving initiative. And on April 14th, I will be proud to participate in the First Family Pledge Congress. At that time, I and many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle will greet young children from across this great nation who have received organ and tissue transplants. They are truly living examples of what it is to receive the gift of life.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I ask all members of the House to join me in honoring the Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution (MSSDAR) as they celebrate a "Century of Service" at their 100th State Conference on March 12–14, 1999. The century celebration will feature remembrances of ten decades of conference highlights, recognition of this year's Outstanding State History Teacher, and the presentation of scholarships and awards to exemplary Missouri students. The first state conference was held in a stately St. Louis home on November 15, 1899 with eight members in attendance.

Today, the MSSDAR, founded in 1894 in Kansas City, has over 5,500 members in 116 Chapters throughout the state dedicated to historic preservation, promotion of education and patriotic endeavor. Additionally, they play a leadership role in helping inform its members and the general public about the need for a strong national defense.

The MSSDAR is affiliated with the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Incorporated by an Act of Congress in 1896, the NSDAR is a non-profit, non-political, volunteer service organization with nearly 180,000 women in some 3,000 chapters in each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Australia, Canada, France, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Japan. The Society was founded in Washington, D.C. on October 11, 1890, and has celebrated more than 100 years of service to the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to the Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution as they celebrate their "Century of Service."

TRIBUTE TO RULON STACEY

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Rulon Stacey who was named Young Health Care Executive of the Year by the American College of Health Care Executives. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Poudre Valley Hospital is not only the largest hospital in my district, it is the hub of a much larger health care system serving communities throughout eastern Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska. Since Mr. Stacey joined the Poudre Valley Health System in 1996, the system has grown to include Mountain Crest Orthopedic Center of the Rockies, Estes Park Medical Center, Children's Clinic, Northside Health Center, and regional trauma, heart, and neuroscience centers.

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Mr. Stacey earned this award because he has worked to bring together diverse interests in the medical community into a partnership. His talents have earned him the respect of his colleagues and associates. The ultimate benefactors of his work, however, may never know his name. They are the patients and their families served by the network of care at the Poudre Valley Health System. On behalf of my constituents, I congratulate Mr. Stacey on his award and commend his work to the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS BRYANT

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a teacher from my district who has received national recognition for his exemplary courage and selflessness in the face of adversity. Mr. Louis Bryant of Louisville is a social studies teacher at Ballard High School who recently accompanied a group of students to Ghana, Africa, on a cultural exchange program. During an afternoon excursion the group's bus was in a terrible accident. Mr. Bryant—the most seriously injured passenger—refused to leave his students even though he had been told that, without an immediate airlift to the United States and emergency surgery, he could lose his hand.

The U.S. Embassy in Ghana reported that Mr. Bryant ignored his own injuries and instead tried to keep his students optimistic and upbeat. He remained at the hospital in Ghana with his students until they all returned home together. Nearly 4 weeks later, Mr. Bryant still is undergoing painful surgery and rehabilitation in an effort to save his hand. Not once, however, has he expressed regret about his decision to remain with his students.

Without question, Mr. Bryant's dedication, courage, and self-sacrifice warrant the admiration of his community and this Nation. He is evidence that there are heroes among us. I heartily applaud Mr. Bryant and, once again, wish to express to him the gratitude that all members of the Louisville community feel for his heroic actions.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FREE, FAIR, AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS IN INDONESIA

SPEECH OF

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 32, a resolution calling for free, fair and transparent elections in Indonesia, but also to commend the attention of my colleagues to the plight of the people of East Timor, the tiny island illegally occupied by Indonesia for over 25 years.

I have been greatly encouraged by recent demonstrations of reform in Indonesia, yet the

post-Suharto government still has far to go to prove that it is serious about addressing basic human rights. Most urgent is the humanitarian crisis that continues to embroil the people of East Timor. Even as President Habibie announces that he will support independence for East Timor should its citizens reject an autonomy plan, I receive daily reports indicating a serious increase in violent actions by several armed militias, including those by the Makihit, Alfa, Saka and Mahidi. In the last two months, these groups have reportedly attacked villagers in several areas, most recently around Sua, killing civilians and precipitating a refugee crisis with over 5,000 seeking refuge on the grounds of a local church and school. Indonesian Generals have admitted to arming these groups. In this supposed era of promise, turmoil and unrest persist.

In addition, there are reports of on-going and extreme human rights abuses on the part of the Indonesian military in the areas of West Papua, Irian Jaya, Aceh, and Ambon. The summary executions, kidnappings, arbitrary arrest, beatings and torture of civilians continue to create a climate of fear, intimidation. I believe it will be virtually impossible to hold a truly democratic election.

While I support the spirit in which H. Res. 32 was written and support its intentions wholeheartedly, Congress must take this opportunity to encourage the Clinton Administration to press the Indonesian government to address the civil and human rights issues plaguing this nation and its provinces. In addition, we must continue to call for the withdrawal of Indonesian troops, the introduction of U.N. monitors and the immediate and unconditional release of political prisoners in East Timor. Without these crucial steps, Indonesia will not be on a true path to reform.

TRIBUTE TO STELIO MANFREDI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Stelio Manfredi on his retirement from Lucca's Restaurant. Mr. Manfredi has been a respected member of the Madera community for many years. "After all these years, it's finally time to turn the lights out," Manfredi said.

Stelio Manfredi was already one of the most well-known men in town; a life-long Maderan, his face, and name, are among the most recognizable in the community. Manfredi was a bartender at Lucca's Restaurant for 40 years, and during that time he shot the breeze with many, many community members, and listened to the problems of so many more. He always tried to lend a sympathetic ear or give them some advice from the wisdom he's gained in his 83 years of living.

The restaurant's decision to only serve lunch prompted Manfredi's decision to step away, giving himself more time to spend with his wife of 59 years. Being friendly was always Manfredi's nature, as he worked behind the bar at Lucca's. Manfredi, known for his margaritas, will now spend more time in his

garden and tending to his many trees and bushes. Leaving behind the people that he befriended will be the hardest part of retiring from the job.

Stelio and Eve Manfredi have lived in the same central Madera home for 52 years, and during that time they have nurtured their shrubs and trees to the point that it is a lush, virtual paradise. "It's therapy for me," Manfredi said of the many hours he spends outside tending to Mother Nature's creations.

Manfredi hopes to go to the Madera Center and work on his General Education Diploma (GED). Stelio and Eve have two children and six grandchildren. As they raised their family, Stelio worked as a bottling room foreman at Hueblein Winery. He also had his own bar on Gateway Drive for 16 years.

The couple has developed a deep respect and commitment for Madera as they grew up, a feeling they continue to have to this day. Madera has grown tremendously since the early days of their childhoods, they say there will never be another place they will call home. The couple attends St. Joachim's Church and Stelio is a member of the Italo-American Club. Stelio Manfredi said he couldn't ask for more out of life.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Stelio Manfredi on his retirement and service to the community of Madera and Lucca's Restaurant. Stelio Manfredi has been a fixture in the community for many years. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Stelio and Eve Manfredi many years of continued happiness.

TRIBUTE TO THE BAY CITY GIRLS
SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, later this month I will attend the 40th anniversary celebration of the Bay City Girls Softball Association. The Association has a distinguished history of providing recreational opportunities to girls in Bay City, Texas.

Begun in 1959 with the fielding of the Delta Sparks by Lila Ray and Jerry Babik, currently the association serves youth ages 4 to 18. Among the honors received by the group are induction in 1975 of the Bay City VIPs led by Coach Ratliff into to the National Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame, and the receipt of the National Association's "Most Improved Award" in 1944.

With heroic community leaders like Jack Rice and Palmer Robbins and recent activists such as Mike Mariner, Judd Perry, J.B. Smith and Dennis Mueck the business of preparing and making available playing fields for the association has been a real community effort in Bay City.

And, with a storied history including legendary players like Patty Branagan, Diane Herreth, Carol Ray, Jeannie Mathis, Linda Babik, Diana Slliva and Connie Brooks and renowned coach Lila Ray the ladies have certainly made the most of these opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend and congratulate the Bay City Girls Softball Associa-

tion and all the community activists who contribute to this association, on this the 40th Anniversary celebration of this important group.

TRIBUTE TO LINDSEY NICHOLS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my constituent, Lindsey Nichols for placing third in the 1999 Voice of Democracy contest. Lindsey is a junior at Collinsville High School in Collinsville, IL. This statewide contest was sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Kahokian Memorial Post 5691 and held in Springfield, IL. I insert her entry for the RECORD:

I sat patiently while Dad attempted to reason with the sales manager over a recently purchased, yet non-functioning, vacuum cleaner. Thirty minutes later I watched as he walked away from the counter, shaking his head in dismay and muttering, "No one believes in service anymore!"

Unfortunately, I'd heard him speak these words on other occasions—while pulling away from fast food drive-ups, standing in a long line at a single open check-out lane or listening to automated voice instructions on the phone.

So I asked, "Dad, what do you expect that you aren't getting . . . what exactly is good service?" He was ready with an answer; for he'd obviously been giving thought to this all his years as a consumer. He replied, "Excellent service is when pride is priority and there is a willingness to go beyond what is necessary, to seek no excuses and to accept responsibility for the outcome."

Wow! That was a lot to think about. For the next couple of days that's exactly what I did. I let those words roll around my head, sort of free-floating, and a funny thing happened. They triggered a memory of the voice of President John F. Kennedy saying, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Then, another memory, the voice of President George Bush calling for service in the form of "a thousand points of light."

Wait a minute—what was happening here? Well, my brain was telling me that what my Dad had said was tied to a bigger picture. Service to customers was merely a model for a much more important concept that we all need to act on, service to country.

However, excuses seem to get in the way of service and there are as many of them as there are people in the world. We sometimes want to do what's easy, to look for a back door, a reason not to "go the extra mile."

During W.W. II the female pilots who flew supply planes never said, "What can I do? I'm just a woman." Nor did the countless women who kept the factories producing for the war effort or the six nurses who won medals of valor for their actions in the Corregidor.

The Native American servicemen, known as the Navajo Code Talkers never said, "Why should I help? I don't owe them a thing." They didn't let racial issues get in the way when their country needed their unique abilities. The Japanese-American soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team didn't either when they fought for their country even though their families were being held in internment camps.