

gave new hope for an end to sectarian violence and a peaceful resolution of political and social differences. The members of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee salutes with gratitude all the peacemakers who secured these accords for the people of Ireland, especially the untiring negotiations of former United States Senator George Mitchell.

This year's parade is dedicated to the memories of Johanna Cronin McAvey of County Cork, a founder of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee; Past Grand Marshals Paul O'Dwyer and Patrick McGowan, Past Aides to Grand Marshals Maureen Glynn Connolly, Tom Doherty, Eugene Reilly and Irene Stevens.

The Grand Marshal for the 24th Annual Parade is Sister Mary Rose McGeedy, D.C., President and Chief Executive Officer of Covenant House who has dedicated her life to homeless children and their families. Sister McGeedy has long been known as an innovator and beacon of good will to all those whose lives she has touched.

The Grand Marshall, her Aides Robert Hanley (Irish Culture) Pipe Major NYC Correction Department Pipe Band; Jane Murphy Parchinsky, Ladies AOH Kings County Board and Division 17; James Boyle (Irish Business) Snook Inn & Green Isle Inn; Bettyanne McDonough (Education) Emerald Society Board of Education; Patrick W. Johnson (Kings County AOH & Division 22); Geraldine McCluskey Lavery (Gaelic Sports/Young Irelands Camogie Team); Thomas Daniel Duffy (Grand Council, United Emerald Societies/Housing Authority); Parade Chairperson Kathleen McDonagh; Dance Chairperson Charlie O'Donnell; Journal Chairperson James McDonagh; Raffle Chairperson Eileen Fallon; Parade Officers, Members and all the citizens of Brooklyn, have joined together to participate in this important and memorable event.

In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations and thanks to the Grand Marshall, her Aides, the Parade Officers and members of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee on the occasion of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee's 24th Annual Brooklyn Irish-American Parade.

IN HONOR OF J.C. PICKETT, M.D.,
PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to honor the new California Medical Association (CMA) President, Dr. J.C. Pickett, of St. Helena, California.

Dr. Pickett has been a longtime leader in the Napa community, as well as throughout the State of California, and as native St. Helenan, I am extremely proud of my friend's outstanding accomplishments.

Born in West Virginia in 1926, Justus Cunningham (J.C.) Pickett received his B.A. degree from West Virginia University in 1956 and his medical degree from the Medical Col-

lege of Virginia in 1958. He served as a surgical intern from 1958 to 1959, a surgical resident from 1959 to 1960, and an orthopaedic resident from 1960 to 1963, all at the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals.

Dr. Pickett was certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1955 and became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1967 and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons in 1968. A retired colonel of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, he served in a number of important positions: as a clinical instructor at Ohio State University, as Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery at Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa, as a board member of the Napa County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, as orthopaedic consultant to Napa Valley College, and as team physician for Napa High School and Vintage High School. Dr. Pickett is also a member of the California Orthopaedic Association and the Western Orthopaedic Association.

Dr. Pickett served as President of the Napa County Medical Society from 1980 to 1981, as a member of the CMA House of Delegates from 1977 to 1990, and has been a member of CMA's Board of Trustees since 1990. In that capacity, he was Vice-Chair from 1994 to 1995, Chair from 1996 to 1997, and President-Elect from 1998 to 1999.

Despite his busy medical practice and dedication to his profession and patients, Dr. Pickett always finds time to spend with his wife Sandra, his three children, Justus Cunningham Pickett II, Carrie Laing Pickett, and John Eastman Brown Pickett, his two grandchildren Samantha and Joycelyn, and his beloved dog Murphy. Dr. Pickett is also well known to his friends, family, colleagues and patients as a highly skilled physician, gentleman farmer, infrequent golfer, and world class lover of crossword puzzles.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fitting and appropriate to honor the lifetime of service Dr. Pickett has given to his community, his state and his nation. Undoubtedly, there are many families in Napa County who are thankful each day for Dr. Pickett's service. Napa County is a health community and its resident can point to Dr. Pickett's service as one reason for this.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally commend Dr. Pickett on his dedication and meritorious service, and I wish him well this coming year as the new president of the CMA.

ADVANCE PLANNING AND COM- PASSIONATE CARE ACT OF 1999

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 1999 I reintroduced the Advance Planning and Compassionate Care Act of 1999, along with my colleagues Representatives JAMES GREENWOOD and DARLENE HOOLEY. This legislation intends to respond to the critical needs of the elderly and their families during often difficult times in their lives. As advancements in health care provide better care and extend life expectancy, we must also be cognizant of the care we provide in the last stages of an individual's life.

It is my hope that by addressing the needs of patients and families dealing with pain and medical difficulties at the end of life, we can focus attention on the constructive steps that can be taken to provide help and assistance to seniors and other Americans during this critical period. We should not allow end of life care to be eclipsed by the debate over physician assisted suicide. In my discussions with families and physicians, people are concerned with the quality of care and the type of information available during this difficult period of one's life.

The Advance Planning and Compassionate Care Act builds on the Patient Self-Determination Act enacted in 1990, which I sponsored, by strengthening many of its provisions. The Patient Self-Determination Act requires health care facilities to distribute information to patients regarding existing State laws on living wills, medical powers-of-attorney, and other advance directives so that individuals can document the type of care they would like to receive at the end of their lives. Since passage of that legislation, there has been an increase in the number of individuals who have advance directives. However, a Robert Wood Johnson study found that less than half of hospitalized patients who had advanced directives had even talked with any of their doctors about having a directive and only about one-third of the patients with advanced directives had their wishes documented in their medical records.

This legislation seeks to address these problems and improve the quality of information provided to individuals in hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities. It will encourage seniors and families to have more open and informed communication with health care providers concerning their preferences for end-of-life care.

Specifically, the bill requires that a trained professional be available, when requested, to discuss end-of-life care. It also requires that if a patient has an advance directive, it must be placed in a prominent part of the medical record where all doctors and nurses can clearly see it. In addition, the bill establishes a 24-hour hotline and information clearinghouse to provide consumers, patients and their families with information about advance directives and end-of-life decision making.

Included in this legislation is a provision designed to ensure that an advance directive which is valid in one State will be honored in another State, as long as the contents of the advance directive do not conflict with the laws of the other State. In addition, the bill requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to gather information and consult with experts on the possibility of a uniform advance directive for all Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, regardless of where they live. A uniform advance directive would enable people to document the kind of care they wish to get at the end of their lives in a way that is easily recognizable and understood by everyone.

The Advance Planning and Compassionate Care Act also addresses quality end-of-life care by responding to the national need for end-of-life standards. It requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the Health Care Financing Administration, National Institutes of Health, and the Agency