

As part of the 1997 Balance Budget Act, Congress created a flat tax of \$.75 per dose for each vaccine it covered thus ending the varying tax levels for different vaccines. We did not, however, deal with the larger problem of over funding the trust fund.

In 1997, the trust fund was estimated to receive \$180 million in tax revenue. The interest alone, was \$59 million and is more than enough to pay all claims that are filed.

At the \$.25 per dose rate, tax revenues would be over \$50 million a year with equally as much, if not more, coming from interest. This still brings in over \$100 million in revenue each year to the trust fund.

Since the states are a major purchaser of vaccines, they stand to save a substantial amount of money that can be used in other areas. In fact, the Commonwealth of Kentucky could have saved over \$830,000 in 1997 and Representative ENGLISH's state of Pennsylvania would have saved over \$1.16 million.

This legislation was unanimously endorsed by the guardian of the trust fund, the Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines and was supported by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers when it was introduced in the 105th Congress.

I encourage my colleagues to join Representative ENGLISH and myself in cosponsoring this important legislation.

#### THE FRED F. HOLMES AWARD

### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Fred F. Holmes award was established by the Veterans' Council of North Attleboro, Massachusetts, to recognize individuals who have had a positive effect on the lives of local veterans. On December 6, 1998, it was my great pleasure to attend a testimonial dinner honoring this year's recipient of the Holmes award, Mr. Charles E. Langille.

Mr. Langille was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1922. His family moved to North Attleboro where Mr. Langille attended a regional agricultural school and began a long period of employment with the Sales Dairy Farm.

Mr. Langille interrupted his employment in 1943, when he enlisted in the U.S. Army and became a member of the elite 82nd Airborne as a paratrooper-medic. In June 1944, Mr. Langille participated in the Normandy Invasion, carrying only a pistol and sometimes no weapon at all! Mr. Langille reports that he was one of the fortunate few to survive that war unscathed. After the war, Mr. Langille resumed his career in agriculture and later spent several years working in the lumber industry and as the Animal Control Officer in North Attleboro, retiring at the age of 70.

Those who know Charles Langille know he is a man of great compassion and loyalty, with an endless capacity for assisting those in need. As an example of his concern for others, over the past 20 years, Mr. Langille has regularly visited veterans at the VA hospital in Brockton, bringing them meals, providing

recreation and helping them in countless other ways.

The citizens of North Attleboro, and especially its veterans, are fortunate to have a person like Charles Langille in their midst. I offer Mr. Langille my deep gratitude and heartfelt congratulations as this year's recipient of the Fred F. Holmes award.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE AFTER-SCHOOL CHILDREN'S EDUCATION ACT

### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the After-School Children's Education Act (ACE Act). My proposal, which does not spend a lot of money, will lead Congress to better information on after-school programs and guide us through a vitally important decision-making process on how to meet the educational needs of students across the nation.

There has been a lot of discussion about out-of-school time in recent months, with scientific studies proving what we have always intuitively known about the importance of quality care for young children, and for children in out-of-school time. There is a real threat to many American kids across the nation. Roughly five million children are not supervised after-school. This leaves them at risk of accidents and ripe for undesirable behaviors ranging from smoking and drinking to sexual activity and violent crime. In fact, juvenile crime goes up 300% after 3 p.m. and over half of all juvenile crime occurs between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

This is particularly disturbing given the benefits that can be derived from productive and educationally rewarding activities in after-school hours. After-school programs can be exceptionally beneficial by giving children the chance to interact with their peers and adults in a positive way, to gain or improve new skills, to master educational material, to develop strong bodies, and to foster creativity. In addition, studies have shown that students who attend productive after-school programs make significant academic gains, enjoy school more, feel more safe, and are less likely to participate in delinquent behaviors year found.

I believe we need to focus on improving the quality of children's out-of-school time through after-school programs. Studies indicate that 90% of parents want their children in an after-school program, yet less than 30% of schools have one. Amazingly, schools are locked 50% of the time parents are working. Many policy makers are coming to this realization and some have proposed billions of dollars of new spending on after-school programs. I am not convinced that such a large infusion of money is necessary, but I am convinced that up-to-date information on after-school programs is essential. There really is not good information available. The last major study of after-school programs was completed in 1993 by the National Institute of Out-Of-School-Time.

The ACE Act will help meet this need with a three prong approach. First, it requires the

General Accounting Office to conduct a state-by-state study on after-school programs that will help us understand what programs currently exist and where the gaps are in providing educationally enriching and personally rewarding programs for children. Second, the ACE Act establishes a national clearinghouse of model after-school programs available on the Internet. Finally, it provides \$10 million for states to use for activities that improve the quality and availability of after-school programs.

As I have witnessed in Delaware, some communities have collaborated to produce high quality after-school programs. For instance, the extended use of school facilities in Delaware has allowed several organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs and the YMCA to successfully integrate after-school programs into schools. The ACE Act encourages continued collaborations so that communities can play a more active role in providing assistance in after-school activities in a number of ways.

In all of my discussions with constituents and after-school program specialist, the most troubling issue I have run across is the fact that both after-school program providers and after-school program participants need better access to information. We do not fully understand what programs are available and we should.

I hope you will join me and colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support and co-sponsor the After-School Children's Education Act.

#### VIRGINIA STATE POLICE MARCHALL FORCES TO ENHANCE HIGHWAY SAFETY

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, February 21, 1999, under the leadership of the Superintendent of State Police, Colonel M. Wayne Huggins, a task force of 110 Virginia state troopers, supervisors and aviation units conducted an eight-hour enforcement initiative along the full 325-mile length of Interstate 81 in Virginia to control speeders and improve highway safety for all the people who use this heavily trafficked roadway.

The program was coordinated and implemented by Lt. Colonel W.G. Massengale and Major J.B. Scott with assistance of Captain J.R. Quinley (Culpeper), Captain H.G. Gregory (Appomattox), Captain C.R. Compton (Salem) and Captain W.K. Paul (Wytheville).

As a result of the dedicated performance of the Virginia State Police under their most able leadership, a huge stride toward traffic safety on Interstate 81 was made on February 21. This crackdown resulted in 1,730 tickets being issued to violators. Speed is a major cause of traffic accidents and the resultant deaths and injuries. These troopers and their commanders saved lives on the highway that Sunday and sent the message that Virginia is serious about protecting its people.