

to understand why Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic found that idea hard to swallow. He does not want to surrender Kosovo to the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Milosevic sent Serbian soldiers and police into Kosovo to put down a rebellion led by the KLA. The ethnic-Albanian KLA wants independence for Kosovo, whose majority population is ethnic Albanian. Or at least it was before Milosevic, a Serb who obtained political power by exploiting ethnic hatred, managed to kill thousands and expel hundreds of thousands of ethnic-Albanian Kosovars.

News reports say Milosevic nearly succeeded in wiping out the KLA, but the rebels have regrouped. Fueled by recruits from the roughly one million Kosovar refugees Milosevic has created, the KLA reportedly is regaining ground in Kosovo. Some reports indicated that the KLA is helping NATO target Serbian forces in Kosovo.

The KLA and Milosevic's Serbian forces are engaged in the latest round of an ethnic blood feud that is centuries old. Yet here's what NATO spokesman Jamie Shea had to say about a settlement: "As the Serb forces pull out and the NATO forces move into Kosovo, we expect the Kosovo Liberation Army . . . not to try to take advantage of the situation."

Shea must be dreaming. The KLA, in its view, is fighting to liberate its homeland. "The KLA will be the sole force in Kosovo creating institutions," said a KLA spokesman Sunday. "It will be the strongest force influencing the future of Kosovo." The KLA is planning to build a nation of ethnic Albanians in what is now Yugoslavian territory. Of a proposed NATO peacekeeping force, Shea said, "NATO forces will be operating under strict rules of engagement and, of course, they will not tolerate any hindrance to their mission. More specifically, we hope the (KLA) will renounce violence."

Imagine France announcing in the early 1780s that, upon cessation of the war between England and the American colonies, the colonies would become an autonomous zone within the British empire and would be occupied by a European peacekeeping force. Oh, and the American freedom fighters, it is assumed, would "renounce violence."

NATO's next adversary in Kosovo might be the KLA.

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THE MEDICAL MALPRACTICE Rx  
ACT

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 1999*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, today Representative JIM GREENWOOD of Pennsylvania and I are introducing the Medical Malpractice Rx Act.

The Medical Malpractice Rx Act will prevent the unreasonable and frivolous litigation that has caused many doctors to waste resources on "defensive medicine." According to the Congressional Research Service, many analysts have observed that physicians' fears of malpractice suits have caused them to perform additional or unnecessary tests and procedures that serve to drive the cost of health insurance to unaffordable levels for many Americans.

Malpractice insurance premiums for physicians total over \$6 billion annually, and the

rate of malpractice cases has doubled over the past ten years.

The Act prevents plaintiffs from recovering 100 percent of damages from one party when multiple parties are at fault and sets a \$250,000 cap on noneconomic (pain and suffering) damages. In addition, the Medical malpractice Rx Act allows juries to hear evidence of multiple recoveries paid to plaintiffs.

The Medical Malpractice Rx Act allows trial lawyers a maximum of five years from the date of injury to bring a medical malpractice suit, replacing the often vague current law which permits lawsuits 7-10 years from the date of injury.

Finally, the Act requires the losing party to pay attorney's fees.

It is estimated that the Medical Malpractice Rx Act could save the Medicare program \$1.5 billion over 10 years and billions more could be saved on private health premiums. These savings will translate into savings for all Americans.

We must act to ensure Americans have access to affordable health insurance and prevent the cost of insurance from reaching even more exorbitant levels.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important piece of legislation.

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TRIBUTE TO LORA LUCKS

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 1999*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Lora Lucks, an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to public service and education. She will be honored on Thursday, June 17 for her outstanding contributions to the community during the end of the term party at PS 48 in my South Bronx Congressional district. She is retiring after 23 years as Principal of PS 48.

Born and raised in Brooklyn and a graduate of CUNY Brooklyn, Lora Lucks started her teaching career at Mark Twain Junior High School. She also attended St. John's University and Fordham University where she majored in Education Administration. Thirty two years ago she joined P.S. 48 in the Bronx where she started her supervisory career. For the past 23 years she has served as Principal at P.S. 48 and played a prominent role as a true educational leader. She is responsible for the education and well being of a student body of over 1,100 children and a staff of over 150.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the daily educational services she provides to the students, Mrs. Lucks has been the Project Director of the Hunts Point Cultural Arts Center for the past 16 years. This after-school program nurtures the artistic talents of and fosters a sense of pride and accomplishment in students within the South Bronx Community. Having forged a strong alliance with businesses, organizations, and foundations, Lora has been able to bring much-needed resources to the school and the children of Hunts Point. The Y.M.C.A.'s Pathways for Youths Program and

District 8 sponsored programs are just a few of the wonderful activities offered by the school after school hours. During the course of her principalship, Lora has made Public School 48 the pride of District 8 schools.

Through her years of service she has been given many awards. In 1992 she was honored as the District 8 Supervisor of the year and in 1993 she was the recipient of the Reliance Award for Excellence in Education.

Although not a resident of Hunts Point, she is very active in community affairs. Lora has become a member of the Bronx Borough President's Solid Waste Advisory Board and the Hunts Point Economic Development Corporation.

Mrs. Lucks leaves us with many lessons learned in community service, leadership in education, and wisdom. A talented leader and educator, Mrs. Lucks will continue sharing her knowledge and views with her family and friends.

Mrs. Lucks is married and has two sons, Stuart and Robert, two grandchildren, Arie and Megan, and a daughter-in-law, Charlotte. Her husband, Solomon, is a retired New York City educator and supervisor. He served as the chairman of the Technology Department at Bayside High School for 27 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing a happy retirement to Mrs. Lora Lucks and in recognizing her for her outstanding achievements in education and her enduring commitment to the community.

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TRIBUTE TO MARATHON ASHLAND  
PETROLEUM

**HON. DAVID D. PHELPS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 1999*

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to congratulate Marathon Ashland Petroleum on the recognition of their Illinois Refining Division as an OSHA Voluntary Protection Program Star participant. The Voluntary Protection Program promotes partnerships between the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, labor and management and recognizes those facilities that exemplify effective safety and health program management.

Having personally visited Marathon's Robinson, IL, refinery, located in my congressional district, I can attest to the superior quality of its operation and the dedication and talent of its employees. Although I am not surprised to learn that OSHA has recognized Marathon's efforts on behalf of health and safety, I could not be more pleased.

Under the Voluntary Protection Program, management commits to operate an effective program, and employees commit to participate in the program and work with management to ensure a safe and healthful workplace. OSHA regularly evaluates the site and the program's operation to ensure that safety and health objectives are being met, and participants receive the Star designation when they have complied with all program requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the Voluntary Protection represents the best in voluntary partnerships formed to achieve an important mutual