

allowance were adjusted for inflation, the \$100 World War I benefit would total over \$1,000 today. The \$150 benefit provided after World War II would total over \$850 today. The \$300 benefit that has been provided since 1978, the last time the benefit was increased, would total over \$700 today if it were adjusted for inflation. Today, however, veterans' families receive exactly what they would have received 22 years ago—\$300—a fraction of the cost of even the most basic memorial. Our veterans deserve better.

The Veterans Burial Benefits Improvement Act enhances the current, insufficient burial allowance, providing \$1,000 to each qualified veteran. This brings the benefit in line with Congress' original intent—allowing veterans' families to provide our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines with dignity in death. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by co-sponsoring this important initiative.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3670

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to enhance the protection of the Great Lakes, and to begin the cleanup of our industrial legacy. My bill will reauthorize the Great Lakes Program of the Environmental Protection Agency, significantly increasing the authorization for this highly successful program, and authorize the funding for cleanup of contaminated Areas of Concern as provided in the President's budget.

The Great Lakes are the Nation's largest fresh water resource and the largest system of fresh water on Earth, containing nearly 20 percent of the world supply. The Great Lakes contain 5,500 cubic miles of water and cover 94,000 square miles. Only the polar ice caps contain more fresh water.

Great Lakes Basin is of critical importance to the economy of two nations. The Basin is home to more than one-tenth of the U.S. population, and one-quarter of the Canadian population. One of the world's largest concentrations of economic capacity is located in the Basin—some one-fifth of U.S. industrial jobs and one-quarter of Canadian agricultural production.

Notwithstanding the immense size of the Lakes, outflows from the Lakes are less than 1 percent per year. When pollutants enter the lakes by pipe, as wet weather runoff, or as air deposition, they are retained in the system and become more concentrated with time. They settle in the sediments, and accumulate in the food chain.

We may have restored certain fisheries, such as walleyes in Lake Erie, but these fish still bear the burden of pollution and contamination sediments. Fish continue to be found with cancers and sores and high levels of PCBs and dioxin. If you eat fish once a week and live within 20 miles of one of the Great Lakes, you are likely to have 440 parts per billion PCBs in your body. That is more than 20 times higher than people living elsewhere in America and not exposed to Great Lakes fish.

It is past time that we aggressively clean up the persistent pollution captured in the sediments of the Great Lakes. The 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act established the Great Lakes National Program Office and called for a demonstration project for the removal of toxic pollutants from sediments. The Great Lakes Critical Programs Act of 1990 required the establishment and implementation of Great Lakes water quality guidance. Now we should permanently address the problem of contaminated sediment.

The United States and Canada have jointly identified 43 Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes. Thirty-one of these fall wholly or partly in U.S. waters. Even though over 1.3 million cubic yards of contaminated sediments have been remediated over the past 3 years, the challenge is so great that remediation is not complete at any U.S. Area of Concern.

The bill I am introducing today, in support of the President's budget proposal, represents a dramatic increase in support for Great Lakes' states and communities. This bill will:

Reauthorize the Great Lakes Program at \$40 million annually for 2001–2005.

Authorize \$50 million annually for 2001–2005 for projects to improve water quality at Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes. The federal share would be 60%.

Amend the current Great Lakes Program to authorize projects to improve degraded fresh water estuary habitat. The federal share would be 65%.

I will be working toward the swift enactment of this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in protecting this precious fresh water resource.

HONORING G. THOMAS MILLER

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a man who has dedicated his life to public service in the community.

G. Thomas Miller, married 33 years to his wife, Carmen, and has four grown children, is a devoted family man who has been recognized time and again for his outstanding achievements and service. Inspired by his Catholic faith, he has made a positive difference in the lives of literally thousands of people.

Tom began his service to the community 31 years ago with the Catholic Community Services of Nevada, now known as Catholic Charities. For twenty-three of his years at Catholic Charities, Tom worked as the Executive Director. Tom began the Meals and Wheels program, and initiated several other senior programs and youth programs, such as the Holy Family and Henderson Day Care Centers, and the Sunrise Boy Ranch.

In addition to his post at Catholic Charities, Tom committed his time to various groups such as the Knights of Columbus #2828, Las Vegas Rotary Club, and as a lector for St. Anne's Catholic Church, to name only a few. Tom's dedication and devotion to the commu-

nity was evident in positions he assumed as a Board Member of National Catholic Charities, and of St. Rose Dominican Hospital. Tom has also been appointed to state-wide commissions by three Nevada Governors.

Tom has attributed his work and successes to the late Monsignor Charles Shallow, who encouraged him to come and work for Catholic Charities in Las Vegas.

Tom's most recent honor was bestowed upon him by the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, who offered Tom an apostolic papal blessing for all of his good works and deeds for the poor and youth of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a great Nevadan and a great American, Tom Miller, for his commitment to our communities, and his ability to spread peace and kindness through service to the community.

HONORING COACH MARIJON ANCICH

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of Coach Marijon Ancich. It may come as no surprise to the students and faculty at St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs, California, nor in fact, to those in the entire southland who follow high school sports, that one of their own has won the NFL/KABC High School Coach of the Year Award. This award is given to the high school coach who best exemplifies the meaning of sports and who goes above and beyond the call of duty. That only begins to describe the life and career of this year's most deserving recipient.

At age five, during the height of World War II, Marijon Ancich fled Yugoslavia with his mother and brother to escape the advancing German army. They arrived in New York, but it would be seven years later that his family moved and eventually settled in Southern California. Little did the twelve-year-old Marijon know that he would someday, touch the lives of thousands of young men. Believing in sports as more than just a game, Coach Ancich instilled in his players a set of values and ethics that would help prepare them for the world. Over a hundred of his players have become coaches around the country and he has helped over two hundred students win athletic scholarships that enabled them to attend some of the most prestigious universities in America.

In his 37 years as a dedicated football coach, Marijon Ancich has brought home three California Interscholastic Federation championships, and his record of over 300 wins makes him one of only two coaches to have reached that milestone in the history of California high school football. For those who know Coach Marijon Ancich, this award is long over due. But to say that this latest accolade is the culmination of all his hard work would be a disservice. For the people of St. Paul High School know there is more to the coach than the awards on his mantle. To them, he is

a man who is active in the community, a man devoted to his beautiful wife Jacquie, and father to seven wonderful children. He is one of their own: a man who truly exemplifies the very finest traditions and values of the American family and the American sportsman.

It is with deep respect for his many outstanding achievements and the tremendous contributions he has made to countless young people throughout his illustrious career that I commend him and thank him on the floor of the House of Representatives and further extend our warmest wishes to him and his fine family for every continued happiness and success.

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, recently, the world's oldest democracy, the United States, and the world's largest democracy, India, jointly agreed to work together to fight a common enemy—international terrorism. The agreement between our nation and India is a recognition that terrorism is a worldwide threat that singles out those nations who have consistently followed the democratic path. It is also recognition that we face a common foe—Osama bin Laden.

The joint agreement to work together represents not only a combining of effort but represents as well a new area of cooperation between our two nations. This agreement builds on the strong relations existing between the United States and India.

Just last week here in Washington, the first tangible expression of the joint agreement became evident. Representatives from the two countries held their first meeting as part of the Joint Working Group on Terrorism (JWG) under the leadership of the Department of State and India's Ministry of External Affairs. Other organizations represented at the meeting included the United States Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, India's Home Ministry and its Intelligence Bureau.

According to the JWG, the first joint action is to apprehend and bring to trial the hijackers of Indian Airlines Flight 814 who used innocent civilians as bargaining chips to further their terrorist ends. But the working group has a larger agenda, eradicating terrorism and those who sponsor or finance it.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker to applaud our joint efforts with India. This is an initiative that is long overdue. If their efforts result in success, whether in the capture of the Indian Airlines hijackers, or in the reduction of terrorism itself, the citizenry of our two democracies, and the citizens of all the world's democracies, will be well served.

TRIBUTE TO JACK GIBSON

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who is a dear friend of mine, Jack Gibson, on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Jack Gibson has served the state of Arkansas and his country all of his life. After completing his secondary education in Louisiana, he became a naval aviator and flew in the carrier task force during World War II. After the war, he returned to the United States and finished college at Mississippi State University. He entered business with his father where they operated a farm, cotton gin, and an agricultural spraying business.

Through his years in Arkansas, Jack has been active in state, civic and community life and has always worked to represent agriculture, the greatest profession there ever was. He is a former director of Chicot County Soil Conservation District and served as the president of the Southeast Arkansas Soil Conservation District. He was also chairman and the original member of the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission. He served as president and member of the Agricultural Council of Arkansas and president of the Arkansas Conservation Districts. Jack also served as president and CEO of two community banks in Southeast Arkansas and has been a member of the Farm Bureau since 1948.

As State Senator from District 35 for 12 years, Jack held chairmanships on the Agriculture and Economic Development Committees, and the Legislative Audit. During his tenure in the Arkansas legislature, he was also a member of the Legislative Joint Budget, Legislative Council, and Revenue and Taxation Committees. He has been affiliated with the Farm Credit System for 39 years and served on both the PCA and FBL boards, as well as the Sixth District Advisory Board. Jack is currently the executive director of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission.

Jack Gibson resides in Boydell, Arkansas, the town where he was born. He has devoted his life to agriculture and Arkansas and the world is a better place because of his service. I am proud to call him my friend and I wish him a happy 80th birthday and many more years of happiness.

ELIMINATE THE TRICARE PRIME COPAY

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I hear from constituents on a daily basis who are concerned about the availability and affordability of military health care. On February 1, I introduced H.R. 3565 to eliminate the copayment requirement for Tricare Prime and to make military health care more affordable.

Retirees pay an annual enrollment fee for coverage and are also subject to copayment requirements. Active duty families do not pay an enrollment fee, but are also subject to copayments. I am concerned that these copays can dramatically increase overall health care costs, particularly for retirees on a fixed income or for younger enlisted personnel. At \$6 to \$12 a visit, these copays quickly erode the real progress Congress made last year approving a long overdue increase in military pay. Unless we reduce out-of-pocket costs for military personnel, pay raises only help on the margin.

The legislation also addresses a question of fairness. The downsizing of military treatment facilities often makes it difficult for Tricare Prime enrollees to get appointments which would not require a copay. But if enrollees urgently need an appointment, and elect to go to a civilian provider, they face copayments, creating an inequity and a potentially pernicious disincentive to receiving timely care. My bill has a further policy justification as the Department of Defense has indicated that the Tricare Prime program is the most cost-effective Tricare option. Eliminating the copay creates an incentive for additional enrollment in Tricare, which ultimately saves taxpayer dollars.

The Department of Defense budget request for Fiscal Year 2001, which was released at the beginning of this week, generally supports my proposal. The DOD bill would eliminate copays for service members and dependents using civilian facilities, but doesn't address the equally large retired population. I believe we need to eliminate the copayment for all Tricare Prime enrollees and urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 3565.

HONORING HIGH POINT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, with the recent Super Bowl, another exciting football season has come to an end. Before we put this season to bed, however, I wish to take a moment to recognize a high school in the Sixth District of North Carolina that just concluded a perfect football season. The High Point Central High School Bison completed a 15-0 season by capturing the 1999 North Carolina 2-A Football Championship.

High Point Central defeated Southwest Onslow by a score of 30-7 in Chapel Hill, NC, on December 11, 1999, to win the State 2-A high school title. In fact, going into the championship game, both teams were undefeated. The Bison used a swarming defense and an opportunistic offense to overwhelm the previously-unbeaten Stallions. The Bison completed one of the most dominating seasons in recent high school football history. The team had not one but two running backs who rushed for more than 2,000 yards each. The Bison scored 641 points in capturing both conference and regional titles.

Head Coach and Athletic Director Gary Whitman, who had won two State titles while