

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY
MONTH

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Biotechnology Month. Biotechnology is revolutionizing the quality of life for millions of people around the world. The United States, and Washington State in particular, is home to some of the leading biotechnology companies in the world.

Biotechnology is revolutionizing every facet of medicine, from diagnosis to treatment of all diseases, not just bacterial infections. It is detailing life at the molecular level and someday will take much of the guesswork out of disease management and treatment. The implications for health care are greater than any milestone in medical history.

Take cancer, for example. The first biotechnology medicines have been used in conjunction with surgery, chemotherapy and radiation to enhance their effectiveness, lessen adverse side effects and reduce the chances of cancer recurrence. Future biotech cancer drugs, however, such as vaccines that prevent abnormal cell growth, may make traditional treatments obsolete.

In cardiovascular diseases, biotech drugs that either dissolve or prevent blood clots in the treatment of heart attacks are being applied to cases of ischemic stroke, reducing brain damage and hospital recovery time. Another biotech medicine is proving successful in late-stage clinical trials for angina and may represent the first new class of drugs to treat that condition since introduction of calcium channel blockers in the 1970's.

Advancements in research on inflammatory diseases also have yielded first-of-a-kind drugs to treat multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis. Other medicines in late-stage clinical trials block the start of the molecular cascade that triggers inflammation's tissue damaging effects in numerous disease states.

In treatment of infectious diseases, biotechnology is leading the attack on the alarming problem of drug-resistant bacteria, creating antibiotics to take the place of those no longer effective. It also has revealed the genetic composition of bacteria and viruses, making the search for new remedies more efficient. Most biotech drugs are designed to treat our most devastating and intractable illnesses. In many cases these medicines would be the first ever therapies for those diseases.

In my home of Washington State, there are 116 biotechnology companies that employ over 7,000 people. Employment in Washington State biotechnology and medical technology industry is projected to increase to nearly 20,000 workers by 2005. Thousands of patient lives have been improved or saved by the relatively new products produced by Washington biotechnology companies. These products include Enbrel for rheumatoid arthritis, Leukine for cancer, and TOBI for cystic fibrosis. This number is expected to grow exponentially as more products are approved for market.

It is vital that Congress and the administration take into account the developments and

advancements in this industry and work to encourage the massive amount of private capital being invested in these medical breakthroughs. Congress can help by fully supporting federal investments in math and science education, research performed at public universities and the National Institutes of Health. Congress should work with the Administration to modernize the drug approval process and to make sure that the Medicare system takes advantage of the potential cost savings brought forth by developments in the biotechnology industry.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of National Biotechnology Month and look forward to the next great news in the newspapers of tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBIE STERNE, A
GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Bobbie Sterne, a community leader who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnati on February 4, 2000, by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. She was selected for her outstanding community service, business and civic accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, and achievements that have brought favorable attention to the Cincinnati area.

Mrs. Sterne grew up in Moran, Ohio, and currently resides in North Avondale. She graduated from Akron City Hospital School of Nursing and attended both the University of Akron and the University of Cincinnati. She and her husband, the late Dr. Eugene Sterne, have two daughters. During World War II, she served at the rank of first lieutenant with the 25th General Hospital Unit in Europe.

Mrs. Sterne has made a difference in the community of Cincinnati—particularly through her 25 years of service as an elected official. She served on the Cincinnati City Council from 1971 to 1985 and then from 1987 to 1998 and in 1976, she became the first woman mayor of Cincinnati.

Mrs. Sterne has received numerous awards and honors, including the Citizen's committee on Youth's Most Valuable Citizen Award; Council of Jewish Women Hannah G. Solomon Award; Ohio Woman of the Year; Inquirer Woman of the Year; Ohio Woman Hall of Fame; YMCA's Career Women of Achievement; the Salvation Army's "Other" Award; the Ohio Veteran's Hall of Fame; the Lighthouse Youth Services Beacon of Light Humanitarian Award; and the Alcoholism Council Tracy Bissell Memorial Award, among others.

Mrs. Sterne still actively serves the community on numerous boards, including the Charter Committee; Government Relations Committee of the Community Chest; Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Woman Sports Association Board; the Ohio United Way Board; the Hamilton County Department of Human Services Planning Committee; the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati; the Fountain Square Fund Restoration Committee; and Chair of the Emergency Service Coalition.

Mrs. Sterne's commitment to community service was instilled at an early age. In her family, one was brought up to "leave the world a better place than you found it." Mrs. Sterne has certainly succeeded in doing so in our community. Cincinnati is grateful for her leadership, service, and commitment.

REGARDING SAN ANTONIO INS
OFFICE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great team of public servants in San Antonio, Texas, at the San Antonio District Office of the Immigration and Naturalization (INS) Service, who were the recipients of three separate national awards for excellence bestowed by INS this year.

Each year, the Commissioner of INS confers national awards for excellence honoring employees for their outstanding performance.

The employees of the Citizenship/Naturalization Unit were honored with the Commissioner's Challenge Award for Immigration Services for reducing the waiting times for all citizenship/naturalization applications and for demonstrating an overall commitment to quality.

The same unit was honored with Vice President GORE's "Hammer Award" in June of last year for their innovative program to reach out to military applicants who often face transfer overseas or a deadline to reach citizenship before re-enlistment. Getting the waiting time for applications down is a minor miracle. The wait for those wishing to process documents with the INS has been 18 months or more for the past few years.

Port Director Ramon T. Juarez was honored with the Commissioner's Challenge Award for Border Facilitation, for his outstanding efforts in managing the Laredo Port of Entry. The Port reduced the waiting time for applicants for admission to 20 minutes or less.

San Antonio Investigative Assistant Jerome Bass was honored as Employee of the Year in the Administrative/Technological category. His peers say Bass has an "unselfish attitude and willingness to lend a hand." His dedication to the job brought him national attention.

These three awards are indicative of the dedication of the 432 employees in the San Antonio office. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for providing the best in government services.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM J. BROWN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of William J. Brown, former Ohio Attorney General, who passed away last week. He was a man who had the ability to bring true integrity and a human quality to politics.

Born as a natural leader, Brown perfected the ability to get his point across in as little time as possible and still maintain context that was regarded as "true genius". He had the natural ability to motivate those around him with his focus and drive. Although he always had his heart and his mind focused on his goals, he refused to give in to the negativity of his work and kept the working environment free from strain and strife.

William Brown had strong feelings and was dedicated to "Ending the Political Pollution in Ohio". It was through this issue that Brown was able to embrace the environment, soon after the first Earth Day was held in 1970. His career was colorful, successful and he was known for having strong views and the ability to back them up. Brown was a talented agent for public service. He selflessly gave of his time and support to many issues and was a strong supporter of team work.

It is with a heavy heart that I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in remembering William J. Brown. His memory will truly endure in the hearts of all that he was able to touch.

HONORING MICHAEL F. MARKO

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues a fire-fighting legend, Michael F. Marko, who was honored by family and friends on January 4 as he celebrated his retirement as assistant fire chief for the 30th Space Wing that is located in my congressional district.

Michael Marko faithfully served the 30th Space Wing for 33 years. He participated in and commanded the safe mitigation of more than 12,800 fire emergencies during his years of service. Michael has also been an integral member of the Vandenberg Professional Firefighters Local F-116 since 1971 and has been instrumental in working for the rights union members now enjoy. In honor of his many years of service to the union, Michael was awarded by his colleagues a lifetime membership. Through his actions, he saved numerous lives and billions of dollars in Defense Department assets. Michael also personally supervised the launch of countless Delta, Titan, and Peacekeeping rockets, enhancing America's national security. We have Michael Marko to thank for ensuring a permanent American presence in space that will continue to grow in this new century.

Mr. Speaker, as impressive as any complete accounting of Michael's accomplishments would be, it would not do justice to the long lasting and immeasurable contributions he has made to the 30th Space Wing. I am truly honored to represent Mr. Marko in Washington. I send my most heartfelt appreciation on behalf of the 30th Space Wing, the community of Vandenberg, and the people of Santa Barbara County for his hard work and dedicated service. I know that Michael's leadership will be missed by the 30th Space Wing of Santa Barbara County.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES MECHEM, JR., A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles Mechem, Jr., a dear friend and community leader who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnati on February 4, 2000, by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. He was selected for this honor because of his outstanding business accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, community service, civic accomplishments and contributions that have increased the quality of life in Cincinnati and Southwest Ohio.

Mr. Mechem grew up in Nelsonville, Ohio, and currently lives in Clifton with his wife, Marilyn. They have three children. A graduate of Miami University and Yale Law School, Mr. Mechem has had a most distinguished career, bringing business and entertainment to the Greater Cincinnati area. Mr. Mechem likes to say he has enjoyed four careers: as a partner at Taft, Stettinius & Hollister; as CEO of Taft Broadcasting; as commissioner of the Ladies Professional Golf Association; and in his own words, "life after that"—which includes serving as Chairman of the Board at Convergys and as the personal business adviser to golf legend Arnold Palmer.

For more than 40 years, Mr. Mechem has focused on bringing entertainment opportunities to the Cincinnati area. As he puts it, he "was motivated . . . to do things that made this community a fun place to live in." Mr. Mechem was instrumental in bringing the Cincinnati Bengals franchise to town; spearheading the vision and construction of Kings Island; and helping to provide the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra a new home at Riverbend by donating the site adjacent to Coney Island. Nationally, Mr. Mechem worked tirelessly for five years with the LPGA to lead a national resurgence of interest in the game.

In the business community, Mr. Mechem served Cincinnati as President of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce in 1977 and Co-Chaired the Chamber's Blue Chip Campaign from 1979-86. His other leadership roles include: National Chairman, Miami University Goals for Enrichment Campaign; President, Family Service; Co-Chair, Cincinnati Business Committee; and Founder/President of the Greater Cincinnati Sports & Events Commission. In addition to being the Chairman of the Board at Convergys, Mr. Mechem also serves on the Board of Directors at Mead Corp., Ohio National Life Insurance, Arnold Palmer Golf Co., The J.M. Smucker Co. and Myers Y. Cooper Company.

All of us in Cincinnati are grateful to him for his full devotion and service to community.

January 27, 2000

REGARDING ALBERTO GALVAN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the lifetime of service of Alberto Galvan, the district manager for the Brownsville-Harlingen area for the Social Security Administration (SSA). Alberto has served the Federal Government for 35 years, retiring just last month.

A son of South Texas, born in Harlingen, Alberto was in the United States Air Force (USAF) prior to his service to the Federal Government. In the Air Force, he attended USAF Russian Language School and served in electronic intelligence during his duty in Japan. That would have been impressive duty in those days, our forward listening post to spy on the communists in the Soviet Union.

This man who loves his country began working for the Social Security Administration in 1970, where he has worked ever since, winning the SSA Commissioner's Citation, the SSA Regional Commissioner's Citation (twice), and the Outstanding Officer Award (four times).

Aside from his many awards, Mr. Galvan has a great deal of contact with my Brownsville district office. As all of you know, the success of our district offices rises and falls on the relationship they have with individuals within the SSA. Thanks to Alberto Galvan, and the wonderful people in my district office, that relationship is strong indeed. The SSA manages the nation's social insurance program, consisting of retirement, survivors, and disability insurance programs; so, the ties that bind our interests are quite strong.

I want to thank Alberto today for being a really nice man and always being responsive to our inquiries. He takes calls from my office himself and has been largely responsible for training my staff members who deal with Social Security issues. He oversees all of Cameron and Willacy counties in the lower Rio Grande Valley but is primarily responsible for the Brownsville area up to Rancho Viejo, Texas.

Since he left the Air Force, Alberto has found another way to put the Russian he learned there to good use. Today, he is the only Russian translator in the Dallas Region of the SSA and is often sent documents to translate, usually birth certificates.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending this outstanding patriot who has made a career serving our great country, first in uniform, and for the last 30 years, administering the Federal social insurance program in South Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT OF 2000

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the IDEA Full Funding Act of