

specifically to determine what works and what does not. Currently, the Department of Education is charged with evaluating its own programs and it does not have the incentive to dedicate the resources necessary to conduct high quality evaluations that are able to demonstrate whether programs are actually working.

Finally, the legislation places the existing National Center for Educational Statistics under the academy and outside of the Department of Education. The bill also makes slight changes to the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB), which would be given full authority to develop the policy and carry out the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

As I mentioned earlier, the academy would also house the National Education Library and Clearinghouse Office, which would be responsible for collecting, archiving and disseminating all research, statistics and evaluations undertaken within the agency as well as other education-related materials from other federal agencies and research institutions. This would replace the current maze of federal education clearinghouses that span the Office of Educational Research Improvement and the Department of Education.

In addition to the activities carried out under the new academy, the Department of Education would house an Office of Planning, Performance Measurement, and Technical Assistance, combining the existing functions of several different offices within the department. In addition to short-term evaluations, the office would oversee the implementation of a performance measurement system to measure the quality of education programs.

The office would also oversee a regionally-based grant program which combines funds currently directed to Regional Educational Laboratories, Comprehensive Centers, Regional Technology Centers, and a portion of the funds under the Eisenhower Math and Science Consortium currently used for technical assistance. Each region of the country, as designated by the director of the office, would convene a governing board to determine its unique priorities and to develop a plan for disseminating educational research, providing technical assistance, and carrying out applied research projects. Finally, the office would oversee a state-based grant program to provide high-need schools the opportunity to select their own providers of high quality technical assistance.

Mr. Speaker, by holding education research, evaluations and statistics to new standards of rigor, improving the focus of these activities so they are relevant to the needs of educators and policymakers, and laying the framework for the dissemination of high quality, scientifically valid information—we will improve the education of our nation's children. I hope Members will join me in support of this important initiative and the historic shift that it represents.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF MELVIN LEE
THOMAS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to remember a dear friend of the Oakland, California community who has recently passed on.

Melvin Lee Thomas, a great friend, father, and grandfather, was a remarkable member of the Oakland community. A veteran of the United States Marine Corp, he served his country with tremendous loyalty.

Melvin attended several schools in the Oakland area, including John Muir School in Alameda, Clawson Elementary School, Golden Gate Junior High School, and Oakland Technical High School.

Mel, as he was fondly called, served with distinction in the United States Marine Corp from 1958 to 1964. He served with a marine assault battalion in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. His family and friends were never so proud or relieved when he returned home unscathed from his service to our nation.

Mr. Thomas was a lover of nature, the outdoors, and the sea. Some of his favorite pastimes were spent on the ocean enjoying its wonders. He loved watching beautiful sunsets from the ocean. Mel enjoyed listening to good music and jazz was his favorite. He also was an avid reader. He enjoyed the exploration of the world of the mind.

Mel is survived by his only daughter, Nerissa Thomas; his granddaughter, Jordan Mykaela Bess; his three brothers James Keith, Andrew Rodgers, and Anthony Rodgers; and his uncle, John Elsie Byrd.

I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this great man. Mr. Thomas will truly be missed by all members of the Oakland community. His dedication to his country, family, and friends will not soon be forgotten.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
CAREER OF ROBERT "BUD" RALSTON
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Bud Ralston has spent his life serving the people. He was born in McConnellsville on March 30th, 1926 and came to Caldwell in 1936 when his father purchased a drugstore which his mother continued to operate after his father's death later that same year.

At the age of 17, Bud joined the U.S. Marine Corp. He served in the 77th Special Infantry Company from 1950 to 1964 and attained the rank of Platoon Sergeant.

In 1948, he returned to Caldwell to help his mother run the drugstore. After his mother's death in 1962, Bud continued to operate the business until 1986. In 1957, he purchased

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Wehr's Clothing Store, which came to be known as "Bud's Clothing."

Bud served as Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and was the first WWII Commander of the 5th District in the State of Ohio.

His community involvement continued as a member of the Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department from 1948-1990, serving as Fire Chief for 18 years. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite and Shrine and the United Methodist Church. Bud has also been active with the Board of Directors of the Noble County Chamber of Commerce, of which he served as President, as well as the Caldwell Athletic Boosters.

Since 1992, Bud has served as the mayor of Caldwell. During this time, he has upgraded the sewer and water plants, built the water tower and lines to the state prison and was instrumental in obtaining the Noble Correctional Institution. Additionally, Bud has overseen the pavement of many streets and alleys, planted over 250 trees, installed new water lines to surrounding areas and helped the village become a showplace in the Revitalization Project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the career of Bud Ralston. His lifelong service and commitment to the region is to be commended. I am proud to call him a constituent and a friend.

ETHICAL CONCERNS WITH THE
HUMAN GENOME PROJECT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I speak about some ethical concerns with the human genome project. The recent announcement of the rough draft of the human genome presents another milestone in the recent human enterprise that we call science. The question before us today is the societal consequences of this new development. The role of government is to promote the public good, and to this end it is necessary to address the public concerns related to the human genome project. These concerns may be divided into the following topics: (1) reverence for life, (2) privacy concerns, (3) intellectual property concerns, (4) modification of the genetic code of individuals, and (5) the public's access to data derived from a publicly funded project.

The propensity for people to use science and technology to pursue their ideology is well documented in the eugenics and sterilization movements that occurred in both the United States and in Nazi Germany. Shall the data from the human genome project be used to terminate the birth of individuals who may express genes for childhood diseases?

Government laws that address the concern of individual privacy must be modified to include protection of both the individual's genetic code as well as other types of privacy. The President issued an Executive Order to protect an individual's privacy in both hiring and promotion in the civilian federal work force. These actions are to be applauded. Individual protections should be much broader;

all countries should agree to an international law on human genetic privacy.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office must strike a balance between its Constitutional mandate to promote science and the useful arts, and its role in protecting the general public good. Under the current system, it is possible to patent a gene without a knowledge of the gene's function. This may not be in the public good since it will tend to hinder private sector research to cure diseases.

There are great ethical concerns about the use of the technology to modify an individual's genetic code. We are familiar with the abuse of medical intervention, specifically injections of human growth hormone to alter a child's stature. Parents choose this intervention because they perceive that taller children would be at an advantage. Will some parents similarly choose to modify their genetic code in order that their prodigy will be similarly "advantaged." Will we modify the genetic code of parents to produce a new "master race"?

Another important public concern whether or not the public will have access to the data derived from a publicly funded project. It would be consistent with the promotion of the public good that everyone have access to the results of the human genome project.

Finally, we recognize that humankind is more than its genetic code. While science can inform us what is, and what can be, the humanities, religion, and ethics informs us how we shall be and what we shall be. Government oversight has an important responsibility to insure and safeguard the public good. While I applaud the human achievement, a truly international enterprise, in the "reading" of the human genome, I urge everyone to address with deep thought and human compassion the important societal consequences that I have enumerated.

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS BOYS RANCH OF LUBBOCK

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Texas Boys Ranch of Lubbock in celebration of their 25th Anniversary Telethon on August 26th, 2000. Texas Boys Ranch provides adolescent boys of the South Plains an opportunity to realize their dreams and reach their goals.

The Texas Boys Ranch began in 1975 as a way for community leaders to minister to the lives of troubled youth. For 25 years, Texas Boys Ranch has served over 400 boys and young men from all walks of life. Texas Boys Ranch is a working ranch with cattle, hogs, horses, and ponies. In addition to their full academic schedules, the boys live on the ranch and are required to preform chores in their cottages and on the ranch. Texas Boys Ranch also offers a unique program to young men age 17 or older. The Independent Living Program allows these men to live at the Ranch's Cottage III, where they are given the responsibility to make choices regarding their day to day lives.

For the past 25 years, the Texas Boys Ranch has provided boys and young men of the South Plains with a stable environment in which to grow and develop. Generous contributions from individuals, churches, businesses, and foundations, as well as reimbursement by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, provide the funding for Texas Boys Ranch. A recent capital campaign led to a much needed renovation project of cottages, Dinning facilities and infrastructure at the Ranch. The Silver Anniversary Telethon is yet another opportunity for the community to help the Texas Boys Ranch in influencing the lives of young men.

At a time in our nation when young people have more obstacles and challenges growing up, and fewer quality role models, Texas Boys Ranch serves as a positive and stabilizing force in the lives in many young men. The success story of Texas Boys Ranch demonstrates how communities can come together and reach out to the needs of our young boys.

SERVICE 1ST CREDIT UNION CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members and employees of the Service 1st Federal Credit Union in Danville, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of the credit union's upcoming 25th anniversary.

Service 1st was originally known as Geisinger Federal Credit Union when it was founded in August, 1975, by several employees of Geisinger Medical Center who saw the need to provide a financial services alternative to their fellow workers. The name change was made to reflect the expanded field of membership and the credit union's commitment to all of its members.

Over the years, the credit union has grown into a full-service financial institution with membership expanded well beyond the employees of the Geisinger Health System. With branches in Wilkes-Barre, Lewisburg and Selinsgrove, Service 1st now provides service to more than 150 employee groups, including workers at Bucknell University, Susquehanna University, and Tri-County Farm and Home Supply.

Service 1st also has a unique program, headed by Kathy Linn, chair of the board, that allows students at Danville Area High School to join and work in a branch that is based right in the high school.

Service 1st has come a long way since its founding 25 years ago and is now a well-established credit union with more than 13,000 members and more than 450 million in assets. In June, Service 1st opened its new headquarters in Danville at 1027 Bloom St., complete with a drive-up ATM and drive-through teller service as well as expanded business hours inside the lobby.

Mr. Speaker, Service 1st and its strong commitment to its members serve as a good example of why I and others in the Congress worked to enact the Credit Union Membership

Access Act that President Clinton signed into law in 1998. Credit unions serve an important purpose as a non-profit provider of financial services to millions of Americans.

Pennsylvania in particular has the highest proportion of credit union membership of any state in the nation, with one out of every four Pennsylvanians belonging to a credit union.

I send my best wishes to the members and employees of the Service 1st Federal Credit Union on their 25th anniversary and my wishes for continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Monday, July 17, 2000, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 401 through 404. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on rollcall vote 401, Yes on rollcall vote 402, Yes on rollcall vote 403, and No on rollcall vote 404.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, due to a travel delay in returning from my district, I was not present for rollcall votes last evening.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcalls 401, 402, 403, and 404.

TRIBUTE TO GOLDY S. LEWIS

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I celebrate the achievements of Goldy S. Lewis, of Rancho Cucamonga, California.

Mrs. Lewis has been active in the real estate and home building industry in Southern California for 45 years. She is the co-founder of Lewis Homes, a company distinguished for its commitment to quality housing. Since 1955, she has served as their Director and Executive Vice President, and she currently holds the position of Managing Partner. Mrs. Lewis has also been actively involved with Lewis Construction Company, Inc., Lewis Building Company, Inc. Las Vegas, Republic Sales Company, Inc., Kimmel Enterprises, Inc., Foot-hill Investment Company, and the Republic Management Company.

As a result of her leadership, insight, and vision, the Lewis Operating Corporation has built 56,773 homes, 7,000 apartments, 3,000,000 square feet of retail, office and industrial space, and developed 15,000 acres of land. Their quality work has netted numerous