

that some children may not be receiving compensation that is due them. The intent of this program is to provide compensation for all claimants whose injuries may very well have been caused by the vaccine. Strict scientific proof is not always available. Serious side effects of vaccines are rare, and it is often difficult to prove causal relationships with the certainty that science and medicine often expect. Indeed there may be multiple factors that lead to an adverse reaction in some children and the program should recognize this. My bill will ensure that this is taken into account.

This bill will also make it easier to ensure that the costs associated with setting up a trust for the compensation award are permitted. This is important to ensure that these funds are available to provide a lifetime of care for this child. The bill also stops the practice of discounting to ensure that the value of an award for pain and suffering is fully met.

Often, the families of these children need counseling in order to help them deal with and care for a profoundly injured child and siblings. The impact of these injuries go well beyond the child who is injured. This bill will ensure that these expenses are covered.

The bill also ensures the payment of interim fees and costs. Under the current program, families and attorneys are often forced to bear these expenses for years while the claim is heard. Attorneys for the claimants are going to be paid for their fees and costs at the end of a claim, regardless of whether or not they prevail. Thus there is no logical reason why they should not be allowed to petition for interim fees and costs. This provision simply ensures a more fair process for the claimants, by ensuring that the injured child can have good representation while pursuing his or her claim. The current practice may hinder the ability of claimants to put their best case forward. This should not be the case in a program that was established to ensure provision for those children who have been injured.

Finally, the bill makes a number of changes to statutes of limitation. The program should serve the purpose of compensating those who were harmed. Thus, it is important to ensure that it is as inclusive as possible to ensure that injured parties are compensated.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
"TEACHERS FOR TOMORROW" ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce Teachers for Tomorrow, a bill to address the serious teacher shortage in our nation's schools. We have 54.4 million students in America's schools—the greatest it has ever been. But we lack the most important part of the equation—teachers! Nationwide, we will need an additional 2.2 million teachers in the next ten years. There are particular shortages in specific subject areas such as math, science, bilingual education and special education. For the first time in my district in Washington State, teaching positions have remained vacant.

We cannot afford to allow the current trend to continue where our best and brightest students ignore the teaching profession or leave it altogether. Where the median age of teachers is 42 years old, it is glaring evidence that new graduates are not entering the teaching field. There are a million teachers ready to retire in the next decade, leaving the classroom faster than new teachers are graduating from college. Even more troublesome is that only half of new teachers in urban public schools are still teaching after five years. Moreover, the new teachers who are twice as likely to leave are those with the highest scores on standardized tests. These are serious warning signs of the current teacher shortage and upcoming crisis if we do not act to recruit and retain teachers.

There are everyday heroes in classrooms throughout America. We must face the fact that our teachers are getting older and we are failing to make teaching a viable option for today's students and young professionals. We have to continue to make sure that our top graduates continue to enter the teaching profession. This legislation would do just that.

We need to empower individuals to make the decision to be a teacher. We need to make it possible for more specialty teachers and more teachers overall to enter our nation's public school system. This legislation would permit every public elementary and secondary school teacher to apply for loan forgiveness. Current law only applies to teachers that teach in certain specific areas or low-income schools. This bill would also increase the incentives to meet specific instruction needs by establishing a three-year program of direct reimbursement for those teachers. All other teachers would be eligible for a five-year program of indirect loan forgiveness. Both programs would forgive 100 percent of the incurred loan debt.

Additionally, this bill grants other incentives for new teachers. Under income tax laws, loan forgiveness would be granted tax-neutral status. This prevents the current problem where loans are treated as additional income that effectively place teachers into an inappropriately high tax bracket.

This is the only loan forgiveness legislation that provides for continuing education. Teachers need to be given the opportunity to continue their professional development. With increased expertise and training, they will be able to impart that much more knowledge into their lessons and students' learning processes.

Furthermore, our teachers deserve to use the benefit of their experience and be able to guide their classrooms and schools with local control. As leaders in the community, teachers and school administrators know how make the best decisions for their students. This legislation only provides federal loan forgiveness where graduates have incurred federal loans. It maintains the ability of local schools to make hiring, firing and other decisions as they see fit. Local school administration is not a business the federal government should be in.

We need to support our teachers. Our teachers deserve our highest accolades for educating our nation's children. We ought to thank them for the meaningful work they do every day. Our students, the future of our

country, learn under the hard work and patience of our teachers and they merit our appreciation.

I submit to my colleagues a plan to recruit and retain qualified teachers. We cannot shirk our duty to provide a high quality education to every child. I urge my colleagues to meet this challenge and support this legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITPAIN IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the township of Whitpain in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on its 300th Anniversary. During the years of 1683 and 1686, Richard Whitpain purchased approximately 4500 acres of land that attracted settlers seeking religious freedom and economic opportunities. This land of promise was established as Whitpain Township in 1701 near the center of the county.

Many important historical events took place in Whitpain. During the American Revolution, the Township played an integral role for General George Washington and the Continental Army. Whitpain is home to Dawesfield, George Washington's headquarters, and served as a battleground for skirmishes during the Battle of Germantown.

Early Whitpain Township was primarily a fanning area and later evolved to incorporate the growing industries in the vicinity. As early as 1804, there was a weaving enterprise in Centre Square and a mill on Wissahickon Creek. The Township had quickly become a flourishing community with both prosperity and promise.

As one of the oldest municipalities in Montgomery County, Whitpain Township is now home to more than 17,000 Pennsylvanians, Montgomery County Community College and several high tech firms.

I am proud to represent such an extraordinary town. This anniversary should serve as a long-standing tribute to hard work and dedication for all of those who have made Whitpain Township the wonderful place it is.

HONORING FRANK HODSOLL—

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to commend the Honorable Frank Hodsoll on his outstanding service to his community. Frank is stepping down as Ouray County Commissioner after three years of service. Frank is extremely active in his community and his leadership as Commissioner will be greatly missed. As family, friends and the Ouray community thank Frank for his service, I too would like to pay tribute to this distinguished American.

Leadership and public service come naturally to Frank. Over the past several years, he has served both his community and State well in a number of different organizations. He is currently serving as Vice Chair of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Telecommunications & Technology Steering Committee, Chair of the NACo Rural Action Caucus Telecommunications Committee, and has served as Director of both the Colorado River Water Conservation District and the Center of Arts and Culture in Washington, DC.

Beyond his efforts in Ouray, Frank has had a long and illustrious career in government, both at the local and national levels. Before working to improve the community of Ouray County, he worked with a number of the nation's most prominent governmental institutions, like the Departments of State and Commerce. Frank also served as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Deputy Assistant to President Reagan and Deputy to White House Chief of Staff James Baker.

Frank, you have served your community, State and Nation admirably. On behalf of the State of Colorado and the US Congress, I thank you for your generous and valued service to the Ouray community and to these United States. Best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

GONZALES—"LEXINGTON OF TEXAS"

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, in the town of Gonzales, Texas, on October 2, 1835, the first shot for Texas Independence was fired from a cannon by colonists waving a flag which proclaimed "Come and Take It." Gonzales became known as the "Lexington of Texas."

The Little Cannon has been recognized by many as a true and proper memento of our glorious past and has appeared in no less historic sites as the Alamo and the rotunda of the Texas Capitol, and is forever enshrined in The Great Seal of Texas.

Exactly 165 years after the shot was fired, on the afternoon of October 2, 2000, the City of Gonzales will accept the "Come and Take It Cannon" from the estate of Dr. Patrick J. Wagner.

The Little Cannon will be an ever-present reminder to the citizens of Gonzales of the courage of those who stood at the "Lexington of Texas" and first cried, "Come and Take It!"

CONGRATULATING PASTOR ALVIN A. JACKSON

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Pastor Alvin A. Jackson of Cinnaminson, New Jersey on his fiftieth anniversary as pastor of the Saint Paul Baptist

Church. Dr. Jackson preached his first sermon on Sunday, January 2, 1950. Since that time he has played a critical role in the Cinnaminson community.

His spiritual guidance and open door policy has irrefutably changed the lives of many constituents in my district. Dr. Jackson was raised by his maternal grandparents in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He became a licensed preacher in 1940. Dr. Jackson also served his country in World War II in the European theater of operations. His faith in God and in country are to be applauded.

He was baptized in the family church, First African Baptist, where he could be found practicing his musical talents. Dr. Jackson's aptitude for playing musical instruments is of particular note. His talents on the piano and violin must be appreciated.

Dr. Jackson is well-known throughout the Delaware Valley. He has taken an active interest in the concerns of Cinnaminson Township in general and the East Riverton section in particular. He has served on the Human Relations Council of Cinnaminson Township and the Advisory Council of the New Jersey Water Company.

Mr. Speaker, truly, Dr. Jackson is an inspiring figure in my district and in our nation. Congratulations, Dr. Jackson, on your fiftieth anniversary. May there be many more years of service to come.

HONORING THE SOUTHEAST GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL OF THE 6TH DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a high school from the Sixth District of North Carolina that recently won the state lacrosse championship.

Southeast Guilford High School claimed the North Carolina varsity lacrosse title. This is only the second team from the school to ever win a state championship in 33 years. The Falcons had an impressive season with 16 wins and only 3 losses. We congratulate Chris Godfrey, Josh Smith, Jon Murphy, Justin Patteson, Scott Van Hoever, Lucas McCraw, James Aldridge, Mike Wiggins, Ben Doffelmoyer, Chris McVey, John Clark, David Murphy, Chris Collins, Chris Smith, Chad Thompson, Paul Winn, John Batts, Daniel Davenport, David Dunnuck, Jimmy Mullen, and Russell Peele. The team was led by Head Coach Mark Goldsmith and Assistant Coaches Clark Byrnes and Paul Allen. They were ably assisted by head manager Nikki Berger and assistant manager Alicia Reed, along with athletic trainers Eric Stubblefield and Mark White. The team was supported strongly by the school administration including Athletic Director Roy Turner, Principal Dr. Pat Spicer and Assistant Principals Amanda Gane, Randy Shaver and Ron Coleman.

Since winning the state championship in lacrosse, interest has escalated in the school, and they are expecting an influx of players this season. Many of the players are being re-

cruited by colleges and receiving scholarships. Perhaps a dynasty is brewing at Southeast Guilford High School.

The Sixth District of North Carolina is proud of this high school team from Guilford County for its hard work and dedication. Congratulations to the Falcons for a job well done.

HONORING CHIEF GARY KONZAK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I take this moment to celebrate the life of former Grand Junction Police Chief Gary Konzak. Gary recently passed away after complications resulting from heart surgery. Chief Konzak served the Grand Valley admirably and his leadership and commitment to public safety will be greatly missed. As family, friends, and fellow police officers say goodbye to Gary, I would like to take this time to honor this remarkable human being.

Chief Konzak began his career in law enforcement in 1968 as a cadet in LaGrange, Illinois. Gary's outstanding leadership abilities and drive to succeed propelled him to the rank of Chief in 1987. After serving as Chief for half a decade in LeGrange, he moved to Carol Stream, Illinois, where he again served as Chief of Police. He remained in Carol Stream until 1997, when he redirected his impressive law enforcement abilities toward serving the Grand Junction community.

During Chief Konzak's two and one-half years as Chief of Police, he made an impressive impact upon the law enforcement community in Grand Junction, as well as on the area as a whole. Lt. Stan Hilkey of the Mesa County Sheriff's Department, in a recent article by Zack Barnett of The Daily Sentinel, credited Chief Konzak with helping improve the healthy relationship between the Grand Junction Police Department and the Mesa County Sheriff's Department. His success in fostering this relationship was instrumental in forming the Grand Valley Joint Drug Task Force. Chief Konzak has also been credited with working to improve traffic and drug enforcement, as well as the visibility of police officers within the city of Grand Junction.

Chief Konzak served his community, State and Nation admirably. It is men like Chief Gary Konzak that ensure that the communities of this great nation are safe for all citizens, and for that I thank him.

Mr. Speaker, as a former police officer, I ask that we take this moment to honor this great American and friend of Grand Junction. He was a dedicated public servant who will truly be missed.

HONORING HATTIE LEE WHITE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hattie Lee White, a lifelong resident of