

December 15, 2000

at the Hospital de Damas in San German, Puerto Rico. She is a graduate of Central High School in Santurce, Puerto Rico. Also, she studied Health Education at Columbia University in New York and Cosmetology at the Master Headdresser Academy in Passaic, New Jersey.

Maria has always been an active and involved leader. One of her most important accomplishments was her founding of the Hispanic Multi Purpose Service Center (HMPSC) in Paterson. She is currently the Executive Director of the center. The HMPSC is a highly respected agency that provides free social, educational and recreation services to the residents of Paterson and Passaic County.

This remarkable woman is a trailblazer for Latino elected officials in Passaic County. In her political career she has set many important milestones. In 1989, she became the first Hispanic Woman to be elected as the President of the Paterson City Council. Her vision and leadership has made it easier for all Hispanic Americans to seek and win elected office.

On the Council and in her daily life Maria remained devoted to the City of Paterson and the Hispanic community. She has served as Deputy Mayor of the city, as well as the Administrator of the Mayor's Office Division of Planning. In addition, she was a coordinator of the city's service programs for the Hispanic community and the nutritional programs for the city's Hispanic senior citizens.

Known for a questioning mind and an ability to get things done, Councilwoman Magda has served her community in a variety of positions. She was the Commissioner of the Board of Social Services and the Board of Health in Paterson. She was also a member of the Board of St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Paterson. She has served as a liaison between the Paterson City Hall and the community at-large. She was a member of Women in Government, the Paterson Chamber of Commerce, the Columbia University Health Panel and the Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors. In addition, she has served as Chairperson of the Paterson Great Falls Committee, and in 1976, she was the President of the Puerto Rican Parade.

Councilwoman Magda continually touches the lives of the people around her. She has received a myriad of awards including recognition from the United States Department of Defense, the Irish Culture Society, the New Jersey State Assembly and the Italiana Society.

Maria Magda O'Keefe was born on July 22, 1938. She has three siblings. Maria has two wonderful children Debra Ann Martinez and John Mitchell Morales. She has four grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, as a former mayor of Paterson that has worked with Maria for many years, I can say that I can think of no elected official who works harder or cares more about her constituents. Perhaps the greatest tribute to her is the unwavering faith of the voters of Paterson. They have demonstrated this by electing her time and again to her position.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Maria's family and friends, the City of Paterson, the State of New Jersey and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Maria Magda O'Keefe.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE
JOLENE MOLITORIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a distinguished public servant and a truly remarkable woman, the current Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Jolene Molitoris.

A true champion of railroad safety, Jolene Molitoris was appointed by the President of the United States William J. Clinton, to be the first female Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration in 1993. In her tireless effort to improve safety in the United States and around the world, Administrator Molitoris established zero tolerance for any safety hazard as the industry standard. In addition, she created partnerships with rail labor and management, achieving historic increases in all safety categories. As a testament to the outstanding leadership of Administrator Molitoris, the FRA began its transformation from a traditional regulatory agency into a result and consumer-focused organization.

Under Administrator Molitoris' management (1993-1999), the public enjoyed the safest seven-year period in history. During this period there was a 43-percent reduction in employee injuries and fatalities and a 30-percent reduction in grade crossing injuries and deaths.

Throughout her years of public service, Administrator Molitoris has received many honors, including being named by Railway Age Magazine as one of the 16 most respected and admired "Great Railroaders of the 20th Century." In 1999, Administrator Molitoris received three awards: the Ellis Island Medal of Honor awarded by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations Foundation, Inc; and the Jolene M. Molitoris Golden Spike Award created by the Indiana High Speed Rail Association. Also, in 1999, the New Jersey Division of the Polish American Congress honored Administrator Molitoris as their Millennium Woman of the Year.

On a personal note, I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with Jolene Molitoris on a great many initiatives. I have great respect and admiration for her public service career. She is a person of solid integrity who possesses a true desire to serve the public's best interest. She is an individual of tremendous talent and her leadership of the FRA will be long remembered.

I ask my colleagues to join me in rising to honor this truly remarkable public servant for her distinguished years of service, and her dedication to making our Nation's railways safer.

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WORK! CHECK OUT THE FACTS
ON EHEALTHINSURANCE.COM

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, books, toys, flowers, clothes and insurance? Now you can shop for just about anything on the web, including insurance. I recently window-shopped for insurance using ehealthinsurance.com; the same program Republican health care staffers received a briefing on last week.

My window-shopping included looking at available health insurance options in Florida, Montana, Louisiana and Georgia through the eyes of people who were 25, 35, 45, 55 and 60, both married and single.

The data reiterated our findings from March, which proved that in order to help the uninsured we cannot simply give them refundable tax credits; the tax credits have to be coupled with major insurance reform.

Many people who are uninsured are working poor and may not qualify for Medicaid; therefore if the tax credit does not cover almost the entire cost of insurance they will still not be able to afford it.

The results also proved that with age, tax credit becomes even more useless because health insurance prices rapidly increase as one ages. For example, a 25 year old low income couple in Billings, Montana could initially get by with a \$316.00 credit per month, but by the time the couple reached age 60 they would need \$1,032.00 per month to sustain the same plan from the same insurance company.

Shopping on the web is like shopping at wholesale; it allows us to buy books, clothes and the like at prices that most people can afford. The same thing cannot be said about insurance: without insurance market reform, health insurance will remain unaffordable for tens of millions.

To view charts relating to this issue, please visit my website at www.house.gov-stark.

TRIBUTE TO THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALPHA PHI OMEGA

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the 75th Anniversary of the founding of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity.

On December 16, 1925, Frank Horton formed Alpha Phi Omega with a group of students at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. Horton's service in World War I, and his subsequent introduction to the Scout Oath and Law, helped to inspire him to found the fraternity as a way to encourage young people to help others and to bring about a better, more peaceful world.

Alpha Phi Omega members are united by the principles of leadership, friendship and