EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

As the largest trader in the global economy, its United States’ national interest to bring corruption and promote transparency and good governance. Not only does it help to promote economic growth and strengthen democracy, but it helps to create a level playing field for U.S. companies that do business overseas.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE KEELY JARDELL SCHOOL OF DANCE

HON. NICK LAMPSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding accomplishment of the young ladies of Keely Jardell’s School of Dance in Nederland, Texas. The school consists of approximately 500 students from throughout the area of southern Texas ranging from ages six to eighteen years of age. The school focuses not only on dancing, but also on the importance of discipline and character. In addition to studying in the Jardell School of Dance, the students also participate in academic, athletic, and religious activities within the community. Practicing 12–15 hours a week, these young ladies have demonstrated an ability to balance their responsibilities and excel in them with grace. Lessons such as these give the students of the Keely Jardell School of Dance the skills that will be invaluable to them as they encounter challenges in their futures. These young ladies serve as role models to their peers and to members of the community as well.

Recently, sixty-nine of these students participated in regional competitions in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in Houston, and across the state of Texas. Members of the team devoted countless hours to perfecting their craft; their efforts have paid off. At regional competitions, the school was awarded the highest score of this year’s competition, overall high score, and spirit awards. Their outstanding performances at the regional level have qualified them for the National Competition in San Antonio, Texas this summer. The prestige of the school and its talented performers is known well throughout the nation. In late 1999, an invitation was received inviting the girls to perform in Washington D.C. and in New York City during the month of July, 2000. The members of the school have contributed to the city’s entertainment. They have performed at a cost not to exceed $1,500,000, maintaining an American breed of leaders it can expect in its future. These young ladies deserve our attention, support, and best wishes as they demonstrate the remarkable product of their labor and talent.

50TH BIRTHDAY OF THE MANCHESTER, NH, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JOHN E. SUNUNU
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Manchester VA Medical Center, located in New Hampshire’s First Congressional District, on the occasion of the Hospital’s 50th birthday, July 2, 2000. This outstanding facility continues to provide exemplary health care to thousands of veterans who served America and other disabled men and women. The devoted staff of the Hospital, including Public Relations Director Paul Lamberti who provided me with an extensive historical background of the Center, also deserves special thanks and appreciation for their dedication to the health care of our veterans.

The establishment of the Manchester VA Medical Center began at the conclusion of World War I with the World War Veterans’ Legislation Subcommittee on Hospitals’ recommendation that the New Hampshire project be funded. Congressman Fletcher Hale followed suit with legislation seeking Presidential approval for the construction of a facility to treat veterans throughout northern New England. Specifically, the measure called for “a modern, sanitary, fireproof, two-hundred bed capacity hospital plant for the diagnosis, care, and treatment of general and medical and surgical disabilities and to provide Government care for the increasing load of mentally afflicted veterans regardless of whether said disability developed prior to January 1, 1925, at a cost not to exceed $1,500,000.”

Final legislative approval came in 1945, and in 1946, after the end of World War II, the United States Government acquired a parcel of land, previously owned by Governor Frederick F. Smyth, that would become the site for the Hospit. Smyth served from 1866 to 1880 on the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and was well acquainted with the needs of veterans everywhere. The Smyth Tower, the replica of a famous Scottish lookout, can be found on the grounds today. The structure was erected by Smyth in 1888 and is named as an Historic Site on the National Register.

Construction of the VA Medical Center began in 1948 and two years later, on July 2, 1950, the VA Medical Center was officially dedicated. In the following decade, staff attended to the health care needs of approximately 23,500 patients.