

youth with the presentation of the Silver Beaver award by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Captain Van Putten has left her fine mark on the city of Union City and the law enforcement profession and I join her colleagues in thanking her and wishing her all the best on her well-deserved retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. MARIANO ALONSO, ANNUAL HONOREE OF IRELAND'S 32

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mariano Alonso, one of three honorees at the annual dinner-dance hosted by Ireland's 32 on January 19, 2001. Dr. Alonso will be honored for his accomplishments and for his continued dedication to improving the quality of life for the residents of Bayonne, New Jersey.

A native of Spain, Dr. Alonso was influenced greatly by his grandfather and uncle, both of whom are doctors, and by his father, a pharmacist. After completing medical school at Valladolid University, and serving in the Spanish Army and the Medical Corps, Dr. Alonso arrived in New York City in 1957. He completed his internship and residency at the Jersey City Medical Center and St. Mary's Hospital in Bayonne. Dr. Alonso subsequently became house physician at the Bayonne Hospital until 1964, when he established his own pediatrics practice, which has served the community of Bayonne for 35 years.

Dr. Alonso is the president of the Bayonne Hospital Medical Staff and past president of the Bayonne Medical Society. He is also a member of the American Medical Association, the Academy of Pediatrics, the Hudson County Medical Society, and the New Jersey Medical Society. In addition, Dr. Alonso volunteered at the Bayonne Family Health Center for more than 20 years. He is also the past president and current honorary vice-president of the Spanish American Club, which has allowed him to provide important community support for Spanish and Hispanic Americans.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Mariano Alonso for his contributions to health care and for his dedication to the community of Bayonne.

RECOGNIZING THE MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION I STATE CHAMPIONS LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the accomplishments of the 2000 Ludlow High School boys soccer team. This past season the Ludlow boys team compiled a record of 19-0-3 en route to earnings

the Smith Division League Championship, the Western Massachusetts Division I Championship, and the Massachusetts Division I State Championship. Their efforts enabled them to earn a top five ranking nationally.

Not only did the boys team finish the season undefeated, but their 2000 campaign marked the first time in Massachusetts history that a boys soccer team won four consecutive Western Massachusetts Division I titles. Also, the Lions have won back to back State titles, the first time this has been done in Massachusetts in 35 years. Ludlow High School has a fine and proud tradition in boys soccer play. The school has earned 13 State titles and 26 Western Massachusetts championships.

At the Lions' coaching helm was Tony Goncalves. He and his staff have fine tuned their team's athletic skill and have instilled poise, discipline, and sportsmanship into their players. Coach Goncalves and his staff have certainly earned their reputation as one of the finest coaching staffs in all of New England. I would also like to note that included in this year's team are seven players that were named to the All-Western Massachusetts squad, three players named to the All-State team, and two players receiving All-New England honors.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognize here the players, coaches, and managers of the 2000 Ludlow High School boys soccer team. The seniors are: Helder Pires, Jay Devlin, Mike Pio, Joey Jorge, Ray Cheria, Brian Cochenour, Tim Romansky, Paulo Dias, Dennis Carvalho, Paulo Martins, Steve Jorge, Manny Goncalves, and Chris Chelo. Juniors include: Joe Shanley, Seth Falconer, Kevin Keough, and Sebastian Priest. The Sophomores are: Kevin Chelo, Sven Pfefferkorn, Michael Lima, Tyler Severyn, Josh Naginewicz, Casey Siok, and Corey Mange. The Head Coach is Tony Goncalves. Assistant Coaches are Jack Vilaca, Greg Kolodziey, and Dan Pires. Team managers are Sarah Russell, Jill Dube, and Jenn Russell.

Mr. Speaker, once again, allow me to send my congratulations to the Ludlow High School boys soccer team on their outstanding season. I wish them the best of luck in the 2001 season.

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WINS PRES-
TIGIOUS AWARD

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, today I proudly share with my colleagues a recent accomplishment by Operations Management International, Inc (OMI), which is based in my district. Founded in 1980 by the Colorado-based, employee-owned CH2M HILL Companies, Ltd., OMI offers complete infrastructure development, financing, design, and operations and maintenance services. The company manages 160 water and wastewater facilities in the Americas, the Middle East and Asia.

On November 21, 2000, OMI made history by being the first company in the water and

wastewater industry, as well as the first Colorado-based company to receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. This is the nation's premier award for quality achievement. OMI is the only company in the service category to win this year. In fact, only four companies nationwide will receive the Baldrige Award in all categories this year.

Named after a former Secretary of Commerce, the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award is an annual honor that recognizes U.S. organizations for performance excellence, and is the highest-level quality award given in the United States. Given the growth of Colorado's economy, and the quality of its workforce, I expect to see this award return often to our state.

The Baldrige Award evaluates organizations on seven performance excellence criteria: leadership; strategic planning; customer and market focus; information and analysis; human resource focus; process management; and performance and business results. OMI uses these important criteria as a cornerstone for its Obsessed With Quality management process, which focuses on empowering associates to develop new approaches to enhance how they perform their jobs. The company's mission is summarized in its "E3" motto: Exceed customers' expectations, empower people and enhance the environment—three main goals that illustrate how OMI conducts its business and developed its stellar reputation.

Winning the Baldrige Award rewards the deserving employees at OMI for two decades of work that has positively affected millions of lives worldwide, through the daily provision of superior utility management services. To win such a prestigious award, OMI has proven that its emphasis on quality is evident in their work product.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Don Evans, the president of OMI and his staff of over 1,400 on their outstanding achievement.

THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL
IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2001

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Democrat on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am today introducing H.R. 320, the Montgomery GI Bill Improvements Act of 2001, with my good friend Congressman JOHN DINGELL, the principal cosponsor of this important legislation. Our legislation will provide important and needed improvements in education benefits for veterans under the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) program, a key recruiting tool for the armed services and a key readjustment benefit for the men and women who honorably serve our Nation in uniform.

Substantial MGIB enhancements are long overdue. The 106th Congress passed an important, but modest increase in MGIB benefits late last year. While I supported and was pleased by the MGIB amendments approved last year, those changes were clearly only an interim, first step toward revitalizing one of