example, the GAO has found that only about 21 percent of Medicaid children between the ages of one and two have been screened. In the state of New Jersey, only about 39 percent of children enrolled in Medicaid have been screened.

Based on these reviews at both the state and federal levels, it is obvious that improvements must be made to ensure that children are screened early and receive follow up treatment if lead is detected. That is why I am introducing this legislation which I believe will address some of the shortcomings that have been identified in existing requirements.

The legislation will require Medicaid providers to screen children and cover treatment for children found to have elevated levels of lead in their blood. It will also require improved data reporting of children who are tested, so that we can accurately monitor the results of the program. Because more than 75 percent—or nearly 700,000—of the children found to have elevated blood lead levels are part of federally-funded health care programs, our bill targets not only Medicaid, but also Head Start, Early Head Start and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Head Start and WIC programs would be allowed to perform screening or to mandate that parents show proof of screenings in order to enroll their children.

Education, early screening and prompt follow-up care will save millions in health care costs; but, more importantly will save our greatest resource—our children.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING PREVENTION ACT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by 40 of my colleagues in introducing the ''Accidental Shooting Prevention Act'' to address the large number of firearm injuries and deaths that occur when users mistakenly fire guns they believe are not loaded. This sensible bipartisan legislation would require that all semiautomatic firearms manufactured after January 1, 2004, which have removable magazines, be equipped with plainly visible chamber load indicators and magazine disconnect mechanisms.

As with many other consumer products, firearm design can reduce the risk of injury. But unlike other products, gun design decisions have been largely left to manufacturers. Fortunately, firearms manufacturers have already produced many guns with safety devices, such as chamber load indicators and magazine disconnect mechanisms, which can help reduce the risk of accidental injuries.

A chamber load indicator indicates that the gun's firing chamber is loaded with ammunition, but to be effective, a user must be aware of the indicator. Generally, chamber load indicators display the presence of ammunition via a small protrusion somewhere on the handgun. Unfortunately, most chamber load indicators do not clearly indicate their existence to untrained users or observers. We must ensure these indicators are easily visible to all gun users, and my legislation will do just that.

By comparison, a magazine disconnect mechanism is an interlocking device which prevents a firearm from being fired when its ammunition magazine is removed, even if there is a round in the chamber. Interlocks are found on a wide variety of consumer products to reduce injury risks. For example, most new cars have an interlocking device that prevents the automatic transmission shifter from being moved from the ''park'' position unless the brake pedal is depressed. It is common sense that a product as dangerous as a gun should contain a similar safety mechanism.

This is an issue of great importance to me. At the age of sixteen, I was left paralyzed when a police officer's gun accidentally discharged and severed my spine. Had the gun involved in my accident been equipped with a chamber load indicator, the officer would have known that the weapon was loaded. Clearly, mistakes can happen even when guns are in the hands of highly trained weapons experts, which is why safety devices are so critical.

I urge my colleagues to join me and the 40 original co-sponsors of this bill in reducing the risk of unintentional shootings. Please co-sponsor this responsible measure, and help make guns safer for consumer use while protecting those unfamiliar with the operation of guns.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. AND MRS. WALSH

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to announce to you, and to the rest of my esteemed colleagues, that on August 4, 2001, Mr. and Mrs. William Walsh will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Gloria and Bill were both born in Chicago, Illinois. On November 20, 1930, Gloria Augusta was born to Frank and Martha Velten. On October 22, 1929, William and Myrtle Walsh gave birth to William Kenneth.

Although they both graduated from Blue Island High School, they did not meet prior to graduation. It was after graduation, while members of a social club—Gloria was the Secretary-Treasurer and Bill was the President—that they met and began their lifelong partnership.

Gloria and Bill expanded their family with the birth of two daughters, Cynthia and Dawn. In 1959, Bill brought his family to Anaheim, California, and two years later co-founded Continental Vending, a successful family business he still manages.

The marriage of Gloria and Bill is a love story that is still in progress. Their ''I do's'' are as sincere and heartfelt today as they were 50 years ago and deserve our commendation.

It is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize this grand occasion and join with family and friends to honor William and Gloria Walsh on their 50 years of committed marriage.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of Orange County, I extend our sincere congratulations to Bill and Gloria Walsh.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD NEVINS OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Richard Nevins, who died on Saturday following a bodysurfing accident at St. Malo Beach in Oceanside, California.

Mr. Nevins was a life-long resident of Pasadena, in the Congressional District I am proud to represent. He was very well-known throughout Pasadena, and indeed California as a whole, as a political representative, civic activist, and supporter of the beautification and heritage of his community.

Dick served seven terms on the California State Board of Equalization—an impressive feat. During his terms on the Board he did much to instill a culture of service and professionalism. He was referred to as ''. . . an encyclopedia of tax policy'' by Lawrence de Graaf who took an oral history from Nevins shortly after his retirement. Professionally he was active in the State Association of County Assessors of California, International Association of Assessing Officers, National Association of Tax Administrators and American Society for Public Administration—Los Angeles Board of Directors. In addition to these professional organizations, Nevins was active in the Los Angeles Urban League, the NAACP (Pasadena Chapter), the World Affairs Council, Town Hall and the Commonwealth Club.

His political legacy also included service as a delegate to three national conventions, including the 1960 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, where he was an early supporter of presidential candidate John F. Kennedy. He continued to promote Democratic candidates for the rest of his life. After retiring from the State Board of Equalization in 1986 he served as President of the Boards of the Pasadena Historical Museum and Pasadena Beautiful. He was a familiar figure in his 1935 Ford pickup truck carrying around—gardening tools and planting trees. In fact, one week before his passing, California Governor Gray Davis approved $20,000 in the state budget on a project Dick had lobbied for—landscaping at Pasadena schools. A fitting final contribution for his beloved home city.

Dick was known and loved by people throughout his community. His service as a political representative, his work on civic affairs in Pasadena, and his spirit of community involvement will undoubtedly be felt for years in our region.

Dick graduated from Arroyo Elementary School and Polytechnic School in Pasadena; from Midland School in Los Olivos; and from Yale University with a bachelor's degree in governmment in 1943. He was also a veteran who served our nation in the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II.

Dick is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary Lois, by three sons, Richard Jr., William and Henry; and by five grandchildren.