

When I visited Opportunity, I learned that its business success, while impressive, pales in significance to the positive contributions it has made to its employees' lives. I experienced firsthand how proud, dedicated and competitive they are. Clearly, Opportunity is an organization that lives up to its name.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a congressional district that includes enterprises of this caliber. It is my pleasure to salute the employees, management and directors of Opportunity as they celebrate their 25th Anniversary on September 15, 2001 at a gala dinner with Harry M. Jansen Kraemer, Jr., Chairman and CEO, Baxter International.

HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION
ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make clear my concerns about the legislation before us today.

I absolutely oppose the cloning of human beings for any purpose. Even the thought of human cloning is immoral, unethical and repugnant. I am concerned, however, that in our zeal to outlaw this abominable practice, we have overstepped necessary prohibitions and have acted to stop lifesaving research before it even begins.

Today the House has failed to make the important distinction between reproductive cloning that creates a human being and the use of cloning research technology that does not create a human being. An outright ban on such research technology, which scientists believe can lead to treatments or cures for currently deadly diseases, is shortsighted in the extreme.

Even more disturbing, H.R. 2505 goes further to ban the importation of any therapies created from cloning research technology. This means that any product or therapy developed anywhere in the world using this technology, could not be used by American patients. Consider for a moment a cure for Parkinson's, diabetes or ALS developed in the United Kingdom using cloning research technology—Americans would be banned, under penalty of prison and a \$1 million fine, from using that therapy. That is wrong.

Today, I supported an alternative that would have banned reproductive cloning while specifically protecting therapeutic research cloning by maintaining the status quo—private, strictly regulated research. This alternative, offered by Representative GREENWOOD, would have allowed scientists to pursue promising research that could show how to create stem cells from a person's own DNA, avoiding problems with immune system rejection. The alternative would have allowed scientists to study how stem cells become specialized, and thus provide insight into the mechanisms responsible for abnormal cells that result in some cancers and birth defects. It would have allowed research into how cells age and are regulated, potentially leading a treatment or a cure of

Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other degenerative diseases of the brain or spinal cord. Unfortunately, this alternative failed.

The opportunities at the doorstep of medical research are unparalleled in our history. H.R. 2505, although well intentioned, simply goes too far.

Mr. Speaker, it is possible to ban human cloning without stopping lifesaving research and that is what this House should do.

THE REVEREND FATHER ROBERT
E. NILON, S.J.—A LIFETIME OF
DEDICATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to honor the achievements of Reverend Robert E. Nilon, S.J. of Miami as a dedicated Jesuit for sixty years. He has faithfully served parishioners in Alabama, Florida and Louisiana as a Parish Priest. Father Nilon was ordained to the priesthood to follow in the steps of St. Ignatius of Loyola on June 16, 1954.

Reverend Nilon has accepted various Florida assignments. Several locations include GESU Church in Downtown Miami, St. Ann's Church in West Palm Beach, St. Mary's Church in Key West, and is currently serving the Sacred Heart Church in Tampa, Florida as Parish Priest and Hospital Chaplain.

The Jesuits are not in pursuit of personal fame when accepting assignments as needed in the home or mission field. However, occasionally there are opportunities to do great things. One of Reverend Nilon's most memorable occasions took place in Rome in 1999 when he celebrated Mass in the company of His Holiness, John Paul II, who was celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the Jesuits.

His work is an inspiration to others in our community and will set a precedent for societal advancement. As a parish priest and pastor, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to others that proves to be an affirmable resource for the community.

Father Nilon will be honored on August 12, 2001 at the GESU Church where a Mass of Thanksgiving will be presided by Archbishop John C. Favalora. We congratulate Father Nilon for his outstanding contribution to our community and wish him all the best in health and continued prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS CHEATHAM,
JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas Cheatham, Jr., a native of Benton, MS. After a long and distinguished career of public service, Mr. Cheatham announced his retirement on June 30, 2001.

Mr. Cheatham was a dedicated employee of the State of Mississippi for 27 years with tenures at both the Department of Public Safety, Motor Vehicles Division and as a tax collector with the Mississippi State Tax Commission. Prior to this, Mr. Cheatham served in the military for 28 years with the Mississippi National Guard, where the qualities of dedication and punctuality were instilled into him. These traits followed him throughout his career, evidence in the fact that he was always on time for work.

Although Mr. Cheatham enjoyed his time with the State his real passion was coaching little league baseball. He spent 37 years coaching the Grove Park Royals, an eight to twelve age team, in Jackson, MS. As leader of the team, Mr. Cheatham enjoyed many successful seasons, this past year going 19 and 1. He was instrumental in the development of many young individuals on and off the field. He has also been fortunate enough to see several of his players eventually go on to play Major League Baseball.

Mr. Cheatham will be missed by a lot of people at work, but if anyone is more deserving of retirement it is him. He should be commended because he is truly a modern day "role model," displaying the characteristics of integrity and commitment for all to admire.

PROGRESS ON CURING
PARKINSON'S DISEASE

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Working Group on Parkinson's Disease, I rise today to recognize the fourth anniversary of the passage of the Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Research Act.

I was so very honored to be an original cosponsor to this legislation, named for Arizona Representative Mo Udall.

This landmark legislation expands basic and clinical research in Parkinson's Disease and establishes Morris K. Udall Centers, for awards for Excellence in Parkinson's Disease Research.

Today I express my full support for a continuation of Parkinson's Disease research.

Approximately, 1,000,000 Americans are afflicted with Parkinson's, with 60,000 more diagnosed each year—one every nine minutes.

Approximately 40% of those afflicted are under the age of 60, effectively removing them from the work force.

Parkinson's is the biological opposite of Alzheimer's disease: while Alzheimer's destroys the mind, leaving the body intact and functioning, Parkinson's destroys the body's ability to function, taking away the physical abilities necessary to daily life while leaving the mind prisoner inside the body.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope as science moves forward, especially in the area of stem cell research, which holds hope for the millions with Parkinson's that a cure will be found soon, and that the legacy of Mo Udall will live forever.