

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mayor Parsons for his vision and his hard work. I would like to thank him for his years of public service. His dedication to those who elected him is admirable, and I wish him much success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING VICTIMS OF AMERICAN
AIRLINES FLIGHT 587

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims who lost their lives in the crash of American Airlines flight #587 on Monday, November 13, 2001 and to offer my condolences and support to their families and friends. In the last two months, New York has witnessed such horrific losses and today we mourn the loss of more than another 250 friends. The flight that crashed was heading to the Dominican Republic and the list of passengers reflects the Dominican presence in New York City—a vibrant community that is an integral part of our National cultural mosaic and part of the wonderfully diverse constituency that is my privilege to serve in the U.S. Congress. Our attention now turns to the Dominican people, both here and in their motherland, who suffered a grievous loss.

As I read the news reports, I notice the family relations on the flight which ties our community to a small country in the Caribbean. Mothers taking children to visit a never seen homeland. Nephews visiting aunts. Husbands returning to bring wives to their new lives. Parents on first vacations without the children. All the stories reflect lives prematurely ended leaving loved ones.

We cannot reverse the tragic event of yesterday and only time will perhaps reveal the circumstances that caused it, allowing us to better understand why. Today we can stand with the Dominican community and offer our assistance in the healing and restoring of their lives. We can let them know that they are not alone during this time and that we pledge to provide every available resource to them.

To the people of my district and its people of Dominican heritage: The past years we have worked side by side to improve the lives of our people and we have seen many wonderful changes. Your presence has enriched my life and contributed to the diversity that defines Upper Manhattan. I am so proud to represent you. Last night, in Washington Heights, I saw your tears and felt your pain. Please know that I mourn with you for your loss is my own. Mi apoyo, compasión, y solidaridad va para todos mis hermanos dominicanos. Frente a la tragedia y la adversidad, mi corazón esta con todos ustedes.

HONORING SYLVIA COHEN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize a distinguished resi-

dent of my district, Mrs. Sylvia Cohen, and congratulate her on receiving New Jersey's Deal Shore Hadassah Woman of the Year award.

For the past three decades, Sylvia has put forth a tireless effort as an active member of the Shore area's Jewish community. Sylvia is committed to Jewish causes and became active in the United Jewish Appeal, well before it even became the Jewish Federation. In addition, she currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation and is co-chair of the Business and Professional Women's Division. Furthermore, Sylvia also serves on the Monmouth University Scholarship Ball Committee, the Board of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Monmouth County, and is president of the Temple Bath Torah's Sisterhood in Ocean Township. Throughout all of her hard work and fundraising to ensure the success of these local Jewish organizations, Sylvia has remained inspired by and devoted to the Jewish community.

In her personal life, Sylvia has shown an equal level of commitment, passion, and dedication. She and her husband, Ray Cohen, have successfully established and operated two small businesses in their hometown of Deal, New Jersey. As involved as Sylvia has been and continues to be in the community and her businesses, her greatest pride is her family. She and her husband have raised five daughters and five grandchildren. Sylvia has set an example for her family as two of her daughters have both been honored by their local Hadassah chapters as Woman of the Year, as well.

Mrs. Cohen certainly serves as an example for both her family and her community. Her devotion and hard work are extraordinary and can further serve as an example for us all. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I ask you to join me in distinguishing Mrs. Sylvia Cohen for a lifetime of dedication to her family and to her Jewish community.

BEST PHARMACEUTICALS FOR
CHILDREN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the "Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act of 2001", a bill I am proud to cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, most pharmaceuticals have not been tested and labeled for pediatric safety and use. We've heard it time and time again, children are not small adults. With that in mind, why would we cut an adult dosage of medication in half and assume it's appropriate for treating a child's condition? It isn't, and that is why this legislation is so important.

This legislation re-authorizes a program that has proven to be the most effective way to generate studies of medications in children. Before the law was passed, 80 percent of drugs given to children had been tested only on adults. Since then, 60 studies have been conducted to assess the safety and effective-

ness of medicines used in children, and another 400 are under way. Physicians who prescribe medications for children, and parents who administer them, now have more information about appropriate dosages, as well as, the side effects of medications in the pediatric population. It has truly been a remarkable achievement for children's health.

As part of the authorization of these "pediatric exclusivity" provisions, FDA was required to submit a report to Congress describing the results of the program and commenting on its success. FDA's report, submitted in January, stated that an unprecedented number of pediatric studies had been conducted and crucially important new pediatric labels were improving medical care for children.

According to a GAO study, "as of April 1, 2001, 28 drugs had been granted marketing exclusivity extensions, and research results have provided new and useful information about how drugs work in children, which have been incorporated into labels for 18 drugs." This information, previously unavailable to parents and doctors, includes new information about dosing, important new safety considerations, extension of dosing, safety, and efficacy data to younger patients, along with development of age-appropriate formulations.

Because Congress was uncertain as to whether this program would be successful, it chose to "sunset" the provisions at the end of calendar year 2001. It is now time to re-authorize this highly successful program, to ensure that its accomplishments continue and that pediatric studies and labeling for many more drug products will be achieved. The 6-month period of exclusivity assures priority of pediatric studies, and helps to justify establishing infrastructure necessary for doing pediatric studies. The exclusivity has been the primary driver in building capacity and expertise in pediatric drug development. The ability of a pediatric research program to pursue unique pediatric illnesses, and pediatric-predominant diseases is dependent on such R&D resource allocations.

As a proud cosponsor of H.R. 2887, I encourage all of my colleagues to follow Representative ESHOO's leadership in supporting the continuation of this successful research program.

HONORING CHANNAHON FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Channahon Fire Protection District (FPD) for its years of excellent service and commitment to the community.

The Channahon Fire Protection District was organized over 50 years ago. It protects over 38 square miles which includes Interstate 55, 11 miles of the I & M Canal, over 11 miles of the Des Plaines River as well as more than 8,000 residents.

Last year, the Channahon FPD responded to over 700 calls which is quite remarkable when you consider that 90 percent of the 45