large and small, would be induced to expand their recruitment efforts and encourage the states to improve the administration of the programs. Such a change would benefit everyone.

The other provision in the bill would expand the food stamp category by increasing the age limit from 24 to 50 years of age. The current ceiling of 24 limits the availability of individuals in this targeted category. There are many individuals, over the age of 24, who could be gainfully employed if the age limit was expanded. Currently, the programs do an excellent job of helping women on welfare enter into the workforce. Over 80% of the hires in the programs are women. However, men from welfare households face a greater barrier to hire because they are no longer eligible for welfare once they turn 18. However, they can qualify if they are a member of a household receiving food stamps. But again, the age limit on the food stamps category is 24. We believe increasing that age limit to 50 will provide employers an incentive to hire such individuals and provide them with a sense of personal responsibility and self-esteem in assuming their responsibility as parents and members of society.

We use our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this important legislation to extend and improve the two programs.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH—RECOGNIZING NEW MEXICO WOMEN

HON. HEATHER WILSON
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I asked New Mexicans to send me nominations of women in New Mexico who have given special service to our community, but may have never received recognition for their good deeds.

I received twenty-eight worthy nominations describing sacrifices and contributions these women have made for our community. The people who nominated the women described the dedication they have witnessed: volunteer hours of hard work in the pool and countless laps, this team's dedication to winning was finally rewarded.

Led by Coach of the Year Kevin Auger, this year's outstanding and superbly talented Evanston Township High School swim team dominated the competition, broke state records, and swam away with the top prize. That was a proud moment for ETHS swimmers, coaches, faculty, and especially the parents of those remarkable student athletes. It was a very proud moment for all the residents of the city of Evanston and all Wildkit fans and alumni.

I urge all members to read the following article from the Evanston Review on ETHS' great achievement, and to take a minute and read the names of the championship swim team members listed below.

ETHS Team Members: Glen Anderson, Jamaal Applewhite, Peter Bloom, Nate Crocker, Brian Doyle, Justin Froelich, Taylor Hales, Alex Johnson, Sean McCaffrey, Stuart Olsen, Terry Silkaitis, Stephen Skalinder, Will Vogel, Blake Wallace, Seth Weidman, and Brian Weiland.

ETHS Coaches: Kevin Auger, Jim Blickenstaff, Chuck Fargo, Joey Halpem, and Aaron Melnick.

[From the Evanston Review, Mar. 1, 2001]

ETHS SNAG FIRST STATE SWIM TITLE IN OVER 40 YEARS

(By Dennis Mahoney)

Evanston freshman Alex Johnson brought his family's favorite lawn ornament—a two-foot high plastic penguin—to the Illinois High School Association state swimming and diving finals Saturday at New Trier High School.

“It’s always brought my family good luck, so I thought I’d bring it along,” Johnson said.

But good luck isn’t necessary at the state swim finals. The cream always rises to the top.

Led by the terrific trio of Terry Silkaitis, Sean McCaffrey and Blake Wallace, Evanston’s team ascended to the top of the heap as the Wildkits captured their first state crown since 1960 Saturday.

Coach Kevin Auger’s team left no doubt about the outcome with a sizzling performance during Friday’s preliminary competition, then breezed to a team total of 139 points and easily outdistanced runner-up St. Charles East (110).

Silkaitis defended his individual championship in the 200-yard freestyle event, and also swam with the victorious 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams as part of a dominating performance by the Wildkits.

“Winning that last relay (in a school record 1:34.40) was just the icing on the cake for us,” said Auger after his celebratory dip in the New Trier pool. “This just feels awesome. These guys worked so hard and it’s just great to see this senior class accomplish this.”

“For them to handle the pressure the way they did was just tremendous. Our big three swam virtually perfect Friday, and I told the guys we had to win yesterday to win it today.”

“Even after the sectional I didn’t think this was possible. It feels awesome, but it hasn’t really sunk in yet,” said Silkaitis. “It definitely was a nerve-wracking weekend. But I knew what I had to do—and I did it.”

The splendid senior almost pulled off a pair of individual wins. He put together impressive back-to-back swims in the 200—with a
prelim time of 1:38.42 and a finals time of 1:38.36, both personal bests—and won the title by almost two seconds.

And he responded to a big challenge in the 100 butterfly, where Champaign Central stud Dan Trupin was the odds-on favorite—until Silkaitis stole the stage in the prelims with a time of 48.96 in the prelims.

That threw a scare into Trupin, who responded by resetting the record at 48.69 Saturday. Silkaitis setted for second best for 49.34.

"It was nice to win the 200 again, especially being a senior year," Silkaitis said. "Today was definitely harder than in the prelims. I'd had no way coming into the meet that I could go a couple of 1:38s, but after yesterday I thought I could do it again. I felt good today.

"Was I disappointed in the fly? Not at all. If you're going to lose, lose to the best. I knew Trupin would be there and I just gave everything I could." 

Also producing points for the new state champs—legendary coach Dobbie Burton, who led the Wildkits to five state titles in the 1960s, watching from the stands—were McCaffrey (fourth in the 200 freestyle, second in the 100 freestyle), Wallace (sixth in the 50 and sixth in the 200 freestyle), Anderson (11th in the 100 backstroke) and the medley relay unit of Anderson, Justin Froelich, Taylor Haels and Seth Weidmann that finished 12th.

Both of Trupin's relay triumphs turned out to be the fastest times in the country this season. Silkaitis, Weidmann, Wallace and McCaffrey beat out rival New Trier with a winning time of 1:24.90 that was actually slower than their prelim effort (1:24.72).

The same foursome finished with a flourish in the 400. It marked the first time the Wildkits have won that event in their history.

McCaffrey's decision to participate in shorter races this season (he placed eighth last year in the 500 free) paid off. He wasn't happy with another fourth place finish in the 200 but came on strong after that. His splits were a 26.5 on the shorter relay and an incredible 45.8 on the 200 free. "It was obvious to me the 500 was going to be harder with all those fast young kids coming up," said the Wildkit senior. "The 100 proved too much for me."

"I trained hard and lifted a lot of weights this year to prepare for this. I knew this would be a fast race, but I didn't know it would be this fast (a state record 44.40 by winner Matt Grevers of Lake Forest). I knew first place was out of the question there. I was just trying to get some team points."

So was Wallace, a junior who established himself as one of the state's top sprinters.

"My individual swims weren't what I wanted, but the relays were awesome!" he said. "We were so pumped up, I think we could have gone a lot faster, but we wanted the state record (3:05.84), but we couldn't quite get it.

"Yesterday I felt a lot of pressure to make it into the top six (in the 50 and 100). I did what I had to do. I think coach Auger deserves so much credit. He has us swimming just as hard in practice as we did in the meets. And the taper was right on."

Good luck may have had something to do with Evanston's title after all. The school was fortunate to have coach Auger, who also coachs the girls team, via the Wildkit Swim Organization club.

He landed the full-time club position two years before taking the helm at the high school and worked with some of the current Kits as pre-teens.

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**A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF RUDOLPH V. MARSHALL**

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

**OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, March 27, 2001**

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of loss that I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Rudolph "Rudy" V. Marshall, the founder and chairman of the Bay Area Black Media Coalition, who recently passed away at the age of 64.

Rudy Marshall proudly served this country for 30 years. He enlisted in the United States Navy, and he worked at the Veterans' Hospital and the Alameda Naval Supply.

Rudy demonstrated all the leadership abilities in the community. He was often involved with service projects, which helped to build and to strengthen the neighborhoods. He developed a trust and a bond with the people.

One of Rudy's greatest achievements was his founding and chairing of the Bay Area Black Media Coalition in 1979. He was a tireless advocate of the racial diversification of newspaper and broadcast facilities. Rudy utilized all legal avenues to ensure the fair treatment of African Americans and other minorities of the media.

Rudy conducted workshops and seminars for young people to have the opportunity to experience broadcasting and media work firsthand. Rudy provided mentors from the communications industry in hopes of fostering an interest for a career in journalism.

Rudy Marshall was a pioneer in bringing to the people's attention the demand for fair and diverse representation in the media industry. He had a deep passion for justice, fairness, and professionalism.

He has touched us all. Rudy Marshall, beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, and community leader will be deeply missed.

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**IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT AVAILABILITY ACT**

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

**OF ILLINOIS**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, March 27, 2001**

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of medical savings accounts. As we begin the 107th Congress, I am sad to report that over 43 million Americans are without health insurance. One solution to help alleviate this problem is personal savings accounts (MSAs). Figures recently released by the Internal Revenue Service confirm that MSAs are insuring the uninsured at an astounding rate. According to the IRS, since the program began in January of 1997, 32 percent of MSA purchases were previously uninsured.

This success is in spite of restrictions placed on the pilot program, which was part of the bipartisan Kassebaum-Kennedy health care bill that President Clinton signed into law in 1996. As of now, you can only get an MSA if you work for a company with 50 or fewer employees or if you are self-employed. However, many thousands of uninsured people have been purchasing MSA policies because MSAs are making health insurance affordable for the first time. In addition, MSAs allow for choice of doctor and put healthcare decisions in the hands of the individual, not a managed care administrator.

Today, following in the bipartisan spirit under which MSAs were originally created, Chairman THOMAS and I have introduced the Medical Savings Account Availability Act, with strong bipartisan support. This bill would repeal the 750,000 cap on taxpayer participation and make MSAs permanent. The legislation also expands the eligibility of MSAs to all individuals with a qualified high deductible plan. Repealing the 750,000 cap and making MSAs permanent are key to continuing the success of MSAs. Last year, Congress extended MSAs for 2 years. Nevertheless, many insurers are reluctant to invest the capital to market MSAs if they will expire soon. The Medical Savings Account Availability Act would make MSAs permanent. Insurers have also been hesitant to offer MSAs because the cap restrictions limit the size of the market in which MSAs could be offered. Therefore, repealing the cap would encourage the mass marketing of MSAs and increase Americans' awareness of the benefits of MSAs.

It has been 8 years since the first Medical Savings Account bill was introduced with bipartisan support. MSAs have proven track record of insuring the uninsured, giving individuals choice and control over their health care, making health care affordable by reducing the cost of premiums, and encouraging Americans to save for long-term health care expenses. With 43 million Americans vulnerable and uninsured, it's time to make MSAs available to everyone. I look forward to working with Chairman THOMAS, members of both parties, and others who want all consumers to be able to reap the benefits of MSAs. I urge my colleagues to join us and support the Medical Savings Account Availability Act. The 43 million uninsured Americans will thank you.

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**CELEBRATING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**SPEECH OF**

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

**OF NEW YORK**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, March 20, 2001**

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 180th anniversary of