

served as Chairman of the county bar association.

Before his election to Congress in November of 1970, he served two terms in the Indiana House of Representatives. As a Member of the U.S. Congress, Bud was known for a unique combination of genteel civility and firm resolve. During his years in Washington, he was noted for his leadership on several issues of vital importance to Hoosiers and to the nation as a whole.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, Bud was instrumental in the development and deployment of the M-1 tank and the preservation of Grissom Air Force Reserve Base. He took a serious interest in the automobile industry as a founding member of the Congressional Auto Task Force and was a leading advocate of the rescue of Chrysler. He was also a strong force in the Congressional Steel Caucus as Vice President of the executive committee. Bud also took seriously our nation's commitments to our veterans. As a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, he was a leader in caring for our country's veterans, and was instrumental in the construction of the outpatient clinic at Crown Point.

Mr. Speaker, Bud Hillis has a distinguished record of service to his country and to the people he represented here in the House of Representatives. The dedication of the Kokomo post office, would be a fitting tribute for such an honorable and accomplished man.

HONORING LESLIE BELCHER
SOWELL

HON. WES WATKINS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my chief of staff, Leslie Belcher Sowell, who is leaving the service of Oklahoma's Third Congressional District this past Thursday, May 24, 2001 after many, many years as a member of my staff. Leslie is a multi-talented young woman whom I have watched grow and mature from a young congressional intern into a true professional as my top congressional advisor and most trusted political assistant.

Leslie grew up in Chandler, Oklahoma, in the Third District. She is a graduate of Chandler High School and Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Leslie first joined my staff as a congressional intern. Later, after she graduated from college, Leslie joined my office full-time as a staff assistant and receptionist. It wasn't long before Leslie earned a promotion to legislative assistant, and she eventually became one of my top assistants for the House Appropriations Committee. Her assistance as invaluable to my efforts to help the economic and job growth of the Third District.

When I left Congress after 1990, Leslie returned to OSU where she served on the staff of the university's government relations office. She returned to Capitol Hill a few years later to work as legislative director for my successor in the Third District, Rep. Bill Brewster, D-Oklahoma.

In 1996, when I decided to return to Congress, Leslie again joined me, this time as my

chief of staff and top political advisor. In addition, she served as my legislative director and press secretary during the initial period of my first term back in Congress when we were organizing my new staff.

In 1997, during consideration of a major tax bill, Leslie became an underlying catalyst in my efforts to make sure former Native American lands in Oklahoma were eligible for tax incentives created to encourage economic development on Native American reservations. Leslie helped me guide this hallmark legislation through the Ways and Means Committee, through the full House, and through final passage. This legislation has meant more to economic growth and job development in Oklahoma than any efforts in recent history. Without Leslie Belcher Sowell's efforts, it would have been nearly impossible for me to see this legislation passed into law. Her last action in our office was making a phone call trying to get this process extended until 2009.

Leslie has always shared my goal of improving the economic conditions in rural Oklahoma, which is why she has been such a perfect fit for my staff. Leslie has been dedicated and committed to my efforts whether I was Democrat, Independent, or Republican.

I have had the privilege of watching Leslie grow in her career, seeing her marry the love of her life, taking on her most challenging and rewarding job ever—becoming a mother. Leslie is a dear friend, and I thank her for her service to the Third District, the State of Oklahoma, and the United States of America.

Leslie: I will miss you, and the Third District will miss you. May God bless you and your family. I tip my hat to you, and thank you for your loyal friendship and a job well done.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S ENERGY
POLICY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, for months now, people in our area and all over the country have been upset with the ever-increasing cost of gasoline, and rightfully so. At a time when we are facing one of the most serious energy shortages in history I am especially interested in President Bush's plan for a national energy policy. I have strongly supported a long range energy policy for our country.

I believe the President's energy plan has many good points including a \$2 billion coal initiative and increased use of reformulated gasolines using ethanol. However, I believe his proposal can be improved upon. For example, we have the ability now, to use reformulated gasoline in a much greater capacity. In addition, Congress needs to ensure the President's new Clean Coal Power Initiative is adequately funded. Coal, which we have an abundance of in Southwestern Illinois, is an excellent alternative use of fuel. I think the President's coal initiative is a great idea that can be expanded to include incentives for new and improved clean coal technologies. We can and should use this abundant resource in an environmentally sound way. Coal usage will

greatly reduce our dependence on foreign oil and avoid a band-aid approach, like drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Speaker, excluding California and Hawaii, my home state of Illinois is faced with the highest gas prices in the country. Cutting gas prices now is essential! This can be done in a variety of ways: opening marginal use wells, producing more ethanol and ensuring oil companies are not making record breaking profits from increased gas pricing.

I have also started hearing from many farmers who want to hear more about the role ethanol will play in the President's plan. I was very disappointed to learn that Vice President CHENEY does not believe alternative fuels are a viable option right now. CHENEY stated "Years down the road alternative fuels may become a great deal more plentiful. But we are not yet in any position to stake our economy and our own way of life on that possibility." We can and should use alternative fuels now! In 2000 alone the ethanol industry expanded production by 155 million gallons and is on course to increase by an additional 400 million gallons in 2001. Each day more than 5 million gallons of ethanol are blended into about 65 million gallons of gasoline—adding critical volume to a tight gasoline market and reducing the pressure on price. Ethanol is far less expensive than MTBE—refiners could replace \$1.50 of MTBE with 50 cents of ethanol.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress will ensure improvements are made to the President's plan that will allow for immediate relief and assure our constituents that we will not continue the upward spiral of higher gas prices or greater dependence on foreign oil year after year.

TRIBUTE TO PROVIDIAN
FINANCIAL CORPORATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely honored and proud to rise today to salute Providian Financial Corporation for its selection as this year's Quality Cup service industry award winner, as named by the Rochester Institute of Technology and USA Today.

On learning of Providian's selection, I felt a special sense of pride in knowing that this company is based in the Bay Area and that thousands of its employees live and work in my district.

Providian is an outstanding corporate citizen. In my own district, Providian partnered with the NFL Oakland Raiders to raise more than \$40,000 last year for a children's education center. The company's dedication to the community translates to its business practices as seen by this recognition of its high quality customer service.

Providian also deserves commendation serving people along every point of the economic spectrum. The company believes that providing access to credit helps people build better lives. And, it works hard to help people obtain and manage the credit they need.

To ensure quality service, Providian records every sales call. It has empowered its customer representatives to resolve complaints on the first call. It has put in place new systems to help customers protect their credit records with last-minute payments by phone and the Internet. With initiatives like these, Providian has made service its hallmark.

Remarkably, Providian has implemented these changes and recorded a steep drop in complaints at the same time it has dramatically increased the number of customers it serves.

I hope my colleagues in the House, and all Americans, will join me in saluting Providian for a job well done. I hope that all of corporate America will look at their example of being a good corporate citizen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, due to an error on my part, on May 23 I erroneously voted in the affirmative for the Cox amendment to H.R. 1, rollcall No. 143.

My intention was to have voted in the negative for the Cox amendment to H.R. 1, rollcall No. 143.

DETROIT'S 300TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Detroit and its residents on the 300th anniversary of the city's founding. As the oldest city in the Midwest, Detroit is the place where Henry Ford made the automobile affordable for all people through the implementation and perfection of mass production. I want to thank Congresswoman CAROLYN KILPATRICK for introducing H. Con. Res. 80.

The city of Detroit also provided assistance for more than 40,000 individuals eagerly awaiting freedom as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Additionally, the city of Detroit has been coined the "Arsenal of Democracy", as Motor City residents bravely gave their services to our nation, contributing tremendously to the United States' victory in World War II.

With this year marking the 300th anniversary of Detroit's founding, it has grown into the tenth most populous city in the United States. Detroit has put the world on wheels, and exerts global influence in automobile manufacturing and trade. Furthermore, Detroit is an academic and cultural epicenter, and also exhibits a rich sports tradition. Many musical greats call Detroit home, and it was in this great city where the Motown Sound was born.

I wish to extend to each resident my hearty congratulations on Detroit's 300th anniversary. Their dedication and hard work makes Detroit

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

a city to be commended on its important contributions to the economic, social, and cultural aspects of the United States.

ANOTHER MINNESOTA MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY SUCCESS STORY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, the front page of the Wall Street Journal yesterday announced the Food and Drug Administration's approval of a break-through medical device produced by St. Jude Medical, and company located in my home state of Minnesota.

St. Jude is part of Minnesota's Medical Alley, made up of 300 medical technology companies in the Twin Cities area, which has led the innovation explosion in health care. Increasingly, new medical devices are saving lives, improving the quality of life and reducing health care costs for Americans.

Congress can be proud of its work over the past several years to reform the FDA so Americans can get access to life-saving medical technologies. However, much more remains to be done, including reforming the way Medicare reimburses seniors for these health care technologies.

As co-chair of the House Medical Technology Caucus and a member of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, I encourage my colleagues to join me in promoting reforms that will make technologies like St. Jude's "sutureless" heart surgery device available to seniors and the other Americans who desperately need them.

[From the Wall Street Journal, May 24, 2001]

NEW TOOLS MAY MAKE HEART-BYPASS SURGERY QUICKER AND LESS RISKY

(By Ron Winslow)

BERNE, SWITZERLAND.—As Thierry Carrel stands over his patient in operating room No. 1 at University Hospital here, he may be poised at the threshold of a new era in heart surgery.

For more than three decades, surgeons have used needle and thread to sew new blood vessels into patients during coronary-bypass operations, which are typically performed through a massive incision in the chest. The vessels are used to reroute blood around blockages in the arteries that feed the heart. And the procedure's success hinges largely on the surgeon's skill at stitching them into place.

But at the moment, Dr. Carrel isn't using his sewing talents. Instead, he takes a device loaded with a vein, inserts it into a small hole he has just cut in the patient's aorta and pushes a button. Click. The device, which resembles a long-handled screwdriver, releases a tiny web of wires that unfolds to form a star-shaped rivet. In less than 10 seconds, Dr. Carrel has attached the vein to the aorta mechanically. That compares with the three to five minutes it might have taken him to make the same attachment with stitches.

FOREIGN DEBUT

Dr. Carrel is one of a handful of surgeons in Europe and Canada who have used the device during the past several months on a total of about 1,000 patients. St. Jude Med-

May 26, 2001

ical Inc., the U.S. company that makes the product, rolled it out quietly in Europe last fall, but has largely kept it under wraps. Now, that is about to change.

Today, St. Jude plans to announce that the Food and Drug Administration has approved the device for use in the U.S. That makes the St. Paul, Minn., company the early front-runner in an emerging race to equip doctors to perform "sutureless" bypass surgery. If surgeons embrace the new technology, it could transform the procedure by triggering wider use of techniques designed to make the operation easier on the patient and reduce the incidence of serious side effects.

St. Jude calls its new product the aortic connector. While it is designed to make just one type of the various critical attachments that bypass surgery requires, the company is planning to introduce a full line of connectors over the next year or two, aiming to automate the entire vessel-grafting process. The typical bypass operation involves three or four vessel grafts in which a doctor performs five to seven individual sewing procedures.

NOT GOING TO FLY ANYMORE

As the first to the market, St. Jude faces several hurdles in winning acceptance of its device. Among them: the added cost of using it and the long-term track record of conventional heart surgery, which is impressive enough that many doctors may feel little need to meddle with it. But there also are compelling arguments for heart surgeons to adopt sutureless connectors. Leading the list is the growing push to make bypass surgery—one of medicine's most invasive operations—more patient-friendly.

"For 35 years, we've been doing by-pass surgery the same way and gotten away with it," says Hani Shennib, a heart surgeon at McGill University Health Center in Montreal. "That's not going to fly anymore. Patients really want to have the same outcome as surgery but with procedures that are a lot less invasive."

The most promising strategy along those lines is beating-heart surgery, in which the surgeon operates on the heart as it continues to pump blood. The goal is to avoid putting the patient on a heart-lung machine, or the "pump," as surgeons call it. Time on the pump, which takes over the heart's function so surgeons can operate on a still organ, has been associated with complications arising from bypasses.

A MOVING TARGET

But the beating-heart technique, which emerged in the mid-1990s, is used in only about 20% of the more than 700,000 bypass surgeries performed world-wide each year. The main reason: the painstaking work of suturing bypass vessels into place—which surgeons call "the anastomosis"—is much harder to do on a beating heart. Devices that automate the process could make beating-heart surgery much less challenging and potentially more popular.

"The only reason you put a patient on a pump is to accommodate the guy tying the knots," says St. Jude's Daniel J. Sullivan, the aortic connector's chief inventor. "We're the first ones to go after the sewing process as an issue."

In addition, proponents say, mechanical connectors could make bypass surgery safer by reducing the risk of stroke and other neurological side effects that recent studies have linked to the operation. In February, Duke University researchers reported that 42% of bypass patients suffer such problems as loss of memory, confusion and inability to