one of the four counties I have the honor of representing. The other is Providian Financial Corporation, a financial services company and a major national issuer of credit cards based in San Francisco, CA.

Earlier this month, the Rochester Institute of Technology joined with USA Today in awarding Providian the 2001 Quality Cup award for achievement in customer service. The award recognized Providian for the enhanced customer satisfaction program initiated by the company in May 1999 to address consumer complaints and litigation. Under this program, Providian has implemented more than 200 initiatives in the areas of customer outreach and communications, complaint processing, customer service and marketing practices. The results have provided a dramatic turnaround for the credit company. Since 1999, Providian’s customer accounts have increased 60 percent and its assets have grown by 78 percent. At the same time, consumer complaints have declined 40 percent and customer attrition rates have dropped 38 percent.

The Quality Cup award was instituted by the Rochester Institute and USA Today in 1991 to recognize and foster quality in American business. It has been awarded annually to businesses, government and educational institutions, and health care organizations who use teamwork and total quality management to reduce costs, solve problems, increase productivity and enhance consumer service. This year, a judging panel consisting of Rochester Institute faculty, together with outside academics, industry consultants and quality experts, considered 146 nominees ranging from Fortune 500 corporations to small businesses. In addition to recognizing Providian in the customer service category, winners were also selected in the categories of government, health care, manufacturing and small business.

The recognition of the Rochester Institute and USA Today symbolizes the dramatic changes Providian has achieved in less than two years. Until recently, the company was mired in controversy and litigation. Late last year, Providian agreed to pay $105 million to settle earlier class action litigation that alleged Providian had routinely charged credit card accounts for products and services that consumers had not approved or authorized. The settlement was Providian’s second within a year. In June, it also agreed to pay $300 million to settle an enforcement action by the Comptroller of the Currency involving marketing practices that the Comptroller described as “a pattern of misconduct to mislead and deceive consumers.”

Since implementing its customer satisfaction program in 1999 Providian has completely restructured its consumer marketing and customer relations operations. Particularly impressive has been Providian’s willingness to go beyond the minimal requirements in Federal law relating to consumer protection, both in providing consumers with large type, plain English explanations of credit card terms, as well as providing additional protections for their customer’s confidential financial and personal information.

I want to congratulate Providian for the dramatic turnaround it has achieved and for its strong and growing commitment to customer satisfaction. I also wish to commend the Rochester Institute of Technology for its continuing efforts to recognize and promote excellence in business practices and consumer service.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. KCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the Reverend Vincent J. Moraghan for his service to the Cleveland community. He has served as a spiritual leader and mentor to many individuals for nearly four decades.

Rev. Moraghan began his life of religious leadership when he was ordained in 1965. Early in his career, he served as Director of St. Vincent High School in Akron and later as Associate Superintendent of Schools in the Diocese of Cleveland. I believe there are few roles more honorable than those in the field of education.

Throughout his distinguished career, Rev. Moraghan served as Associate Pastor to a variety of Parishes before developing the new mission of St. Matthias Parish of Parma, where he was the first Senior Pastor. More recently he held the position of Pastor at the Holy Name Parish in Cleveland. During this period, he served as Dean of the Southeast Cleveland Deanery. In the last years of his life, Rev. Moraghan graciously worked as Chaplain at the Cleveland Clinic.

I was honored to attend the funeral of this incredibly compassionate man. Reverend Vincent Moraghan has had a profound impact on the lives of many individuals including family, friends, and the community. He will be dearly missed.

My distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in honoring the memory of Reverend Vincent J. Moraghan.

HON. BOB CLEMENT
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jim Travis of Nashville, Tennessee, on the occasion of his retirement from WSMV—Channel 4 News.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE DIALYSIS BENEFIT IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Medicare Dialysis Benefit Improvement Act of 2001. This legislation takes important steps to help sustain and improve the quality of care for the more than 250,000 Americans living with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). More specifically, this legislation provides the Medicare reimbursement for a routine four dialysis treatment for End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) beneficiaries who require more than three dialysis treatments per week.

Currently, Medicare’s composite rate for hemodialysis for the individuals with ESRD is a one size fits all reimbursement system. This is despite the fact that more than 250,000 individuals with ESRD come in all ages, shapes, sides and health statuses. Historically, the standard frequency for hemodialysis treatments to remove excess fluid and accumulated toxins has been three times a week.