

In 1982, NCI proposed and won enactment of a ban on the use of U.S. civilian spent fuel from civilian nuclear power plants as a source of plutonium for weapons (the Hart-Simpson-Mitchell Amendment).

In 1983, NCI commissioned a study, "World Inventories of Civilian Plutonium and the Spread of Nuclear Weapons" by David Albright, the first definitive analysis of the amounts of civilian plutonium accumulating in the world.

In 1985, NCI convened an international conference on the threat of nuclear terrorism, and then established the International Task Force on Prevention of Nuclear Terrorism. The Task Force's findings in 1986 contributed to enactment of a law to combat nuclear terrorism (the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Anti-Terrorism Act of 1986). Two books that emerged from that project remain the definitive, non-classified work on the subject.

In 1987, NCI helped win enactment of the Murkowski Amendment, which blocked air shipments of plutonium from Europe to Japan after NCI disclosed the secret failure of a test to prove a crash-worthy plutonium shipping cask.

In 1988, NCI assembled a group of world-class scientists to promote the "Tritium Factor" approach to nuclear disarmament, using tritium's relatively fast decay to pace U.S.-Soviet arms reductions and thereby facilitate the shutdown of all military production reactors—the situation that effectively prevails in the United States today.

In 1989, NCI convened a Montevideo conference of Argentine, Brazilian and U.S. nuclear officials and experts that developed proposals which were incorporated into the treaty signed the following year to end the Argentine-Brazilian nuclear arms race.

In 1990, NCI commissioned a study by a former U.S. nuclear-weapons designer (the late Carson Mark) that resulted in the first formal acknowledgement by the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency that nuclear weapons could be made from civilian "reactor-grade" plutonium.

In 1991, NCI correctly predicted that Iraq would violate IAEA safeguards and divert civilian nuclear research reactor fuel for the purpose of making nuclear weapons.

In 1992, NCI helped win enactment of export controls (the Schumer Amendment) barring U.S. transfers of highly enriched, bomb-grade uranium (HEU) to research reactors that could make use of newly developed, low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuel unsuitable for weapons. As a result, U.S. exports of HEU have been nearly eliminated, and most of the hold-out reactors in Europe have agreed to convert to LEU fuel.

In 1993, NCI, in collaboration with the California-based Committee to Bridge the Gap, succeeded in a 10-year effort to persuade the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to promulgate a rule to protect nuclear power plants against truck bombs. The truck-bomb rule took effect the following year, and NCI has since been petitioning NRC to upgrade this rule as well as upgrade protection against other forms of terrorist attack and sabotage.

In 1994, NCI forced a \$100 million cleanout and audit of a plutonium fuel fabrication plant in Japan after disclosing a 70-kilogram discrepancy, equivalent to a dozen nuclear weapons. NCI also prepared a detailed economic analysis showing that Japan could guarantee its energy security by establishing a strategic reserve of non-weapons-usable uranium at a fraction of the cost of their plutonium fuel and breeder program.

In 1996, NCI was invited to make expert technical and legal presentations before the

International Maritime Organization in London on safety and security shortcomings in the sea transport of radioactive materials. Since then, NCI has worked closely with coastal states in opposition to plutonium and radioactive waste shipments from Europe to Japan.

Also in 1996, NCI uncovered a secret dispute within the U.S. Executive Branch over the Department of Energy's plan to turn most surplus military plutonium into mixed-oxide (MOX) fuel for nuclear power plants and drew nationwide attention to this dangerous program.

Today, NCI continues to advocate disposal of military plutonium directly as waste and to oppose its use as civilian reactor fuel. NCI also pursues stronger security over transport, storage and use of civilian plutonium and bomb-grade uranium, while pressing for elimination of these dangerous civilian nuclear fuels.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY HEADTKE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an amazing woman, my friends and neighbor Betty Headtke, who has recently been named St. Richard's Council of Catholic Women "Women Of the Year" for 2001.

Throughout her life, Betty has been very involved in the community in which she lives. She has been married to her husband Ray for the past 47 years, and they have raised five wonderful children. Betty has worked for Holy Cross Hospital in the accounting office, and then as a secretary for Neo Product; the latter company for whom she worked 25 years before retiring just a few short years ago. During this time, she found the time and energy to act as a lunch monitor and a school chaperone for seventh and eighth grade dances.

Over the past several years, Betty's community involvement has increased. Following her retirement, she has been the Vice President of the Council of Catholic Women, and the Membership Chairperson of the same organization. While she is no longer the vice president, she retains her post of the latter, as well as expanding her duties to include the Treasurer of the Golden Agers and an auxiliary minister for her church.

Her role is not merely limited to being a member of the Council of Catholic Women. She also volunteers as a carnival worker and supports many other functions that St. Richard's provides. Further, Betty plays the role of caregiver towards her immediate family, and baby-sits any number of her 11 grandchildren whenever she has the time to do so.

While a banquet is being held on her behalf, I feel a great need to honor this pillar of my community among my fellow representatives. Betty is an incredible, warm-hearted person who deserves our gratitude for the lives that she has touched over the past half-century. I whole-heartedly congratulate Betty and wish her all the best in the future.

MARLETTE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL: HOMETOWN CARING AT ITS BEST

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marlette Community Hospital upon celebration of the 50th anniversary of the opening of its doors in Marlette, Michigan. The hospital's founders, its excellent staff and leaders such as Administrator David McEwen and Board President Gordon Miller deserve high praise for the initiation and sustaining of first-rate health care to generations of friends and neighbors in the Thumb region of Michigan.

Located in a rural community with about 2,000 residents, the 91-bed facility was founded in 1951 to provide quality medical care close to home after community leaders decided it was time to build a hospital in their town. As the story goes, the need was identified after a young man with a broken leg had to climb several stairs to a doctor's office to receive treatment. An initial downpayment of \$10,000 by the Fred Willis family served as seed money to begin construction of the new hospital, but planners ran into a snag in securing federal grant money because Marlette was considered too small to warrant such expenditures. During a trip to Washington, DC, community leaders persuaded lawmakers to adopt the so-called Marlette Amendment, which allowed the grants to go to smaller communities.

Since its inception, the hospital has consistently provided superior elective and emergency care to patients and offered a wide variety of services to residents in the three-county area. Today, the thousands of residents who live in Marlette and surrounding communities depend upon the top-noted physicians, nurses and other professionals who attend to their health needs.

In addition, a \$162,000 donation by Guerdon T. Wolfe allowed the hospital to build a 24-bed retirement complex in 1969 to serve the residential needs of seniors. In recent years, the hospital also has reached out by offering many important new services, including establishing a network of primary care offices for the convenience of residents who don't live nearby. Also a partnership with Saint Mary's Medical Center in Saginaw has allowed the hospital to build a new facility that will provide chemotherapy and radiation therapy services for cancer patients in the Thumb area.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the wonderful staff of Marlette Community Hospital the very best wishes on their 50th Anniversary and hopes for many more years of serving the health care needs of the Thumb.

H.R. 2275, VOTING TECHNOLOGY

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I'm introducing H.R. 2275, along with my colleague

and neighbor from Michigan, Congressman BARCIA. This bill deals with a very important problem: ensuring that voting technologies are accurate, secure, reliable and easy to use.

Last November, as the world placed Florida under a microscope to scrutinize its election, we saw just how vulnerable our nation's voting systems are to error. And in the months since, we've discovered that the problems that plagued Florida are rampant among many other states, but went unnoticed because the elections in those states were not nearly as close as in Florida.

In the months since last November, we've also had the chance to explore solutions to the problem. We've discovered that we need to develop updated standards for voting systems to make sure that they perform reliably on election day. Updated standards can ensure that voting machines are accurate in tallying the ballots voter cast. And they can help reduce voter error by improving the usability of new voting technologies.

And more importantly, as our voting systems begin to rely increasingly on computers to record, count and archive ballots and to transmit elections results over computer networks, we need standards to ensure that these systems meet the highest standards for computer security, so we can prevent hidden voter fraud by clever computer hackers.

The Ehlers-Barcia bill addresses each of these concerns. It directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the nation's foremost experts on technology, computer security, and technical standards, to help develop updated standards to ensure the usability, accuracy, integrity, and security of our country's voting systems.

NIST is the federal agency with the technical expertise needed to help create the technical standards necessary to improve our nation's voting systems. NIST is a tremendous technical resource that we must enlist to help solve this problem. It has a strong record of working cooperatively with diverse groups to develop standards by consensus. These groups would certainly include state and local elections officials, among others.

Mr. Speaker, this is a complex problem, with complex solutions. I am proud to introduce this bipartisan bill today with my colleagues from Michigan because I believe it is an important part of the solution. I urge my colleagues to support the Ehlers-Barcia bill and work together with us to pass this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH AND
VICTORIA COTCHETT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to two distinguished Californians, Victoria and Joseph Cotchett, who are being honored as Volunteers of the Year by the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County, California.

Victoria and Joe Cotchett have provided years of extraordinary public service to our

community and our country. The Cotchetts give so generously of their time, their talents and their resources and are widely known and deeply respected within our community for their extraordinary contributions to many worthy organizations and causes. They are driven by their passion for the arts, for the average person, and for justice.

Long an advocate of women and children, Victoria Cotchett is an avid supporter of the arts and a community leader in animal care issues. She has distinguished herself as a writer and has served on the boards of many organizations, including Poplar Recare and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Joe Cotchett is a noted trial attorney with a distinguished record of campaigning for equal justice as well as his many years of professional and civic involvement. For the past ten years, Joe has been named one of the 100 most influential lawyers in the country, earning the highest esteem of colleagues and clients alike. Joe has been described by the National Law Journal as "one of the best trial lawyers; a clear champion of underdogs."

Victoria and Joe Cotchett are the proud parents of two beautiful daughters. The Cotchetts have opened their hearts to another family, a group of refugees fleeing political oppression in Eastern Europe. Joe and Victoria did everything within their power to facilitate this family's transition to the United States, providing them with shelter, assistance, and above all, the warmth and kindness of a loving family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to two extraordinary people who I'm exceedingly proud to call my friends. We are a better community, a better country and a better people because of Victoria and Joe Cotchett.

A BILL TO PERMIT COOPERATIVES
TO PAY DIVIDENDS ON PREFERRED STOCK WITHOUT REDUCING PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Cooperative Dividend Equity Act. This legislation will help to end an unfair tax on cooperatives and their members.

As those of us from agricultural and rural areas can attest, cooperatives play a vital role in many Americans' lives. Whether it be farmers pooling their resources in order to survive in the global marketplace, consumers maximizing their buying power through volume purchasing, or healthcare facilities providing community-based services—cooperatives facilitate people working together for a common good.

One of the greatest challenges facing cooperatives today is access to capital. In order to raise much needed capital and avoid further debt, many cooperatives are considering issuing preferred stock. However, under the current tax laws, stock dividends paid to stockholders are taxed three times: (1) when they are earned by the cooperative; (2) when received by the stockholder; and (3) at the corporate level when earnings are distributed.

Three levels of tax on the earnings of a cooperative! Here is how it works.

Members of cooperatives are taxed on income generated by the cooperative. The cooperative itself, however, is not taxed so long as any "patronage income" is distributed to its members. Cooperatives frequently earn at least some non-member, or "nonpatronage," income. Much like a corporation, a cooperative must pay taxes on such non-patronage income, just as the stockholder (whether a member or non-member) must also pay tax on that income when it is distributed as a dividend. Unlike a corporation, however, cooperatives must then pay what amounts to a third tax due to the operation of an obscure IRS rule.

The "dividend allocation rule" imposes a third level of taxation on the cooperative by reducing the amount of patronage dividends paid to cooperative members. Cooperatives, such as a typical farming cooperative, may deduct dividends paid to patrons from taxable income. IRS regulations, however, provide that net earnings eligible for the patronage dividend deduction are reduced by dividends paid on capital stock. This requirement has been interpreted to mean that even dividends paid out of nonpatronage earnings will be "allocated" to a cooperative's patronage and non-patronage earnings in proportion to the relative amount of patronage/nonpatronage business done by the cooperative. This "allocation" significantly reduces the amount of net earnings from the patronage operation that may be claimed as a deduction, thus increasing the cooperative's level of taxation.

Put more simply, the "dividend allocation rule" allocates income already taxed against what would have otherwise been a deduction. As a result, cooperatives pay more taxes on income used to pay a dividend on stock than would a non-cooperative corporation.

It is time to end the triple taxation on cooperative income and give farmers, consumers, hospitals, and other coop members the flexibility they deserve in structuring their affairs. It is time to eliminate the dividend allocation rule and pass the Cooperative Dividend Equity Act of 2001.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
MAJOR GENERAL DANIEL F.
CALLAHAN

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Major General Daniel F. Callahan for his honorable and faithful service to our country.

General Callahan, who passed away June 10, 2001, was born in Zenda, Kansas, on June 8, 1910. Following his graduation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1931, he served the next thirty-two years in the U.S. Air Force. His military career was devoted to flying and working in maintenance, engineering and supply. During World War II, he was assigned to the China-Burma-India theatre, where he saw action flying the "Hump". Following the war,