Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this summer, the City of Emerson will move into a new City Hall facility. In honor of this occasion, I would like to recognize some of the unique historical facts underlying the development of this small and growing town in Bartow County, Georgia.

The history of Emerson, at least for human purposes, begins with its settlement by native Americans. At the time the first European settlers arrived, it was inhabited primarily by Cherokee Indian tribes, whose artifacts still line the shores of the Etowah River.

Following its settlement, Emerson began to grow into a community built on nearby rail lines; rich agricultural lands; and near iron, graphite, and gold deposits. During the Civil War, the area in and around Emerson was crossed by numerous military forces as Sherman began his infamous drive toward the sea. Returning war veterans found their homes near Emerson in desolation. Fortunately, the people had a spirit that could not be conquered. They began work rebuilding their town, and succeeded in having it incorporated in 1889.

That spirit of community and growth continues in Emerson today, as the town continues to expand to accommodate growth near metro Atlanta, while retaining its picturesque small town character. I join the citizens of Emerson in saluting their city as it passes an important milestone and moves into a new City Hall.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SUSAN CHASSON

HON. CHRIS CANNON
OF UTAH
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Susan Chasson, a woman of great compassion. This afternoon Ms. Chasson will be awarded the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leadership Program Award. As a nurse and a victims’ advocate, Ms. Chasson was able to see that the system for assisting children who are victims of abuse was not working, and that the system itself often caused more trauma to the child than it helped. Susan acted on this and returned to school to obtain a law degree so that she could have a greater impact on the system.

In 1991, Ms. Chasson founded the Children’s Justice Center in Provo, Utah to help children who are victims of physical abuse and sexual assault. The Center provides these children with a homelike environment where they can tell their stories and begin the healing process. Their staff currently serves over 1,200 victims annually. The Center also provides medical exams for the children and mental health services for both the children and their families, all of whom are victims.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Susan Chasson’s dedication and perseverance in breaking through the silence of child abuse reminds us that one person’s idea can make all the difference in the world. While it is disappointing that child abuse remains an issue in the 21st Century, Susan Chasson’s vision and endeavors must be commended. She is truly a hero for us all.

THE NURSING CRISIS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to a growing crisis—the shortage of nurses in health care facilities. This problem is not limited to one geographic location. Nurses are an absolutely essential component of our health care system—no piece of medical equipment will ever replace the around-the-clock surveillance provided by our Nation’s nurses. There is simply no substitute for the element of humanity that nursing brings to the patient. Therefore, I find it extremely alarming that one in five nurses plans to quit the profession within five years due to unsatisfactory working conditions. By the year 2008, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that we will need 450,000 additional registered nurses in order to meet present demands. The fact that nurses routinely work 16-hour shifts or longer, and can be forced under threat of dismissal to work mandatory overtime? Would you still be interested after realizing that nurses receive lower salaries, less vacation, and less retirement benefits than their classmates who chose other professions? Would you still be interested after finding out that, with the advent of managed care, nurses now have to spend almost as much time scrambling to fill paperwork as they do caring for patients? Would you still be interested when you learn that the very real possibility exists that you may be the only hospital staff member available to supervise the well-being of an entire floor of critically-ill patients? It doesn’t take a great deal of insight to realize that no matter how passionate your intentions, the disadvantages of the nursing profession have become increasingly prohibitive.

Yet, as bad as the nursing crisis is for nurses, its worst consequences will be felt by patients. Last year, an investigative report by the Chicago Tribune revealed that since 1995, at least 1,720 hospital patients have been accidentally killed, and 9,854 others injured as a result of the actions of registered nurses across the country. Interestingly enough, instead of attacking the Tribune report, nurses applauded it because it proved to the American public what they had known for a long time—our nation’s nursing corps is being stretched too thin, in part due to reckless penny-pinching by managed care companies, and in part due to government underfunding of hospitals.

How bad is the crisis? In the mid-90’s, short-sighted budget cuts, both by the government and by managed care companies, forced many hospitals that were staffed entirely by registered nurses to rely on lesser-trained practical nurses and nurse aides instead. Nurse aides, many of whom are not required to have high school diplomas, now constitute over one-third of nursing staffs in many hospitals. In my hometown of Chicago, the situation is so dire that housekeeping staff hired to clean rooms have been pressed into duty as aides to dispense medicine. Hospitals now routinely order nurses to care for 15 patients or more at a time, almost double the recommended patient load. Overworked nurses are being forced to juggle more tasks than any single person can be expected to handle, and are being asked to do procedures that they haven’t been adequately trained for.

Our nurses have reached the end of their rope. To quote Kim Cloninger, a registered nurse from Illinois: “I wake up every day and hope I don’t kill someone today. Every day I pray: God protect me. Let me make it out of there with my patients alive.” Or perhaps more tellingly, Tricia Hunter, executive director of the California branch of the American Nurses Association states: “I don’t know a nurse who would leave anyone they love in a hospital alone.”

Mr. Speaker, this is the face of nursing today. The nursing profession needs our help. As a profession, nurses have a rich history of doing whatever it takes to provide adequate patient care. Nurses generally don’t make a big fuss over working conditions. The fact that they are tells me that something is seriously wrong with our health care system today. Therefore, I support legislation that would allow upwardly adjustable nurse staffing ratios as a condition of participation in Medicare and Medicaid, and I support legislation banning mandatory overtime. I also support the Patients’ Bill of Rights introduced by Mr. McCain, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Kennedy in the Senate, and by Mr. Ganske and Mr. Dingell in the House because it includes a provision that protects health care professionals from retaliation when they speak out for their patients.

Lastly, I support the Nurse Reinvestment Act, which will provide more people into the nursing profession. I support all of these measures because if we don’t act to solve our current nursing crisis, we will all pay the price at some point down the line.

IN HONOR OF ANDREW KIM

HON. EDOMPLUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Andrew Kim on the occasion of his installation
as president of the almost half million member Korean American Association of Greater New York and the obstacles that he had to overcome to attain such a prestigious position. Mr. Kim has overcome many personal obstacles that others might have stumbled upon. Contracting Polio in his native Republic of South Korea, Mr. Kim was stigmatized and labeled as "unlucky." In fact, Mr. Kim is self-educated because he chose to cut short his formal education as he saw it as a burden to his parents. Mr. Kim was also denied employment because of his disability and therefore found himself with a unique opportunity to found his own electronic repair shop. Mr. Kim, fascinated with America, studied for a test that would allow him to immigrate and have a job. Mr. Kim is a firm believer in the American dream. America offered Andrew Kim a fresh start away from the cultural attitudes of South Korea. Mr. Kim marked his way up in New York going from job to job. Mr. Kim is also a devoted husband and father. He married his wife Theresa two years after coming to America. Together they have three children.

Mr. Kim's biggest business success has come in the form of his Lisa Page store, a leading cell phone and pager retailer. Working in a diverse neighborhood has encouraged Mr. Kim to learn the numerous languages of his customers, which has led to him being a major community resource. Mr. Kim has donated uniforms for a softball team in his neighborhood and all the kids on the team respect Mr. Kim for his involvement and mentoring. In fact, after they won a trophy, the presented it to Mr. Kim as a token of their appreciation for all that he does in the community.

Mr. Kim has enjoyed growing recognition throughout the community, which has led him to become more involved in the community. He served as president of the Korean American Association of Mid-Queens. He recently found himself in a tough election campaign for president of the Korean American Association of Greater New York, where he was once again faced with many of the stigmas that he had left South Korea to escape. Nonetheless, Mr. Kim was able to overcome and win the prestigious post.

Mr. Speaker, Andrew Kim has overcome many obstacles in his life to become the president of a half million-member organization. For these achievements, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today as he is awarded this truly hard-earned honor. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

RECOGNIZING THE CHIEFTAIN'S MUSEUM, ROME, GEORGIA

HON. BOB BARR
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it has been written that "Cherokee tradition held that anywhere three rivers met was holy, and Head of Coosa is just that." The Oostanaula, Etowah and Coosa Rivers meet in the center of Rome, Georgia, which is noted as one of the top small cities in the country.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of the State of Texas, the late Robert L. Dillard, Jr. of Dallas, who died at the end of November, 2000. Mr. Dillard was an active and beloved member of his community—and he will be dearly missed.

Robert was born on September 30, 1913, the son of an independent oilman. He followed in his father's footsteps as a young man working in the oil fields of Texas to finance his education. His hard work paid off when he received his law degree from Southern Methodist University in 1935 and an LLM from Harvard in 1936. After receiving his degrees, Robert served as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Dallas from 1941-1945. From 1945 until his retirement in 1978, he worked in an executive capacity for Southland Life Insurance Company of Dallas, retiring as Executive Vice President.

Robert volunteered much of his time and talents to many civic endeavors. He served as president of the Dallas Independent School District from 1961-1962, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Methodist Medical Center, chairman of the National Board of Directors of Camp Fire Girls, chairman of Region 10 Education Service Center, and a member of the Board of Directors at C.C. Young Retirement Home. He was also active in local and state government and in Highland Park United Methodist Church, where he served as a lay leader and a long-time Sunday School teacher.

A special part of Robert's life, fifty-six years total, was devoted to membership in the Dallas Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. He was initiated in 1938 into Dallas Lodge No. 760 and held numerous leadership positions within the organization, including being a co-founder of a new Lodge in Dallas, serving as president of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School of Texas and vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. In 1953 he became a Thirty-Third Degree Inspectors General Honorary, in 1961 was a Grand Master of Masons in Texas, and in 1977 served as the Venerable Master of the Dallas Lodge of Perfection. As the culmination of his lifetime of dedication to the Freemasons, in 1995 Robert became one of only eight men in Texas in the past one-hundred years to receive the highest honor the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite can bestow, the Grand Cross of Honor.

Robert left behind a loving family, including his wonderful wife of 63 years, Dundee, a son, two daughters, 13 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. He was devoted to his family, his community and his Fraternity of Freemasons—and he leaves behind a legacy of dedication and service that will be remembered by many.

Mr. Speaker, Robert was one of a kind—and we will miss him. As we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of a great American and friend, Mr. Robert L. Dillard, Jr.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANIEL LEVIN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Chicago's finest citizens, Mr. Daniel Levin, who last week was named the American Jewish Committee's 2001 Human Rights Medallion Award recipient.

Since 1963, the Human Rights Medallion has been awarded annually to leading Chicagoans who have stood for the goals that have shaped the American Jewish Committee since it was established in 1906: human rights and equal opportunity for all, and constructive relations between America's many religious, ethnic and racial communities.

Chairman of The Habitat Company, Dan Levin has been a real estate developer since 1957. He has been active in development and management activities involving in excess of...