

underscored by his immediate travel schedule. This week he heads to a meeting of the Council of Europe, then to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Colorado shares many common features with Ukraine which have led to partnerships in agriculture, mineral extraction, medicine, space development and education. Strengthening these partnerships in the Yushchenko era presents a solid opportunity for Coloradans to help secure democracy and freedom in Ukraine while expanding trade here at home.

RECOGNIZING MR. BRADLEY
DAVID DEBRASKA

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mr. Bradley David DeBraska, a police officer with the Milwaukee Police Department. It gives me great pleasure to join the International Union of Police Associations in recognizing his service to the Milwaukee community.

Mr. DeBraska has honorably served the police force since 1977. He worked tirelessly as a Police Officer, and for the past twelve years has served dual roles as a Police Liaison Officer and Detective. Mr. DeBraska's service also extends to numerous Boards and Associations, helping to guide several police and community organizations. In addition, he faithfully served the residents of Wisconsin as a member of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents. He has truly fulfilled his duty as a citizen of this country.

I am proud of the work that Mr. DeBraska has accomplished in his 28 years of service. Once again, I congratulate him. I wish Mr. DeBraska a healthy and happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING MARY BETH SCOW

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mary Beth Scow and her contributions to excellence in public education. As a current representative of District A of the Clark County School District Board of Trustees, Mrs. Scow has been an outspoken voice and is honored for her contributions. I stand today to praise her for her continued leadership and passion in improving education in southern Nevada.

Mrs. Scow, a Denver native, has been a resident of southern Nevada for the past 25 years. She graduated cum laude from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in community health education. She and her husband Steve are the proud parents of nine children, all educated in the Clark County School District. The entire family has been very involved in community sports, music and church activities.

With a vision to help prepare Clark County students for higher education and for success-

ful future careers, Mrs. Scow has been an outspoken voice for Clark County students. Elected to the board of school trustees in 1996, Mrs. Scow has proven her leadership qualities by serving two terms as president of that body. In addition, she has served on various educational committees and zoning task forces. In her community, she leaves a legacy to the Sunset Area Council of PTA as a former president and to her local Boy Scout chapter as den leader.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand today to pay tribute to a visionary leader, committed parent and public servant. I join with the William McCool Science Center at Frank Lamping Elementary School to pay tribute to Mary Beth Scow for her dedication to Clark County students and her commitment to excellence in education. I thank her for her contribution and I urge my colleagues to recognize in their own communities, the contributions of great leaders in education.

SUPPORT OF THE ASSURED FUNDING FOR VETERANS HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Congressman EVANS' legislation, the Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act, and am proud to be an original cosponsor. This legislation will guarantee that veterans receive the health care they have earned and deserve.

With an increase in the number of veterans seeking care, a dramatic rise in medical costs, and years of inadequate VA health care funding, there is a clear and growing mismatch between the demand for VA services and available funds to support these services. The number of patients entering the VA health care system has increased by 134 percent since 1996, but funding for medical care has increased just 44 percent. This has resulted in unprecedented waiting times for routine and specialized medical care nationwide. In my home state of Michigan, some veterans are waiting more than 6 months for an initial doctor's appointment. This situation is untenable.

The reason for this problem is evident and so is the solution. Every year, veterans have to fight with a myriad of non-veterans' programs to receive the money necessary for their health care treatment. To end this annual budget battle, the Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act would require Congress to meet our veterans' medical care needs by providing funding for VA health care based on the number of enrollees in the system and medical inflation.

This is legislation that Members on both sides of the aisle should support. In fact, a commission established by the White House, the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans, issued a report in March 2003 noting the mismatch between veterans' needs and VA services, and recommending guaranteed funding to fix this problem. To date, the Administration

has refused to endorse, or even to acknowledge, the Task Force's recommendation.

The current system is not serving our veterans well. The VA must have a sufficient budget to effectively manage its health care programs, to hire the appropriate number of staff, and to adequately plan for the coming year well in advance. Guaranteed veterans' health care funding would end the year-to-year uncertainty the VA and our veterans face, and would fulfill the obligation this country has to the men and women who served in uniform.

HONORING SISTER ANN MCGUINN,
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Ann McGuinn, of Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, for her lifetime of service attending to the spiritual and health care needs of others.

Sister Ann is retiring from a long and distinguished career as a health care administrator with the St. Joseph Hospitals System of California. She served as Vice-President of sponsorship for St. Joseph's Hospital of Humboldt County from 1992 to 2005. She formerly served as the administrator for St. Joseph Hospital, in Orange from 1961 to 1972; and CEO of Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa from 1971 to 1992. Under her leadership, the Children's Hospital of Orange County was established. During her tenure at Queen of the Valley she established a dental clinic for the poor, now called Sister Anne Dental Clinic, developed specialized cancer programs and created the system's first home health care.

Throughout her long career, Sister Ann has been a tireless champion for the poor and an advocate for the vulnerable. She has been generous with her time and energy and is highly regarded by those who have had an opportunity to work with her. She has played a large role in improving the lives of thousands of people.

In Humboldt County, Sister Ann's force of compassion brought together a myriad of resources to fund homeless programs, winter shelters and improved dental health for poor children. She has been unflinchingly supportive of efforts to expand rural healthcare services, particularly for battered women and underprivileged children.

In 1992, I had the privilege of naming Sister Ann "Woman of the Year" for the 2nd Senate District of the California State Senate. She is the past recipient of the "Value in Action Award for Justice" presented by the St. Joseph Health System.

Sister Ann entered the order of St. Joseph of Orange in 1944; she received her RN from Mary's Help Hospital, now called Cedar Sinai Medical Center, in San Francisco. She was trained as an obstetrics nurse. She is the daughter of John and Mary McGuinn of San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Sister Ann McGuinn for her compassion, leadership and commitment to