50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUCCESSFUL SALK POLIO VACCINE TRIALS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a historic day in the history of public health. Fifty years ago today, Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr. announced from the University of Michigan's Rackham Auditorium words that people around the globe were waiting to hear: the Salk polio vaccine works. With those simple words, eradication efforts began in earnest to rid the world of this terrible disease.

For generations in the United States, the polio disease struck fear in the hearts of millions of American parents and children. Late every summer, hot weather brought with it a rash of new cases of paralytic polio. No one knew how to prevent polio, nor was there a cure. Epidemics of polio could devastate whole communities. For example, an epidemic struck the state of New York in 1916 killing 9,000 people and leaving 27,000 disabled. In the 1940s and 1950s, the number of cases reported in the United States ranged from 40,000 to 60,000 each year. This was the state of our nation affected by polio pre-1955.

Mr. Speaker, all that began to change in the early 1950s. At that time, Dr. Jonas Salk, a postdoctoral student of Dr. Francis's at the University of Michigan, developed a promising vaccine against poliomyelitis in his laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh. In what has been called the largest cooperative effort undertaken in peacetime, the Salk vaccine was tested in the most comprehensive field trials ever conducted. Observing those trials was Dr. Francis, Director of the Poliomyelitis Vaccine Evaluation Center and founding chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Mr. Speaker, the polio field trials were unprecedented in scope and magnitude. Dr. Francis and his team of more than 100 statisticians and epidemiologists tabulated data received from hundreds of public health officials and doctors who participated in the study. The trials involved 1,830,000 children in 217 areas of the United States, Canada and Finland. No field trial of this scale has been conducted since.

This historic event is a source of pride for the University of Michigan and the state of Michigan as a whole. Since that day fifty years ago, polio has been nearly eradicated. In August 2002, there were no confirmed cases reported in the United States, and only 483 confirmed cases of acute poliomyelitis reported to authorities worldwide. These successes all began with the announcement from Rackham Auditorium fifty years ago today.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and initiatives of Judge Marcia S. Weiner, Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 of San Antonio, TX.

Judge Marcia Weiner first became a resident of San Antonio in 1956 when her husband, Dr. Bernard K. Weiner, was transferred to Lackland Air Force Base. Since then, Judge Weiner has become an attorney, teacher, active community leader, mother of three daughters, and a grandmother.

Judge Weiner earned a BA degree and lifetime teacher's certificate with honors in 1965, followed by a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1970 from St. Mary's University. In 1971, Judge Weiner began her legal career with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Judge Weiner continued to work for HUD for over 26 years and retired as Chief Counsel. While a Chief Counsel, Judge Weiner was responsible for all HUD program legal issues throughout a 57 county jurisdiction and was named the most outstanding HUD Chief Counsel in the country.

In January of 2001, Judge Weiner became a Justice of Peace for Precinct 2 of San Antonio, TX. As Justice of Peace, she has continued to improve the Precinct 2, which oversees evictions, small claims, juvenile disorderly conduct cases, misdemeanors and truancy. Judge Weiner strongly believes that juveniles can be redirected through early intervention with the right kind of counseling.

As an active volunteer and leader in the community, Judge Weiner continues to make significant contributions to the advancement of equal opportunity, the elevation of federal women's careers, and to the legal awareness of aging seniors and retired federal employees. Among her many honors and awards, Judge Weiner was recognized as "Texas Women to Watch" from 2002 to 2004 by the Business and Professional Women Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Judge Marcia Weiner for her dedication, commitment, and service to the betterment of society.

CONGRATULATING THE LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, ST. JOHN NEUMANN DIVISION 1, ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS CHARTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, St. John Neumann Division 1, of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their charter that occurred in January of 1980.

The primary purpose of the LAOH, which was first organized as the “Daughters of Erin” in 1894 in Omaha, Nebraska, was to protect young immigrant Irish girls coming to the United States. The LAOH offered support and encouragement and assisted the young women to secure employment. The LAOH also assisted the AOH in its efforts to aid the sick and needy and to defend priests, church and country.

In keeping with the original spirit of the LAOH, St. John Neumann Division 1 continues to assist young women of Irish descent by providing an annual scholarship to Bishop Hoban High School in Wilkes-Barre. They assist the sick and needy by adopting a family each year and contributing time and resources to the local soup kitchens and nursing homes. They also volunteer their time and resources to assist the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the American Diabetes Association and other worthy community programs.

The group continues to promote Catholic Irish heritage and culture through support of seminarians, their annual St. Bridget Mass, annual St. Patrick Mass, participation in Irish cultural history and dance programs, the Irish teachers program and parades in honor of St. Patrick.

St. John Neumann Division 1 produced two past LAOH state presidents, Claire McNelis Karpowich and Kate Brennan Angerson, and is currently represented on the State board of directors by Maureen Lavelle, who serves as State historian.

Mary Ann Amesbury is the current president of St. John Neumann Division 1. Division officers include: Kellie Knesis, vice president; Maureen Lavelle, recording secretary; Suzanne Cosgrove, treasurer; Margaret Tugdaj, financial secretary; Mary Ellen Dooley, historian; Ann Marie O’Hara, missions and charities; Eileen Potsko, Catholic action; Donna Mangan, sentinel and Mary Kathleen Williams, mistress at arms.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, St. John Neumann Division 1, on this notable occasion. The Wilkes-Barre area community is fortunate to have the benefit of the selfless community service that members of the LAOH provide.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM

HON. TOM DELAY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, every year, loopholes in America's bankruptcy laws are abused, to the tune of tens of billions of dollars—costs that get passed on to consumers in higher prices and higher interest rates.

Our bankruptcy protections, which have always been available to debtors as a last resort, have become just another part of financial planning for too many Americans.

Over the last 15 years, bankruptcy filings have increased 150 percent.
April 12, 2005

In that time, our economy has grown, tens of millions of jobs have been created, and inflation has been held in check. There are always families and businesses in need of bankruptcy protection, but not 1.7 million of them a year, Mr. Speaker.

Nor should drug traffickers and violent criminals be eligible for protection. Nor should debtors be able to use bankruptcy laws to avoid paying spousal and child support, which should—as this bill ensures—be the highest priority debts. Nor should small businesses, family farmers, and fishermen be thrown to the wolves every time their market takes a temporary downturn.

That is why the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 has been a critical item on the Republican economic agenda for so long. And that is why the House this week will finally pass a historic bill—already passed by the Senate—that will send it on to the President for his signature.

These loopholes need closing, and at the same time, honest American debtors will always need protection. That is why the bill we will take up—the product of years of development and negotiation—will include debtor protections such as credit counseling, financial management courses, and greater clarity in credit card billing statements.

It isn’t enough to punish the abusers and protect the victims; we must develop a credit system that helps consumers manage their debt before they get too deep.

The bankruptcy bill is another example of the far-sighted and fair-minded reform agenda the House has been passing for a decade. It has been a long time coming, Mr. Speaker, but this week we will get the job done.

GOVERNOR GRANHOLM, SBC COMMUNICATIONS, INC., SBC MANUFACTURING, FAULCIA, ASSAY DESIGNS, INC., EMERALD GRAPHICS CORP., THE MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend SBC Communications, Inc.; its Michigan president Gail Torreano; the Governor of my home State of Michigan, Jennifer Granholm; and representatives from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Communications Workers of America.

Earlier this month they came together to unveil a ten-year economic development project, which will keep 930 metropolitan jobs in Detroit and invest over $3.6 million to upgrade seven network facilities in Southfield and Detroit. This incredible news comes only four months after SBC had initially announced plans to layoff workers.

Over the past five years, Michigan has lost nearly 300,000 jobs, and has had little prospect for significant job growth in sight. My State’s unemployment rate was nearly two percent above the nation’s average. That number increasingly looked gloomier with news last week that General Motors expects to lose money for the first time in 28 years. As a result, that company dropped 14 percent. My distinguished colleagues, there is no question about it—jobs in Michigan are in jeopardy.

But now, the future appears brighter with SBC Communications and others leading by example in recognizing that corporations play an integral role in their communities, and corporate decisions have consequences that reach much further than their own bottom line. Such an agreement could not have been reached without strong leadership and a shared vision for the future from all parties involved. This agreement to keep SBC Communications’ business in Michigan not only exhibits the great benefits that partnerships between the private and public sectors can reap for our nation’s metropolitan communities, but more specifically, it demonstrates the success of business, non-profit development programs and their capability of serving as a prime example for the rest of America’s cities and states.

In agreeing not to move nearly 1,000 jobs out of Michigan, SBC Communications will receive a single business credit worth approximately $18 million from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, in addition to an Economic Development Job Training grant of up to $930,000. The proposed cuts had been part of a planned company-wide reduction of 10,000 workers by the end of this year. And other companies are also staying, too, rather than moving to neighboring states as they had once considered. Assay Designs, Inc. will be adding 86 new jobs and investing an additional $18 million to a new site in Washtenaw County’s Pittsfield Township. Faurecia, a Michigan auto supplier, will be creating nearly 450 more jobs in Sterling Heights as part of a $40 million expansion. Emerald Graphics Corp. will be producing an additional 347 new jobs near Grand Rapids, rather than in Texas. And with these Michigan fixtures staying, who knows what the future holds for our great State.

The significance of this private-public partnership cannot be overstated. In addition to the immediate consequence of job retention, the University of Michigan projects that the State’s agreement with these companies will create an additional 1,210 jobs and generate over $97 million in revenue for Michigan over the next ten years, with another 1,000 jobs directly generated at other area companies. Rather than facing the prospect of helplessly watching hundreds of families potentially fleeing the metropolitan area—or even the state—in search of new jobs, Michigan’s economic future looks brighter with a commitment that these hard workers will remain at home and continue to contribute to the State’s economy. Instead of disrupting their children’s lives with moves to new schools, SBC employees will continue to root themselves in their respective local communities.

I see no reason why other States cannot work together for our State’s future; and hope that this is just the beginning of many success stories to come out of Michigan and America’s other 49 States.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRECINCT 1 JUDGE SAUL ACEVEDO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Judge Saul Acevedo, of my Congressional District.

Saul Acevedo was born and raised in San Antonio and has been actively involved in the community. He is a product of San Antonio Independent School District and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1981. He earned his Bachelors Degree in Political Science in 1986 from the University of Texas at San Antonio. He then enrolled at Texas Southern University, and in 1989 earned his Law Degree.

Judge Acevedo was elected as Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace in 1998; he works constantly to ensure that the people of his community receive the services they need from local government. He is a credit to his community and a tremendous resource for his county.

During his time in office he has dedicated himself to the youth of the community. He is extremely active in District 19 little league baseball, and is a past league president. There is one role that Judge Saul Acevedo plays in the community that trumps everything; he is married to Marietta and has two beautiful children.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize Judge Saul Acevedo for his dedication and contributions to the community.