

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM AMENDMENTS OF 1991

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce H.R. 3070, the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Amendments of 1991.

The purpose of this bill is to ensure implementation of Medicare's physician payment reform in a manner that reflects the intent of Congress when the payment reform legislation was enacted.

In 1989, the Congress enacted landmark legislation reforming the method for determining Medicare payments to physicians.

Known as the resource-based relative value scale, or RB RVS, the reform made changes in the way Medicare pays physicians. The RB RVS was intended to increase fees paid for primary care services and services provided in rural areas. At the same time, the reform provided a rational methodology to establish fair payments for all services.

The RB RVS was not intended to save money—in fact, when it was enacted it was understood by the Congress and scored by the Congressional Budget Office, and the Office of Management and Budget as budget neutral. Its intent was simply to redistribute existing expenditures on a more rational basis.

This badly needed reform was enacted with the support of a broad coalition that included physicians, beneficiaries, and the Bush administration.

On June 5, the Department of Health and Human Services published draft regulations that could destroy this reform.

The draft regulations proposed by the Department include a series of policies that will reduce payments to physicians by billions of dollars over the next 5 years.

The administration alleges that these policies are needed to ensure budget neutrality. However, by the administration's own projections, these adjustments in fact will reduce payments to physicians by \$7 billion over the 5-year transition period. Others estimate that the savings could exceed \$15 billion.

These projected savings clearly violate the intent of Congress, and the pact made with physicians only 2 years ago.

I believe that this problem has been created by the administration, and I sincerely hope that the administration will solve the problem when it publishes the final regulations in late October.

A letter, signed by 35 of the 36 members of the Committee on Ways and Means has been sent to Secretary Sullivan strongly urging him to make the necessary changes to the draft rule.

Letters also have been sent to the Secretary by the House Committee on Energy and Com-

merce and the Senate Finance Committee. A letter signed by all 45 members of the House California delegation has been sent to Dr. Sullivan.

Clearly, there is strong sentiment in Congress that the Department should fix the problem it created.

However, there may be some officials in the administration who may attempt to block any attempt to restore this critical reform to its proper path.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Ways and Means, I am not willing to let the administration trample on the deal we made with physicians.

If for any reason the administration fails to act, Congress must be prepared to enforce its intent, and to enact legislation that gets Medicare payment reform back on track.

The bill I am introducing today, The Medicare Physician Payment Reform Amendments of 1991, would accomplish this by addressing three problems in the transition rules for phasing in the RB RVS.

The first provision clarifies the calculation of the transitional fees to insure that they are budget neutral. As currently drafted, this aspect of this extremely complex statute contains certain ambiguities. The administration has chosen to interpret this section in a manner that generates nearly \$7 billion in savings.

The Medicare Physician Payment Reform Amendments of 1991 would clarify this section to insure that the transition rules do not, by themselves, reduce Medicare payments to physicians over the course of the transition.

The second provision addresses a somewhat more complex issue.

In the draft regulations, the administration proposes an additional arbitrary reduction in fees of over 10 percent.

According to the administration, physicians may respond to the implementation of the RB RVS by increasing the volume and complexity of the services they bill Medicare. Known as the behavioral offset, this adjustment is based primarily on the results of a single controversial study of a single State's experience in the 1970's.

Using this study, the draft rule proposes an additional cut of over 10 percent to offset this projected response. The clearly stated intent of this adjustment is to correct prospectively for a projected, anticipated response.

While this adjustment has surprised people who are not familiar with the Byzantine nature of budget scoring rules, the adjustment is familiar to people who have worked on Medicare.

In fact, the payment reform legislation anticipated this issue by including an explicit mechanism for correcting for both expected and unexpected responses to implementation of the RB RVS.

Known as the Medicare volume performance standard system, or MVPS, this provision established an annual process to evalu-

ate growth in Medicare expenditures compared to a target. If Medicare costs exceed the target, Medicare spending will be reduced in accordance with the process established under this system.

The key difference between this approach and that proposed by the Department is that the MVPS is retrospective while the adjustment in the draft rule is prospective. Given the uncertainty and controversy over the magnitude of the behavioral response, Congress clearly adopted the retrospective MVPS approach as an integral part of the OBRA 89 payment reform provisions.

The Medicare Physician Payment Reform Amendments of 1991 would reiterate this intent by explicitly prohibiting the use of any prospective correction for behavioral responses in implementing the RB RVS.

Taken together, these two provisions also eliminate the so-called tripling effect included in the draft rules.

Some will suggest that this bill would cost billions of dollars.

In fact, it will not increase costs one penny above the amounts anticipated when the RB RVS reform was enacted in OBRA 89.

This bill would spend more than is included in current budget baselines that have been manipulated to reflect the phantom savings in the administration's proposed rule.

To keep Congress' intent from being thwarted by budget rules created after OBRA 89, the bill includes a declaration of an emergency and declares an exemption from the budget rules to prevent a sequester in future years.

My colleagues know that I am deeply concerned by the rapid rise in the cost of Medicare's Part B Program. I am the first to say that Medicare payments for physician services are increasing too fast and must be slowed. I have sponsored a variety of bills, some enacted and some not, that are designed to slow the rate of growth in Medicare spending.

If the clarifications in this bill result in higher costs, I will work with my colleagues to recoup these costs through the MVPS system. If payments to physicians do not increase, then this bill will have saved the payment reform movement and kept our promises to our physician community.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, and the issues it addresses, is not about how much we should pay physicians. Rather it is about whether or not physicians can deal with the Congress in good faith.

I sincerely hope that Congress will never have to enact this bill.

But if the administration is unable or unwilling to implement the RB RVS in the manner in which Congress intended, then it will be necessary for us to act decisively to demonstrate our determination to keep the commitments we make.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this bill. Your participation will help demonstrate our resolve to the administration.

* This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

A summary of the bill follows:

SUMMARY OF H.R. 3070, THE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM AMENDMENTS OF 1991

Section 1. Title.

Section 2. Adjustment for Asymmetry of the Transition. The bill would amend the RB RVS transition rules to prohibit the Secretary from adjusting the conversion factor to reflect any asymmetry in the transitional fees.

In 1992, all fees would be reduced by 2 percent to adjust for the asymmetry of the transitional fees in that year. This adjustment would then be phased out by 1996. That is, the asymmetry transition reduction would be 1.5 percent in 1993, 1 percent in 1994, and 0.5 percent in 1995. There would be no adjustment after 1995 when the RB RVS transition has been completed.

Section 3. Prohibition of Behavioral Offset Adjustment. The bill would prohibit the Secretary from adjusting the conversion factor to take into account changes in expenditures due to behavioral responses relating to implementation of the RB RVS, including anticipated changes in the volume or mix of services.

Section 4. Emergency Legislation. The bill would designate this bill as emergency legislation under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Any spending resulting from this bill would not be counted for the purposes of calculating a sequester.

Section 5. Effective date. The bill would be effective on enactment and would apply to Medicare payments for services provided on or after January 1, 1992.

THE DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. WILLIAM BAIR

HON. SID MORRISON

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to share with me today the good news that I have regarding one of my most distinguished constituents. On July 23, 1991, the Health Physics Society, at its annual meeting here in Washington, presented its Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award to Dr. William Bair, who is manager of the Life Sciences Center at Battelle's Pacific Northwest Laboratories.

Dr. Bair, who was at one time elected by his peers to be president of the Health Physics Society, has been in the forefront of scientific developments relating to maintaining and improving the health of workers associated with atomic energy programs for nearly four decades. He is truly one of the outstanding scientists in the world dealing with radiation biology. He has long list of achievements and scientific papers, but I believe the simplest way for me to tell you about Dr. Bair is to enclose the citation that was part of his receiving the Health Physics Society Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award.

CITATION ACCOMPANYING HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: PRESENTED TO DR. WILLIAM BAIR

In 1991 recipient of the Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award, Dr. William J.

Bair, is well known to health physicists for his extraordinary contributions to radiation biology over a career of four decades, and for the strong and vital scientific leadership he has exercised over the years. A 1949 graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, Dr. Bair was awarded the Ph.D. in Radiation Biology from the University of Rochester in 1954. That same year he joined the staff of the Hanford Laboratories and began a distinguished and productive career that has gained him deserved world renown for seminal contributions to inhalation toxicology, carcinogenesis, and the biology of the transuranium elements.

It is not possible to briefly comment or list the many scientific contributions Dr. Bair has made over the years. Although the space granted his research was limited, it resulted in more than 100 publications in peer-reviewed literature, numerous reports and oral presentations of his findings. Suffice it to say that this research represents significant contributions to our knowledge of the metabolic behavior and biological effects of inhaled radionuclides and the application of this knowledge to the development of radiation protection standards important to assuring the safety of workers and the general public as illustrated by the following brief example: During his career, Dr. Bair was instrumental in the development of specialized controlled animal exposure systems for radionuclides which continue to be used today by later generations of researchers. Using the systems he helped to develop, Dr. Bair investigated the influence of particle size, concentration, and chemical form on deposition, retention, clearance and translocation of plutonium and other radionuclides in rats and beagles. These studies formed the basis of respiratory tract models for inhaled plutonium and other radionuclides, and were among the first to demonstrate lung cancer in dogs exposed to inhaled $^{239}\text{PuO}_2$. Later studies established the relationship between lung cancer and other isotopes and compounds of plutonium, as well as other transuranium elements, and were the first to report differences in the biological behavior of the dioxides of ^{238}Pu and ^{239}Pu . He was also among the first to show that bronchopulmonary lavage could remove inhaled plutonium dioxide from the lung, and that exposure to radon could cause lung cancer in experimental animals.

In addition to his accomplishments in the laboratory, Dr. Bair has proven a leader in developing and promoting scientific progress and the careers of others through his excellence in management of scientific research. In his current position as Manager of the Life Sciences Center for Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories he has carried on and enhanced a great tradition of health physics and radiation biology research. He has served on numerous scientific committees and advisory bodies, among them the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements and several committees of the National Academy of Sciences, International Commission on Radiological Protection, and U.S. Department of Energy.

Dr. Bair, a past president of the Health Physics Society, is well known as a man of great integrity, for his kind of a gentlemanly comportment, and his willingness to help others explore scientific questions and develop their careers. He has been recognized for his scientific contributions as the recipient of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission E.O. Lawrence Award (1970), inclusion in Who's Who, as the recipient of the Ohio Wesleyan University Distinguished Alumni

Citation, election to Sigma Xi and now, most fittingly by the 1991 Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award of the Health Physics Society.

A SALUTE TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE JOBS FOR OHIO'S GRADUATES PROGRAM

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the attention of my colleagues a most exciting and challenging program which has proven successful in my congressional district and throughout Ohio.

The Jobs for Ohio's Graduates [JOG] Programs, a statewide school-to-work program, operates in 14 Ohio cities. This unique program assists high school seniors in developing job skills. These skills include employment interviews, decisionmaking, public speaking, and telephone techniques. More importantly, the JOG Program instills in our youth the confidence, determination, and incentive that is necessary to enter today's competitive job market.

My office has again had the good fortune of participating in the regional competition. I proudly extend special congratulations to Tiffany Speigner of Cleveland Heights High School, who tied for third place in the State in the employment interview competition. I would like to recognize the other students who took part in the 1991 career development conference.

Garfield Heights High School: Mike Ferrari, Brian Lesniak, Bill Macheroni, Carla Maneage, Robert Piro, Mike Vekas, and Mike Weed.

Health Careers Center: Natalie Burge, Rafel DeJesus, Kim Hall, Julia Kellom, Jennifer Nelson, Antoinette Pace, Marcina Perry, Carmen Pettis, Leasana Sanders, Andrea Smith, Janelle Sprivey, Soy Tiang, Dessis Tucker, Jacqueline Walker, Tawana Warren, Darrell Williams, and Tiara Young.

Cleveland Heights High School: Arlend Evans, Cory Haywood, Nathaniel Hullum, Crystal McCree, Pamela Odom, Antwan Peterson, and Tiffany Speigner.

Shaw High School: Cheryl Austin, Jocelyn Dennis, Angela Love, and Ben Steele.

Jane Addams Business Careers Center: Brian Cook, Aimee Devezin, Andrea Johnson, and Wallace Wigley.

Aviation High School: Alex Abrams, Ken Barnes, Antonio Hall, Brian Jones, Lebron Parker, Ron Robinson, Darrell Stovall, and Maria Tirado.

TRIBUTE TO LEO BLACKBURN

HON. BOB McEWEN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. McEWEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a most remarkable man whose life exemplifies service above self.

Leo Blackburn of Portsmouth will soon be celebrating his 80th birthday, and what a marvelous example he has set for the rest of us. His record of accomplishment is indeed remarkable.

Leo Blackburn is chairman emeritus and former owner of Southeastern Business College and Lorain Business College. He also serves as secretary of the Portsmouth Sister City Committee, director and legislative committee chairman for the Ohio Council of Private Colleges and Schools, and director of the Portsmouth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Leo served his community as postmaster in the 1950's and as State senator for the seventh and eighth Ohio Senate districts. He served as a commander in the U.S. Navy during World War II, as a Naval Reserve officer for 11 years, and was a founder of Portsmouth's Naval Reserve Unit.

He has served as chairman of the Red Cross, March of Dimes, the United Fund and was the first chairman of the Ohio State Board of School and College Registration. He has served on the Ohio Advisory Committee for Vocational Education and as president of the Scioto County Retired Teachers Association.

Mr. Speaker, I could talk all afternoon about what Leo Blackburn has done for his community and what he has accomplished while serving others. His work has not gone unnoticed. His dedication to his community has won him great admiration and recognition.

Leo Blackburn has received the Distinguished Service Award of Ohio Council of Colleges and Schools; the Distinguished Alumni Education Award for Wilmington College; three special recognition awards from the Ohio House of Representatives for outstanding contributions in the areas of education, civic, and humanitarian service; the 1986 Kiwanis Ambassador of Good Will Award for advancing the cause of peace and international understanding; the 1987 Training Partnership Act Service Award; the 1988 Ohio Secretary of State Distinguished Service Award for his service on the Ohio Elections Committee; the 1991 Outstanding Service Award from the Scioto County Retired Teachers Association; and the 1991 Certificate of Appreciation for Service to Murray Military Museum.

Leo has been married to Julia for over 54 years, and both attend the Wesley United Methodist Church. Not surprisingly, their two sons, David and Sam, are following in their fathers' example of leadership and community service.

I greatly admire Leo and join a chorus of friends in wishing him all the best on his 80th birthday. Liz joins me in wishing him many more years of continued service to our community. I extend heartfelt thanks for all he has accomplished for the people of Portsmouth, Scioto County, and our Nation.

"DEMOCRACY—THE VANGUARD OF FREEDOM"—AN ESSAY BY JENNIFER CAROL EARHART

HON. CARROLL HUBBARD, JR.

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. HUBBARD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to an excellent essay written by Jennifer Carol Earhart of Hopkinsville, KY.

Jennie Earhart, a 17-year-old senior at Christian County High School, was the Kentucky winner in the annual Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest.

I am very proud of Jennie. I have read her essay, and I am impressed with the deep understanding she has of our democratic system. It is my hope that all of the young people in this country will develop the same keen awareness and interest that Jennie has so aptly displayed in this excellent essay.

Jennie is the daughter of Carlton and Barbara Earhart, and I commend her for a job well done.

The essay is as follows:

DEMOCRACY—THE VANGUARD OF FREEDOM

What is democracy? To a child it might simply be something studied in history class. To a teenager it tells us we have the right to choose. Adults visualize democracy as the privilege enjoyed by Americans thanks to the sacrifices and dedication of our forefathers. The word one might question more so than democracy though, would be vanguard. A vanguard is one who leads, or an event that leads to another. Of course, people in different situations view democracy as being the vanguard of freedom. Some time ago I read that people who are denied these privileges ultimately plead for the sweet perfume of the peaceful rose of freedom. But they must understand that this precious bloom must first be cultivated and then protected. Indeed, the root of freedom is responsibility, the stem is discipline, and the flower of freedom is vigilance. Everyone is responsible for the stability of freedom. Unfortunately, many talk about keeping alive the eternal flame, yet few offer to pay the bill.

The fact is the world is changing so fast and so dramatically that we can barely see its details, let alone its scope. Yes, the changes are stunning, but we go on. * * * The trend toward freedom and democracy is promoted not only by a deep inner drive for human dignity, but by the growing realization that democracy works best. Our forefathers, such as Thomas Jefferson, the writer of the Declaration of Independence, and thus the vanguard of democracy in America, proved this in saying that, "America is the last great hope of mankind." It still is!

Our democratic values have helped us build the most dynamic, open society in recorded history, a source of inspiration to most of the world. It is a promise of a better tomorrow for the many people who have never known the gifts of human freedom. For instance, the people of Russia longed for freedom such as we Americans enjoy. Mikhail Gorbachev is seen as the vanguard of democracy in Russia for his attempts at freedom. Obviously, the movement of countries towards a more democratic form of government is not going to be smooth! The outcome may not go towards Jeffersonian per-

fection, because there will be setbacks and compromises. Even in a world where democracy and freedom have made great gains, threats of terrorism, hostage-taking, renegade regimes, and unpredictable rulers all require a strong and engaged America.

Politicians usually order nations to war out of ignorance, greed or anger. Yet, soldiers fight for notions, not nations. By far the greatest of these notions is loyalty. Jefferson, as well as Lincoln, knew that the success of America lay not in the greatness of its presidents, but in the greatness of its people. A democracy, unlike a dictatorship, depends not on extraordinary men, but on ordinary men and women doing their jobs extraordinarily well. These ordinary men and women are our war heroes who live on, some in flesh, others in the memories of those who buried them on foreign shores. Out there a few—a very few real heroes still walk among us. They are the vanguards of our freedom today.

In this world of increasing interdependence, the lessons for the United States and the Soviet Union—the most important security relationship in the present era—are evident. We cannot escape from one another. We are bound together in an equation that makes the security of each of us dependent on that of the other. We must try to live together, and the best way to do that is in a democracy.

CROATIANS, SLOVENIANS, AND ALBANIANS DEMONSTRATE FOR DEMOCRACY IN YUGOSLAVIA

HON. "DICK" SWETT

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. SWETT. Mr. Speaker, 12,000 Americans of Croatian, Slovenian, and Albanian descent assembled on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol on behalf of freedom and democracy for their native lands. These people were expressing their serious and profound concern about the recent excessive violence and repressive action taken by the central Yugoslav Government, the Yugoslav National Army, and the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

It is vital that we, in the United States, support the forces of freedom and democracy in Croatia, Slovenia, and Kosova against the forces of repressive totalitarianism. Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in the RECORD my statement to this distinguished group.

STATEMENT OF HON. DICK SWETT

The winds of freedom and democracy are blowing across Central and Eastern Europe. The past two years have witnessed an unprecedented upsurge in the forces of freedom over the forces of communist tyranny that have dominated this part of the world for the past half century. In the last year we have seen free and democratic elections in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Macedonia. Freedom-loving peoples around the world have rejoiced as democratic governments have been elected to represent the will of these people.

The only counter-trend to the democratic upsurge in this part of the world are the communist dominated government of the Republic of Serbia and the still-communist dominated central government of Yugoslavia. These reactionary forces in Yugo-

slavia are the principal reason for the recent violence and bloodshed in Slovenia and Croatia and for the longstanding violence and repression against the Albanian majority in Kosova.

In this century, we have witnessed totalitarian governments and repressive governments which have ignored and undermined the real will of their people. We have seen the vicious brutality of Fascism and Communism. But as we enter the last decade of this century, it has become abundantly clear that you cannot permanently stop the democratic will of the people. In the past few months that truth has again been brought home in Slovenia, in Croatia, and in Kosova.

It is essential that our government's policy toward all nations—and toward these people in particular—reflect our support for democracy and for the right of people to democratically determine their future. The State Department and the White House must know that a policy which props up forces of repression and thwarts the democratic will of the Slovenes, the Croats and the Albanians of Kosova can never succeed.

A policy which supports communism and repression against freedom and democracy is doomed to failure. The State Department and the White House must remember the lessons of the Berlin Wall, the lessons of Solidarity in Poland, the lessons of the candlelight vigils of the "Velvet Revolution" in Czechoslovakia, and the lessons of the violent uprising against the tyranny of the Ceausescus in Romania.

As Abraham Lincoln said, "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves." The infringement of the freedom and democratic rights of people anywhere is a threat to the freedom and democratic rights of men and women everywhere. That is why it is vital that we here in the United States stand up for the rights of the Slovenes, Croatians, and Albanians in Kosova.

A DAUGHTER'S VIEW OF THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

HON. LES ASPIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. ASPIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read some poems that were handed to me while I was back home in Wisconsin. These heartfelt poems were written by 12-year-old Jessica Messick to her father, U.S. Army Warrant Officer Kenneth W. Messick, who was serving in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm. These poems would be an inspiration to any parent who had to leave children behind when they went to serve their country. I found Jessica's poems to be very moving and I would like to share them with my colleagues here today.

A DAUGHTER'S VIEW OF THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

(By Jessica L. Messick)

I SAID GOODBYE

I said goodbye to my dad today.
He went to war a world away.
It made me proud, it made me strong.
It made me cry, it made me long
For the Persian Gulf War to be over soon,
So my dad can be back under the U.S. moon.

FREEDOM

My daddy has gone far away

To another hour in another day.
He fights for oil and much, much more,
For the freedom of a country I'd never heard
of before.

When people ask what my daddy does,
I say he fights for freedom, and he does it be-
cause,

He believes that all men have the right to be
free.

The Kuwaitis, the Iraqis, the Americans and
me.

BODYSNATCHERS

My dad flies a chopper with a big red cross.
His job in the war is to minimize loss.

He belongs to the 1022nd Med. Co.

When a soldier is down, it's his job to go.

He flies through the air, in danger or not,

To save a brave soldier where others have
fought.

He risks his own life so that others may live.
I know to the troops his life he may give.

A LETTER

Dear Daddy, I'm writing this letter today,
To tell you I miss you, you're so far away.
Are you eating O.K. and sleeping enough?
Have you gotten our letters and boxes of
stuff?

I'm helping Mom like you asked me to do.
I'm studying hard, playing saxophone too.
My friends have been nice, but they don't un-
derstand,

What it's like having a dad fight in a far-
away land.

Mom is just fine, but it's hard on her too.
I know that she worries each day about you.

Addie is good, says she misses "Papa."
She can say "Persian Gulf" in two-year-old
talk.

Take care of yourself, come home on the
double!

Always be safe and stay out of trouble.
I'm proud of you Dad, in whatever you do.

You are my hero, and your "Dolly" loves
you!

A DAUGHTER'S PRAYER

Dear God, bring my daddy home to me
From far away, across the sea.
I love him, I need him, I want him right here
To hug me, to hold me, and always be near.
But if, dear God, my prayer cannot be,
Please love and take care of my daddy for
me.

Jessica turned 13 on Saturday. Happy birth-
day, Jessica.

BETTY WELDON RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize a truly outstanding individual, Betty Goshorn Weldon of Jefferson City, MO. An honorary litterarum doctorate degree was awarded to Mrs. Weldon during the commencement ceremonies at William Woods College in Fulton, MO, on May 11, 1991.

Mrs. Weldon was also the commencement speaker. As the president and publisher of the Jefferson City News-Tribune, Mrs. Weldon has developed the Tribune into one of Missouri's most highly regarded newspapers.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize Betty Weldon and her accomplish-
ments. She is truly an outstanding Missouri

leader. Through the years, she has shared her remarkable leadership abilities with her community and State. I herewith insert her commencement address at William Woods College:

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS BY BETTY GOSHORN WELDON

Good morning! I'm glad to be here and, hopefully, several minutes from now you won't be too sorry I am.

Incidentally, last year I was granted an honorary degree and none of my family came. Today, one of them is here and I know why—she wants to make sure I tell you the truth, nothing but the truth, and don't mislead you.

When President Barnett invited me to address you, my first inclination was at once to reply "no"; what can I possibly tell them? Then I thought . . . well, I have a lot in common with those young women. We do have similar educations. I went two years to an all girls' boarding school and was graduated from an all girls' college. In retrospect, I have had a very good life. Our younger daughter, just this past week, said "Mom, you have had a full life," and I have. There is no doubt that my life would not have been so full and continue to be so full without my education. Believe me, I have never regretted it.

The "obituaries" that are written about speakers are always flattering—they're supposed to be. But let me assure you I'm no genius. I believe in this respect I was a great disappointment to my mother; she was a genius. She was graduated from Iowa University at age 19, Phi Beta Kappa, majoring in Latin and minoring in Greek. Latin was almost my ruination. When I took college boards, I had to have six years of a foreign language and I still cringe to recall that Latin exam. I probably barely passed. Then I had two years of French. The mademoiselle said I spoke French with a Spanish accent so, when I went to college, I decided naturally to take Spanish for the two required years. Well, it seems then I spoke Spanish with a French accent. That finished my linguistic efforts.

I must tell you a favorite story of my family's—except I do believe they exaggerate. We were touring a magnificent Spanish castle and I was intrigued with all the clocks—probably over a hundred—all wound and keeping perfect time. They say I asked our guide about the el clockos!

What are the attributes of a successful individual? What goals should a person set? What is the "formula for success?" I don't pretend to have answers for these questions.

Looking back over the years, I know what I have experienced and what I have learned. I can truthfully say at least eighty percent of my own problems have been ones I have made for myself although, goodness gracious, I had no idea I was doing so at the time. I am not including in this, of course, unavoidable tragedies such as losing a loved one. Here, too, it does make a difference—in my opinion—how we handle them at the time and then adjust to them later. I don't think it ever helps to blame others for our unhappiness—it is a waste of effort.

As far as attributes or talents, I don't really believe I have many except a willingness to work (I didn't exactly overdo this during college). No one would ever call me lazy. You can accomplish so much by just being willing to work. Truly, if you go into business, there is no quicker way to gain the respect of your associates than to work hard.

There is so much talk today about equal rights for women. I never heard of it and I

didn't feel disadvantaged. In working, there are several other things I have done. I have always tried to dress like a woman. Although I may be old-fashioned in this regard, I have never worn pants to the office. I think I have gotten along fairly well with men—I respect them as men and, hopefully, they have respected me as a woman and an associate. I have not, however, let them walk over me, so to speak, and occasionally I do lose my cool with them—both in the past and, I'm sure, in the future. And a bit of a suggestion from my husband: When I met him, he was the most handsome, most intelligent, most capable man I had ever met and I still think so. He was founding president of the largest television advertising agency. Anyway, from time to time I told him how wonderful he was, how much I appreciated him and so forth. He always would say: "flattery will get you everywhere." My mother said she didn't know how I hooked him. I am not suggesting anyone can flatter her way to success but it does always help to let your associates in the work place—and out—know you appreciate them.

I probably have two other personal attributes. I am generous and I do genuinely care about other people. Undoubtedly these were traits my parents encouraged. An only child raised in the Christian faith, I have always had a strong faith. I have never doubted and have always believed that all things work for good to them that love God. I wish I was a better example of what a Christian should exemplify, but I do keep trying. Incidentally, I have been called "Pollyanna" by my good husband so this year—after naming innumerable horses over the years—I decided to name one after me, "Pollyanna."

President Barnett thoughtfully sent me examples of previous graduation addresses but what I'm saying to you today is obviously not an address. They were—perhaps I should say—awesome and suggested goals to achieve. What a challenge! But I have never had goals, unless it was to get through college. If I had been really intelligent, I would have had the goal of becoming a famous astronomer but, after two years of college, I gave that one up—the math was horrendous and, along with foreign languages, that was my other great scholastic weakness.

Really, though, I have never had time to have goals. Things have just happened and most have been fun. I've been a reporter, beginning in 1943. In 1944, I covered my first political convention—what fun—about 150 reporters including only a few women. I had the "scoop" that Truman was the vice-presidential nominee; attended Roosevelt's last press conference, and on, ad infinitum. Then, as a direct result of my alma mater, I worked with the UN when it was exciting to set up a United Nations Institute on the Mount Holyoke campus in South Hadley, Massachusetts. I have met and know every famous person I ever wanted to from President Reagan to Gromyko—except for one—a special hero of mine, John Wayne. I have traveled everywhere I've wanted from Petra to Nairobi to London and Paris and have a terrific family whom I love dearly but must confess I can't say I always like all of them. We do disagree.

But I have never set goals. If someone had told me my goal should be the first woman to start a television station ten years after I was graduated, I would have said they were crazy. My family occasionally thinks I am. However, I did so. I was divorced, with a young son, and my father had died. He had filed for an application along with two other groups—one was composed of some Kansas

City theatre owners; the other included a former Missouri governor, a local attorney, a member of the University of Missouri Board of Curators who also owned the Springfield paper, and some Texas oil millionaires. Dad had owned the Jefferson City newspapers as well as KWOS Radio. His father before him had been a newspaper man. Dad and Mother formed a weekly in Eagle Grove, Iowa, and came to Jefferson City when I was 5.

My first memories were of riding the press—a flatbed—when Dad ran his papers once a week in the evening. How well I can remember making wells out of slugs of type. Now we have computers. I personally miss the noise of the Linotypes.

Anyway, I was heartbroken about losing Dad and knew that we might very well eventually lose the papers if they were weakened by a rival media. I decided I had to do something.

It is obvious that we finally were granted the TV franchise and eventually that of CBS. The station's initials—KRCG—are my Dad's, Robert Charles Goshorn, and the location is on property we owned because we couldn't afford to go anywhere else. Since that time, the property also has become the site for Callaway Hills Farm.

I would love to reminisce about all our experiences but, of course, there is not time. I will tell you of one. Our first locally sponsored commercial was for a bread company. The commercial was live and the first time we showed a loaf of bread on camera, a gigantic bug crawled out! The sponsor, thankfully, was most understanding.

Something that may amuse you graduates is that in those days, we didn't just automatically get all the network programming. I had to either sell our area to national firms or the local salesmen had to sell shows to local businesses. We did have two hours of network programming around noon—Soaps. Remember, those were the pioneer days of television and these soaps would every now and then go off the air—not, of course, due to anything we did—just the connections. Well, guess who would call and complain—not the women, but the men. We learned that men were going home for lunch to watch them!

It was also lots of fun and what memories I have. After all, I did marry a terrific man.

We all worked hard and struggled—we were so poor; never knew if we would meet our payroll. Then I met Bill Weldon. Everyone—absolutely everyone in television around the country—from San Francisco and Los Angeles to Boston and New York, knew and respected him. Basically, our troubles were taken care of, most often just by a phone call from him. He often has said he didn't know how I could know so little and even get the TV station in operation—but I knew enough to marry him, also to work very, very hard.

Incidentally, a special bonus for working hard is I can't remember ever being bored, honestly, and I do always look forward to tomorrow—of course, some tomorrows more than others!

I don't recall really ever having goals; yet I certainly don't think I have ever drifted. Rather, I guess you might say I have grabbed the opportunities as they come by. Dare to do the impossible.

No goals, no "formula for success,"—but, on my, I have had my dreams and most of them have been about horses—American Saddlebreds. I don't remember when I didn't want a horse. Finally, when I was ten years old, my Dad got me a registered Saddlebred from an old trainer in California, Missouri. I was so excited! And to top it all off, she was

going to have a baby—wonder of wonders! When the great day arrived and Astral Pat had her foal, guess what he was—a good Missouri mule. The seller, of course, wanted it back and knew all along that mules then were more valuable than horses. We had lots of fun together, Pat and I, riding everywhere. But I still had dreams of a real show horse. How I even started to dream such dreams I have no idea. The only horse show I can remember was one in a circular ring—I believe in Jefferson City—long before I got Pat.

My first real horse show was when, during my college freshman year, our riding instructor took a group to Madison Square Garden. I had been to Virginia and Maryland hunts while in boarding school in Washington but this was different! My dreams got bigger and bigger. More than ever, I wanted an American Saddlebred Show Horse. The war came; I hurried through college in 3 years and, for graduation, I asked Dad for enough money to buy a show horse!

I still didn't know anything really about horses and—because of work, the war and such—I didn't pursue my dream for another year. Somehow I learned of the Kalamazoo Farm dispersal sale (the famous American Saddlebred sire, Kalamazoo Rex, had just died) so I saved up enough gas coupons (gas was rationed), asked Mom and a friend of hers to keep me company, and went to Kentucky. I'll never forget that gorgeous blue grass day—it was so exciting! But with all those men bidding, I was lost. There was a broodmare I wanted—"Pennypack's Pride." She turned out to be the dam of the dam of Yorktown, a renowned world champion. Perhaps that was foretelling the future but I ended the day with all my money.

Those of you—and I'm sure there are many—who know of Beaumont Inn have heard of Mrs. Dedman, the grandmother of today's owners. She could see I was a little "down" and, when I told her why, suggested I visit George Gwinn's farm. George is unquestionably the premier Saddlehorse salesman of all times. Once again, I was totally out of place—so many important people. George, always the true Southern gentleman (my Mom said he could out-Rhett Rhett Butler), treated me as though I was Mrs. Astor. I saw a beautiful brown filly—Kalamazoo Khaki Kaper Ka yearling. I immediately fell in love with her. She was the answer to my dream. How much?—\$3,000. That was all I had to spend. Later I learned it was something toicker George down which I did to \$2,500. I renamed the horse Fourth Estate. She was the granddam of Will Shriver. My second purchase, several years later, was Kate Shriver—I shouldn't say "my purchase"; it was my Dad's—renamed after his mother. Kate Shriver became World Champion Fine Harness horse when only four but, most important, she was the dam of Will Shriver.

After Bill and I were married, we bred Fourth Estate and Kate to the world renowned Wing Commander. Kate did not get in foal but Fourth Estate did and presented us with a stud colt. Now no one can say we females don't occasionally connive and, in my opinion, sometimes it's healthy or maybe even necessary to connive. Bill remarked to me that the colt should be worth a lot of money—heaven forbid! He had recently lost one of his best friends, Johnny Gillen—what better name for the colt, in my opinion. Some of you already know what happened. Johnny was bred to Kate and they had two world champions; the first a gelding named after my Dad, Rob Shriver. The second, left

a stallion, was named after my husband, Will Shriver.

I could go on and on about Will and his family. You don't necessarily have to know much to have your dreams come true. Goodness, when I started my dreaming, I really was totally ignorant—I just loved horses and one in particular. When Will won the 5-gaited World Championship in 1976, which was the most exciting night possible, horse people thought me literally crazy to move him from Kentucky and not stand him to the public.

But Will is my most special friend. I wanted him with me. The only time I ever showed any real horse knowledge was in buying broodmares that no one else wanted but had good old-time breeding. I forgot to mention that for many years I was out of the horse world starting the TV station, marrying, starting a family and so on. By the way, I sold a world champion 5-gaited gelding, Gary Moore, to buy a camera for the TV station.

There is no way I can possibly explain the happiness the horses—in particular, Will Shriver—have given me. Incidentally, Will celebrated his 25th birthday May 3rd, with a large peppermint candy cake. He knew too—why. Bill says, in our family, Will comes first, the children second, and he hopes he's third, ahead of the dogs.

Speaking of dogs, I don't ever remember being without a dog. We have six that we live with at home now and I don't really know how many are in residence at the farm—over 100. These are ones that no one has wanted and we are trying to find homes for them. Thankfully, our daughter, Tony, is in charge of them. I can remember one time when I first started taking in strays and Bill complained. I just told him to be thankful we didn't live next to an orphanage. He never fussed again. I can't imagine anyone being truly happy without a pet.

I still have a dream with Will—it is that his offspring win all three divisions of the World Championship the same year. I don't think it ever hurts to dream.

You all didn't come today to hear a lot of advice from me and I've tried not to give you any. My children may not agree with me but I learned many years ago that most young or even old people do not want advice unless they ask for it and then when they do, in my opinion, it's either because they don't know what to do or they want you to agree with them.

I have tried to tell you some of the things that have worked for me and, hopefully, they may give you some guidance.

Various influences have certainly affected me greatly. They have been first my faith; next my family in particular, my Dad, Mom and Bill; my interest and enthusiasm for the media particularly the daily printed; my love of animals; and finally last but certainly not least, my education. Probably none of whatever success I have had would have been likely without it. Be thankful for your education. I'm confident it has been the best.

Don't forget to dream—dreams do come true. Reach for the stars and you may reach the moon. On your way, have a wonderful time and I am convinced—life is what you make it.

A SALUTE TO THE 1991 GENERAL EDUCATION DEGREE RECIPIENTS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, the importance of a high school education cannot be over-emphasized. Unfortunately, there are many Americans who never complete high school. Today, I rise to pay tribute to the general education degree recipients of the Cleveland Heights/University Heights City School District and to the tutors, volunteers, staff, and families who so graciously gave their time and support.

Recently, 45 students received their general education degrees and were honored at the Adult Basic Education Program and reception at Cleveland Heights High School in Cleveland. The Honorable Beryl E. Rothschild, mayor of University Heights, OH, presented certificates at the ceremony, and students were allowed to make brief statements.

Mr. Speaker, these students spoke of their plans to attend college, begin military careers, and enter the work force. However, the students all had one similarity in their remarks. Each spoke of how they are doing something with their lives they could not have done without a diploma.

These graduates are to be commended for their efforts, and I am proud to salute each of them.

GENERAL EDUCATION DEGREE GRADUATES

Jamey Appell, Harry Baker, Mrs. Laurence Rolle Baker, Lavonne Barnes, John Broadus, Phillip Clark, Linda Cobb, Terry Cobb, Eddie Collier, Annetta Cothron, Susan Crismor, Patricia Fanara, Brent Fields, Cynthia Fortson, Eleanor Gamble.

Tommy Gray, Larone Greer, Willie Hampton, Laverne Hill, Juene Hilliard, Christopher Hockey, Patrick Joyner, Thomas Kmiec, Cotrell L. Lowe, Ernest Maddox, Emanuel Marino, Dheri W. McPherson, Robert Millhuff, Jacqueline Myles, Earl Peck.

Patricia Pines, Sharyn Pines, Arkadij Prodan, Hildegard Reed, Antoine Julian Rosefort, Calvin Seay, Mary Shaw, Brian Stavis, Jena Taylor, Kathryn Taylor, Erica Thompson, Michael Trigiani, Rebecca Walker, Sheila Wimbley, Fuller C. Woods, Jr.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS NEEDED

HON. BOB McEWEN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. McEWEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues in the House to join me in support of legislation I introduced today to establish a House Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs. This resolution would permit the House to proceed directly toward answering troubling POW/MIA questions.

Unresolved POW/MIA questions have created an emotional and serious problem. The Communist governments in Southeast Asia and North Korea continue to drag their feet on this issue. There are even questions being

asked regarding the U.S. Government's handling of POW/MIA matters.

Mr. Speaker, these charges are serious enough to warrant further investigation by a Select Committee of the House. A Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs would provide for a closer, more coordinated, working relationship with the administration's POW/MIA Interagency Group. It would also assure cooperation with all Federal Government agencies with information on the POW/MIA issue.

The committee's establishment would address the concerns of many Americans who are not satisfied that all possible efforts have been made to achieve the fullest possible accounting of every brave American soldier who has not returned home from war.

This expression of congressional interest would also send a clear message to North Korea, Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia that the American people are not satisfied with the cooperation of these countries in addressing the POW/MIA issues.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to address the POW/MIA questions that continue to frustrate many Americans. This firm commitment to action is the least the House can do to match the service and sacrifice that the brave Americans now listed as POW/MIA gave to our country.

TRIBUTE TO SAM AND VICTORIA HAMRA

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sam and Victoria Hamra. On July 20, 1991, in Steele, MO, the Sam Farris Hamra Community Center and Victoria A. Hamra Auditorium was dedicated in their memory.

Sam Hamra's life is symbolic of the American dream. He arrived in this country as a young boy and through hard work and dedication he attained his goals. He took advantage of the opportunities offered by this land and subsequently worked tirelessly to give something back. He and his wife Victoria were active members in all aspects of community life. Sam Hamra's interests ranged from the Boy Scouts to the charter presidency of the industrial corporation which brought Steele its first factory.

Indicative of his concern for the future of his community, he established a scholarship that is awarded annually to a graduate of South Pemiscot County High School. He was a man of numerous accomplishments who was known and respected throughout the State of Missouri.

But the most important legacy of Sam Hamra is his family. He and Victoria instilled in their children the values that defined their lives: Love for each other, respect for God, pride in their country, concern for the welfare of others, and the dignity of hard work. I know this to be true because his son Sam F. Hamra, Jr., has been my friend for many years.

The Sam F. Hamra Community Center is a fitting memorial to a man who believed in and

acted upon the power of the average citizen to be a force for progress in the community.

THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS RESEARCH AMENDMENTS OF 1991

HON. OLYMPIA J. SNOWE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce, together with my colleague, Representative BRUCE, the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research Amendments of 1991. This bill extends the Advisory Panel on Alzheimer's Disease, the Council on Alzheimer's Disease, and research relating to services for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and their families, as originally authorized in Public Law 99-660. This is legislation which Senator GRASSLEY and I introduced in 1986, and in which Senator METZENBAUM also played a leading role. Senators GRASSLEY and METZENBAUM are introducing a similar bill in the Senate.

For many years, I have been greatly concerned about the mental, physical, emotional, and financial devastation which Alzheimer's disease inflicts upon its victims, including the hidden victim, the family caregiver. And since 1983, I have been actively involved in introducing legislation, holding hearings and sponsoring forums focusing on biomedical research for Alzheimer's disease and the needs of family caregivers.

As you are probably aware, Alzheimer's is a ravaging disease which gradually erodes the mind, and finally leaves the patient totally physically helpless and unable to care for themselves. Victims can live for as long as 20 years, and account for at least half of nursing home residents. It is the fourth leading cause of death of adults in the United States, affecting as many as 4 million older Americans. The incidence increases dramatically with age, particularly with the over-85 population which is projected to increase fivefold in the next 50 years. Conservative estimates of the current direct costs only of caring for individuals with Alzheimer's disease are about \$40 billion per year—other estimates exceed \$80 billion per year.

In recent years, Congress has substantially increased appropriations for biomedical research on Alzheimer's disease—but the problem remains that relatively few of approved, meritorious grant applications actually receive Federal funding. However, although there have been few dramatic clinical breakthroughs in recent years, there have been a steady stream of significant research advances and the goals of understanding the cause of the disease and possible ways to treat or prevent it are now more clearly in sight.

The Advisory Panel on Alzheimer's Disease, which this bill reauthorizes, was established by the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Services Research Act of 1986 to advise Congress and the executive branch about emerging issues and priorities in research and service delivery regarding Alzheimer's disease

and related dementias. Since then, new epidemiological data which suggests that the prevalence of this disorder is considerably higher than previously estimated, reemphasizes the importance of a rigorous program of research and proper planning for services.

In its two published reports, the Panel of outstanding experts evaluated the current status of, and made recommendations for legislative and administrative action in, four mandated areas: biomedical research, research relating to services for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their families, systems of home and community-based services, and health care and social services financing. Recommendations were also made on research funding, appropriate components of a long-term care system for Alzheimer's patients, and staff training and recruitment. Further annual reports to Congress will focus on values and goals underlying care of Alzheimer's patients; ethnic, cultural, and minority group issues; and the impact of law and regulation on Alzheimer's patient care. Significant unfinished business remains such as: State-level issues in providing care; biotechnological advances relating to new drug development and biomedical research; and epidemiological research to uncover new areas for possible interventions for potential risk factors, such as head injuries, heart attacks, and environmental toxins.

Given the magnitude of the disorder, the number of still unanswered questions, the unfinished work of the Panel, and the need for further advice to Congress and the executive branch about new directions in research and the provisions of care, the Panel needs to be reauthorized in order to complete its work. The significant growth in both knowledge about Alzheimer's disease and increases in funding for research further underscores the importance of a readily available expert advisory body to monitor progress and advise the Government about the most scientifically and fiscally sound approaches to take.

Likewise, the immense and diverse problems associated with Alzheimer's disease relate to the research interests and expertise of multiple programs and agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS]. The Council on Alzheimer's Disease was established to coordinate continuing research on Alzheimer's disease throughout DHHS, to establish a mechanism for the sharing of information, to identify the most promising areas of research and to establish mechanisms to use the results of research. The Council is also required to submit an annual report to Congress. The Council has been very effective in facilitating effective coordination and collaboration among these numerous DHHS programs and agencies, within a broad-based research framework entailing seven major areas of activity. The need is clear to also extend the Council.

Until more progress is made in biomedical research, it is imperative to enhance focusing on finding the best ways to care for people with Alzheimer's disease, and to alleviate the stress of and strengthen and support family caregivers. So far, systematic research on how to most effectively design, deliver, and finance services for Alzheimer's care has been slow, scanty, and has usually lacked evalua-

tion as to whether programs meet their goals. Important findings from research on the difficulties of functioning as a primary caregiver and on family stress indicates significant social, emotional and health consequences such as stress-related illness, abuse, anger, and depression. Studies being funded by the National Institute of Mental Health have found evidence that the chronic impact of caregiving affects immune functioning, thus increasing the incidence of infectious diseases. The need for services research is clear.

Therefore, the bill which I am introducing today reauthorizes services research by the National Institute of Mental Health and the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research. This includes research relating to: The optimal range, types and cost effectiveness of services, and specialized care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their families; and for improving the organization, delivery and financing of services for individuals with Alzheimer's disease. Including special care units in nursing homes.

Until the cause, cure, and treatment is found, the human and fiscal costs of Alzheimer's and related diseases will accelerate precipitously with the rapidly expanding older population. The reauthorization of the Advisory Panel and Council on Alzheimer's disease, and of services research, will help to coordinate and give expert guidance to ensure a stronger and more coherent, focused Federal response to this devastating disease.

LEGISLATION TO EXCLUDE HOME EQUITY FROM STUDENT FINANCIAL AID NEEDS ANALYSIS

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mrs. MINK. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation with my distinguished colleague from Rhode Island, Mr. JACK REED, to exclude the value of family homes and farms from the calculation of need for Federal student aid programs.

As many homeowners in America have found out, the value of real estate fluctuates dramatically around the nation. This fluctuation has a direct and harmful impact on many college-bound students. Under the current student financial aid needs analysis those students and families who live in high-cost areas are penalized for the escalated value of their homes.

In the last decade many families across the Nation have seen the price of their homes soar to levels that they themselves could not afford today, and as a result, these families are not able to qualify for desperately needed financial aid.

The assessment of home equity in the student financial aid eligibility is an unfair barrier that hurts many middle-class families and students in our country. The legislation we have introduced today addresses the financial realities of today's American family and restores equity into the federal needs analysis formula.

Mr. Speaker, in Hawaii families are saddled with a cost of living that is approximately 22-

percent higher than the national average and the highest average sales price of a single-family home in the Nation. With the average middle-income homes appraised between \$300,000 and \$400,000, families in Hawaii have been excluded from much needed financial assistance to send their children to college.

Hawaii, is not the only State effected, the New England States and California have had similar experiences. Other families in the Midwest are penalized because of the value of their family farms. As we are all aware, America's farmer has so often borne the brunt of our changing economy. To now say to our farm families that the worth of their farm on paper prohibits them from sending their children to college, regardless of how tight money may be for them, is one injustice too many.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of Congress when we first enacted financial aid for college was to provide a means for students to be included rather than denied access to higher education. For this reason I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and restore equity in our Federal financial aid system.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE FATE OF THE SHARPEVILLE SIX

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in recent months, South Africa has made substantial progress toward the elimination of its racist policies. All of us in the Congress wholeheartedly welcome these changes that have been made. At the same time, however, we urge the South African Government to go further.

The Government of South Africa has yet to satisfy one of the provisions of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, the legislation that imposed economic sanctions against South Africa. The international community has not witnessed the release of all persons persecuted for their political beliefs or detained unduly without trial.

Witness the fate of the "Sharpeville Six."

In a trial that raised serious questions about South Africa's criminal justice system, Reginald Sefatsa, Reid Mokoena, Oupa Diniso, Theresa Ramashamola, Duma Khumalo, and Francis Mokhesi—known collectively as the Sharpeville Six—were found guilty and sentenced to hang for the murder of a South African township counselor. The official was attacked after he opened fire on a large crowd during a mass protest against increased rents and taxes.

At no time were the Sharpeville Six accused of actually murdering the South African official. Instead, they were tried under an insidious statute employed by the South African legal system to bludgeon political dissent: the Doctrine of Common Purpose.

In essence, they were convicted and sentenced to death by hanging because of their proximity to the scene of the crime and for having a supposed common purpose with

those who actually murdered the official. There was no attempt by the prosecution to establish that the six were guilty of committing the murder.

The Doctrine of Common Purpose and the judicial proceedings which resulted in the Sharpeville Six verdict were so antithetical to civilized standards of law, that the international community was outraged. Due in part to that response, the death sentences of the Sharpeville Six were commuted.

Many observers in the international community thought that since the Sharpeville Six were classified by the South African Government as common criminals and not political prisoners they would spend most, if not all, of their lives in prison. However, after a review of the case, South African officials recently released Oupa Diniso and Duma Khumalo.

The news of their release was heartening. Still, the imprisonment of the remaining four is intolerable. Reports that their cases are currently under review has raised the hopes of the international community for an early release.

Mr. Speaker, Reginald Sefatsa, Reid Mokoena, Theresa Ramashamola, and Francis Mokhesi are victims, not criminals. They deserve freedom. The President may have lifted the sanctions against South Africa, but the fight for racial justice in that torn country continues. The Government of South Africa still has much to do in the way of proving to the international community its commitment to reform. The government should continue the course of change with the immediate release of the remaining Sharpeville Six.

THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY TAX ACT OF 1981

HON. VIN WEBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. WEBER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a joint resolution that will celebrate one of the most important pieces of legislation in the last decade: the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981.

Many critics of the Reagan era are trying to water down the positive effects of ERTA. They claim that only the rich were helped by across-the-board tax cuts, and that the Reagan package did virtually nothing for the middle class and poor. On the 10th anniversary of ERTA, we need to set the record straight.

This law was passed to spur economic growth, create jobs, and put America on a road to recovery. It was a response to a country mired in sluggish growth, with soaring inflation and high interest rates.

The Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 was President's Reagan's solution to a crippled economy. He, along with Congressman KEMP and Senator ROTH, knew that the only way to spur the economy was to reduce the tax burden on American workers and industry.

Looking back on this piece of legislation, we can see that the progrowth strategy of 1981 proves that cutting taxes and increasing work and investment incentives is the successful route to recovery. Ten years later we need to

remember that the economy still needs low taxes, a sound monetary policy, and less Government regulation.

Many of us have been working hard over the last decade to extend the policies set by this progrowth package, and in these times it is even more imperative that we strive for these goals.

During the eighties we saw the longest peacetime expansion in this Nation's history. We were able to create 20 million jobs, increase the median family income by 12 percent, and double manufacturing productivity.

Also, without the 1981 tax cut, the average American family would now pay \$1,500 more in income taxes every year. The tax cuts also led to a decrease in the share of income taxes paid by low and middle-income taxpayers.

Today, I ask that you join me in recognizing the 10-year anniversary of this great act. By supporting this resolution, we are showing America that we will continue to take steps to reduce taxes and create the opportunities for employment that can be found only in this country.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH DEDICATED IN PLYMOUTH, PA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, Sunday, July 28, 1991, residents of Plymouth, PA dedicated the new Good Shepherd Polish National Catholic Church. It is a day they all looked forward to with much anticipation and joy.

Since 1984, when the parishioners declined to consolidate with another parish and build a new church to replace their rapidly deteriorating one, the Good Shepherd congregation has raised \$1.1 million.

It was their faith and their love of community that inspired these people to make the sacrifices necessary to raise such a large amount of money. As construction costs grew, they still found the wherewithal to finance their dream.

Mr. Speaker, their feat is admirable because they did not raise this money through conventional fundraisers. No, these dedicated parishioners donated these funds from their own paychecks and their own bank accounts.

In addition, these parishioners are responsible for maintaining and administering the church property, therefore allowing the pastor, Father Czeslaw Kuliczowski, to concentrate on spiritual matters.

With this strong dedication and devotion to the church and the community, it is easy to predict the success of the Good Shepherd Church and I am certain it will continue to grow in strength and number for years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL CALL TO
CONSCIENCE

HON. ROBERT J. MRAZEK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. MRAZEK. Mr. Speaker, remarkably, at last week's G-7 meeting in London, Mikhail Gorbachev stood side-by-side with the leaders of the major industrial nations. If this isn't a sign that Soviet-global tensions have retreated, I don't know what is. Yet, even with the many positive steps taken among our nations, we still have a lot to accomplish. While a significant number of Soviet Jews have left for new countries, mostly Israel, the doors still remain partially closed for two major reasons.

First, changes in the Soviet passport law cast an uncertain future on Soviet emigration. Before the change, Soviet citizens who wished to leave the Soviet Union were required to obtain exit visas. While the process of obtaining these visas was long and complicated, it is now unclear how cumbersome the new law will be by comparison. Now, the Soviet Government is assigning international passports instead of the exit visas. However, it is too early to tell how Soviet Jews will be affected by this new law in the long run.

The second reason is a result of U.S. emigration policy. While world events have transformed our relationship with the Soviet Union, changing events has not caused our country to alter its archaic quota system. Soviet Jewish emigration remains at 50,000 per year, even as hundreds-of-thousands of Jews are trying to leave. While this number was satisfactory during the cold war when few Soviet Jews were able to leave the Soviet Union, the number is far too small for today. Furthermore, Soviet Jews that wish to enter our country must meet one of two major requirements if they want to emigrate within months and not years. They must either be closely related to their sponsor—parent, sibling, child, spouse—or must face direct persecution. Even with these strict criteria, the Immigration and Naturalization Service is now handling over 10 times the number of requests it handled 2 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the cold war era, our Government called upon the Soviet Union to stop its ruthless persecution of Jewish citizens and allow them to emigrate to the United States. While thousands of Soviet Jews had applied for exit visas each year, almost all of them were denied emigration by the Soviets. With the arrival of glasnost came a new hope that the Soviet Jews would be freed from this oppression and be allowed to emigrate to the United States.

Clearly, we must reassess our policy after we have pressured the Soviet Government for so many years to reform their emigration policies. In 1990, Israel received 1 million requests for emigration from Soviet Jews while settling over 100,000 throughout their small country. For many years, Congress, at the urging of many Americans, has actively pushed the Soviet Government to relax its policies. Now, by continuing the 50,000 person limit, we are turning our backs on those people we have been trying to help.

At the same time, the Soviet Union has continued to establish roadblocks for Jews who want to emigrate to the United States. The case of Svetlana Sorkin and her family is a good example.

The Sorkin family first applied for emigration in February 1988. They were rejected by Soviet authorities on the grounds that Svetlana's husband Roman had access to state secrets when he worked at an electrical plant from 1977 to 1983. They reapplied for visas in March and September of that same year and were finally approved in November 1988. When the Sorkins were all prepared to leave, the Soviet authorities revoked their visas at the last minute. The local KGB told the Sorkins that the Means of Communication Industry was responsible for the cancellation. When the Sorkins contacted the ministry, they told the family that the ministry had no objection to the family's emigration. For 2½ years, this bureaucratic nightmare has continued and the Sorkins regrettably still are living in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, the plight of the Sorkin family is not an isolated incident. The Sorkins are only one example of the Jews who apply for exit visas each year and are either denied or are delayed from leaving. Constituents throughout my district have brought to my attention the unfortunate tales of their friends and family in the Soviet Union such as the families of Gennadi Babyrov, Ester Brustein, Mikhail Raikhan, Aleksander Shlain, Ilya Vilensky, Mark Kananov, the Kalmason's and Haya Musman. Many of these cases involve close relatives. The travesty of this whole affair is that many of these families cannot expect an interview with immigration officials for several years.

The Vilenski family, sponsored by their first cousin, Lorraine Buchsbaum, has been trying to leave the Soviet Union since February of last year. The Vilenskis are the closest relatives to Ms. Buchsbaum aside from her daughter. In order to escape persecution, the family was forced to flee their home in the Ukraine and move to Siberia. Sadly, it is possible that the Vilenskis may not receive an interview for at least 5 years because they are cousins and are not immediate relatives.

It is my hope that we can do all within our power to allow these Soviet Jews and others to emigrate to the country of their dreams.

TRIBUTE TO COL. JAMES P.
(PAUL) KING

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Representatives TOM BEVILL and BUD CRAMER of Alabama, Representatives HAL ROGERS and CARROLL HUBBARD of Kentucky, Representative JAMIE WHITTEN of Mississippi, Representatives JAMES QUILLEN, MARILYN LLOYD, HAROLD FORD, DON SUNDQUIST, BART GORDON, JIM COOPER, and myself of Tennessee, and Representative RICK BOUCHER of Virginia, to recognize the accomplishments of Col. James P. (Paul) King, the outgoing com-

mander of the Nashville District of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Since assuming command of the district in 1989, Colonel King has exhibited vision, leadership, and enthusiasm by fostering a command climate that emphasizes effective utilization of human resources and a high standard of professionalism. In all occasions and circumstances, he has led by example and inspired employees of the district to do their very best.

Colonel King has maintained a genuine and compassionate interest in the people under his command. During the first weeks of his tenure, he saved a civilian employee's life by administering CPR after the employee collapsed from a heart attack. At the same time, he established a series of town meetings at corps field projects to listen to employee concerns, and instituted a safety program to curb a rising accident rate.

Mr. Speaker, under Colonel King's supervision, the Nashville district has realized significant accomplishments in many diverse areas, including:

In partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority, Colonel King negotiated an agreement in which the corps will design and construct a \$361 million project at Kentucky lock.

He successfully orchestrated the transfer of the completed Big South Fork River and Recreation Area to the National Park Service under an extremely tight schedule.

He altered the disposal areas of the \$2.8 million Harlan tunnels project in order to provide fill material for a new school site.

On the project level, the levee-floodwall-highway project at Pineville-Wallsend was completed, and construction began on the improvement of the Barbourville, KY, flood control levee.

Additionally, he engineered the selection of the Nashville District as the Hazardous and Toxic Waste Design Center for the Ohio River division.

The Nashville District enjoys a 98.2-percent generator availability rate, which is the highest in the corps, a 96-percent rate on 60-day turnaround for permit auctions, national recognition as leaders in natural resource management with over 47 million visitors last year, and outstanding partnerships with the navigation industry.

Mr. Speaker, we urge our colleagues to join us in honoring Col. James P. King as an exemplary and caring leader. His outstanding and diverse technical and managerial accomplishments will be sorely missed by the people of the Nashville District of the Corps of Engineers.

KENTUCKY JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL
TEAM TAKES THE GOLD

HON. ROMANO L. MAZZOLI

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. MAZZOLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with pride to advise our colleagues that the Kentucky Junior Volleyball Association [KJVA] won the gold medal at the 1991 U.S. Girls Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships which took place in Tampa, FL, earlier this month.

The Kentucky volleyball team is composed of students, age 14 and younger, from Catholic grade schools in Jefferson and Oldham Counties and is coached most ably by Ron Kordes.

Forty-eight teams converged on Tampa for this junior Olympic competition, and the young Kentucky team had to face well-seasoned and reputable teams from California and Florida. The team won the gold medal in the finals against the powerful Bay Club of San Jose, CA.

The KJVA team prepared for Tampa by competing in tournaments in Cincinnati, New Orleans, and Chicago. They got "tournament tough," and the results in Tampa proved that the long bus trips and the grueling competitions were well worth the effort.

Mr. Speaker, most people think of Kentucky as the basketball capital of the Nation. It is. But, the success of the junior volleyball team may soon make Kentucky, the Bluegrass State, the volleyball capital of the Nation as well.

I commend and congratulate the team's director, Bob Blanford, Coach Ron Kordes, first team All-American Stephanie Diebold, second team All-American Marisa Brickley and the rest of the gold medal aggregation: Stacy Donham; Liz Beckham, Nicole Grimes, Jennifer Grubbs, Sharon Hagan, Laren Mackey, Erin Massie and Melissa Starck.

TRIBUTE PAID TO HONOR
SCHOLAR CHARLES FASANO

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles Fasano of Mifflinburg, PA, one of 11 young people from the 17th Congressional District of Pennsylvania who were recently awarded Robert C. Byrd scholarships for outstanding academic achievements.

Robert C. Byrd scholarships are federally funded grants awarded to students like Charles, who are top-ranked in their respective classes. More than 3,900 applications for the \$1,500 scholarships were received this year. Each of these outstanding students met rigid academic standards including an overall grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale or above, SAT scores of 1100 or better, and a rank within the top 5 percent of their respective classes.

Charles is a graduate of Mifflinburg Area Senior High School. The scholarship he has received will be used during the 1991-92 academic year. This fine student has shown initiative throughout his high school years, as the time he has invested in academic achievement has brought him recognition which will help him in his college career. Charles, in his scholastic work, has left an impression of leadership and ability for those who will follow him, an impression which will also precede him in his next academic endeavor.

I ask all my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Charles and all the fine young scholarship recipients and in wishing them the

best of luck in their future academic endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
SCIENCE FOUNDATION ANT-
ARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL PRO-
TECTION ACT OF 1991

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to strengthen the National Science Foundation's [NSF] activities in support of environmental protection and tourism control in Antarctica. A summary of the provisions of the bill follows this statement.

Antarctica is a unique scientific laboratory of great value to the international community:

The upper atmosphere over the pole is a screen for viewing the results of interactions of solar plasmas and the Earth's magnetic field, and for detecting evidence of space physics processes. The extremely stable, clean, and dry atmosphere enables astronomers and astrophysicists to probe the universe with unprecedented precision from a ground-based site.

It is an ideal biological laboratory for studying such effects as adaptation of organisms under extremes of light, temperature, and moisture, where, for example, a fish has developed natural antifreeze.

Antarctica's extreme climate, which can induce social, psychological, and physiological stresses, provides an appropriate location to study human health and performance. NASA will use this natural lab for human studies tied to the manned space program.

Antarctica is also a major part of the global heat engine that determines world climate. The vast Antarctic ice sheet interacts with oceanic and atmospheric circulation to modulate global climate. Accordingly, the behavior of the ocean-atmosphere system in Antarctica is expected to provide an early warning of climate change.

The 2-mile-thick ice sheet covering the pole is a repository of the past climate record of great benefit to climatologists and other scientists.

Many naturally occurring global events are greatly magnified in the Antarctic environment, with the result that changes such as ozone layer depletion and climate change are detected there first.

In sum, Antarctica is one of the world's most valuable scientific research platforms, and it is essential to ensure its continued availability for a broad range of research.

The NSF has been responsible for support of research in Antarctica from the beginning of the U.S. presence on the continent. Since 1971, NSF has been responsible for budgeting and managing the entire U.S. national Antarctic program, including logistics support. Among other responsibilities, the Foundation must ensure American compliance with the environmental protection measures contained in the Antarctic Treaty, its protocols, and other informal agreements among nations signatory to the treaty. NSF is also responsible under

the Antarctic Conservation Act for overseeing the activities of U.S. citizens in Antarctica and ensuring conservation, the protection of native flora and fauna, and preservation of the ecosystem.

Over the past several years, NSF has received criticism for inadequate stewardship of the U.S. Antarctic Program as it affects the Antarctic environment. Specific actions by NSF, such as maintaining a landfill, allowing open air burning of solid waste, and failure to remove toxic substances, have received particular criticism.

In recent years, there has been a substantial increase in the activities of tour operators in the Antarctic region, creating the need for better regulation of tourism and its interface both with the research community and the Antarctic environment.

The purpose of the legislation is to specify actions NSF must take to ensure that environmental assessment, monitoring, and control occurs for all U.S. activities in the Antarctic and to institute better tourism control.

The bill will require NSF to implement a comprehensive solid waste management plan for all U.S. stations, including deadlines for implementation. It requires environmental assessments of all significant activities, establishment of a long-term environmental monitoring program, and a thorough environmental audit by experts from outside the NSF.

Also, the bill calls for a review of the effects of the growing tourism industry in Antarctica and requires NSF, on the basis of the study, to issue regulations for control of tourism.

Mr. Speaker, the value and importance of Antarctic research are well understood. At the same time, it is recognized that the research activity itself will cause some environmental disturbance in this pristine region, where traces of human activity are preserved virtually forever. The goal must be to weigh the environmental effects against the value of the science and develop rational ways to minimize adverse effects. Clearly, a better job must be done in the future than has been done in the past. I believe the proposed legislative measure will help ensure that this desired goal is reached.

PROUD TO RECOGNIZE LISA
ROMANI, CRIS SIMMON, AND
TAMMIE TRUPP

HON. GUS YATRON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. YATRON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three young women from the Sixth District of Pennsylvania. These women are talented, bright, and determined members of the Girl Scouts of America.

On August 8, 1991, a special ceremony will be held in their honor at the Christ Lutheran Church in Reading, PA, at which time they will be awarded the Girl Scout's Gold Award. These three young women have successfully fulfilled the requirements for this award, which includes participation in activities for merit patches, exploration of career fields, development of leadership qualities, and involvement in community interest projects.

In addition, each woman has been involved in activities outside of Girl Scouts. Lisa Romani of Reading is a lifeguard, she manages her school's football team, and has received a Certificate of Appreciation for Community Volunteering. Cris Simmon of Laureldale is president of her local chapter of Students Against Drunk Driving, is actively involved in marching, concert, and pep bands, and has tutored students with learning disabilities. Tammie Trupp of Reading is a cheerleader, has been a volunteer in her community, and is currently in training to become a Girl Scout leader. Their dedication to their communities, schools, and troops makes them deserving recipients of the Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can earn.

Mr. Speaker, I am indeed proud to recognize Lisa Romani, Cris Simmon, and Tammie Trupp before you, the Members of the House of Representatives, and the Nation. There is no doubt that the Gold Award will be the first of many great achievements for these fine young women. Let us take this time to commend them for their accomplishments and to wish them the best of wishes for continued success in the future.

OUTDOOR CATHEDRAL

HON. CHARLES WILSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mr. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, the first Member of this body to bring the Big Thicket of east Texas to the attention of Congress now sits in the White House. For nearly 30 years the formation of a Big Thicket Preserve and the expansion of that preserve to protect sections of this unique and beautiful part of Texas has been dear to the hearts of many of my friends at home.

One of those friends is Howard Peacock: Author, folklorist, and lover-of-the-outdoors. Howard's talent with words far surpasses mine, and since legislation to add very important creek areas to the preserve is now before both House and Senate committees I feel it is appropriate to share an article he wrote this past spring celebrating his enjoyment of the Big Thicket.

[From the Beaumont (TX) Enterprise, Apr. 5, 1991]

OUTDOOR CATHEDRAL—BIG THICKET TRAILS OFFER NATURAL TRANQUILITY

(By Howard Peacock)

One early April afternoon this past year, with the spirit of Fool's Day still lingering on, the litter of bills, deadlines, problems, and unanswered correspondence on my desk suddenly became an insult to life and reason.

The sight of it affronted my sense of freedom as a citizen with paid-up taxes and my heritage as a 64-year-old child of God. Whereupon I arose and got behind the wheel of Ol' Blue, my 1983 Chevy, and drove to the Pitcher plant bog east of Warren, down a red-dirt road whose name, if it ever had one, I've never known.

Talk about luck. I hit the bog at the hour when the young spring sun had just tilted into the western sky, casting a Rembrandtian glow over the fat, buttery-yellow blooms of these strange plants that eat

animal flesh. Their scientific name sounds like a sultan's prima belly-dancer, *Sarracenia alata*. At this moment, thousands of the plants at their peak of bloom were carpeting acre after acre of the clearing, framed by tall pines. Sun-struck, the entire scene shimmered and gleamed like a vast sheet of new-spun gold.

"Surely," I murmured to no one, "this is a day of days, a trail of trails, in the Big Thicket."

The first time I'd experienced awe of the Big Thicket—Ol' Arch Fillingim, the great country newspaper editor, called it "The Holy Ghost Thicket"—was when I was 9 or 10 years old and got to go with a troop of Cub Scouts to Camp Mitigwa on Village Creek.

At the time I was a city boy, growing up within bleacher-roar of Stuart Stadium and doing my best to swing a bat like Hank Greenberg, hurl a fastball like Schoolboy Rowe, heroically spear line drives like Mark Christman. But at Camp Mitigwa I glimpsed a second world—an ever-new cosmos of wild plants, bugs, snakes, birds, furry creatures, soils, and water . . . blessed swimmin' hole water; blessed, beautiful Village Creek.

Since then I've walked 50, maybe 100 or 200, trails in various parts of the Big Thicket, and wondered if one of them might turn out in my old age to be my favorite.

One time, the late Harold Nicholas guided me through a maze of acidbog baygalls south of Saratoga that dazed human sight. After an hour in those shadowed regions, the reflections of trees in the groundwater literally turned the world upside down. The sensation was so novel that it didn't matter if you might be lost. Harold, a protege of the legendary Lance Rosier and a self-taught watercolor artist who painted the wildflowers of the Thicket with lyrical delicacy and precise details, took this trail to a certain Black oak. The old tree was so huge that its trunk at neck height made Harold, a powerful man with massive shoulders and chest, seem downright puny alongside.

Sixty miles or so northeast of those baygalls is another favorite trail. It leads to what might well be the finest example of a climax Beech-Magnolia-Loblolly forest in this part of America. Covering only a few acres, it has the character and mood of a wilderness cathedral, canopied by colossal trees. In primitive epochs, lightning would strike such a climax forest and the resulting fires burn it bare. Then the slow procession of grasses, forbs, shrubs, small "nurse trees," and dominant trees would begin all over again.

By far the most exuberant "trail" in the Big Thicket is a float down Village Creek. I say exuberant because nature here is full of exclamations, both audible and visual, and so are you. "Hey!" you're always hollering, "look at that old wood-pecker hotel!" (a high-rise dead tree trunk full of nesting holes), or, "Catch those coon tracks on the bank over there—look like bear tracks!" or some such. You're especially lucky if Maxine Johnston of Batson or Pete Gunter is in your boat. Both are delightful companions and knowledgeable Big Thicketers for all the paddling, portaging around fallen logs, and sloshing about you must do; not to mention the noontime demolishing of fried chicken, sandwiches, and apples on a sloping sandbar.

For a short day's float, put in where Village Creek crosses Farm Road 418 between Kountze and Silsbee. Haul out several miles downstream at the Larsen Sandylands.

The most inspiring trail in the Thicket takes you through the Wild Azalea Canyons north of Newton, if—and it's a very big IF—

you catch the bloom on the right day, usually only one or two days in the first week of April. You won't believe the sight, or the fantastic fragrance, of tens of thousands of wild azaleas at their peak of bloom.

Just about any Big Thicket wanderer can name trails that have become favorites over years of sauntering. Most know trails that others don't. The Big Thicket is that diverse, that secretive. Geraldine Watson of Silsbee is the preeminent living savant of such matters. She can show you vistas and nature's ways that enlarge life itself. A good way to start is to ask the National Park Service, phone 839-2689, for a packet of Big Thicket Trail brochures.

About 1,000 kinds of wild flowering plants grace the trails of the Thicket, according to experts. Few of them appear everywhere; each species has its own special needs for habitat. Generally, the showiest blooms unfold in the springtime and summer parade. First, the haws and redbuds, then the Dogwoods, then the Grancy Graybeards. In the meadows and roadsides, a profusion of wildflowers, from two dozen species of wild orchids to four genera of carnivorous plants, form kaleidoscopes of shape and color.

My choice for an all-purpose anytime trail is the Kirby Nature Trail off Farm Road 420, about seven miles north of Kountze. These woods hold a diversity of plant and animal life that seems to me phenomenal. Here is a forest in transition, evolving from timber harvests of several decades ago toward climax cathedrals 100, maybe 200 years ahead. Beech-crowned uplands cross a trail descending to tupelo-buttressed streambottoms. Here are kingly oaks and soaring bull pines, wild black cherries, toothache trees, and groves of hornbeams whose leaves in summer cast nature's eeriest green flickers. Ferns, violets, and partridge berries speckle the spongy forest floor. In these woods the last Big Thicket sighting of the Ivory-billed woodpecker was reported more than a generation ago. And here, but not here alone, during the 1960s and 1970s, scores of skeptics from nearby towns and counties, and citizens from throughout America, realized that our nation needed to preserve what was left of Big Thicket wilderness. They went home and wrote strong letters to their congressmen to support Rep. Charlie Wilson's legislation to save important parts of the Thicket. The result was the Big Thicket National Preserve, established in 1974, America's first sanctuary of nature to wear that title.

In early spring, as you enter the Kirby Nature Trail, colonies of that peculiar plant, Jack-in-the-pulpit, greet your first steps like clusters of happy preachers. By contrast, a mile later, incredible cypress trees tower nearly 100 feet high over the Village Creek floodplain. These cypresses are ancient royalty, circled by gnarled monuments of golden "knees." The National Park Service has placed a bench here for viewing, resting, and pondering this awesome sight and the riches of our national heritage.

A TRIBUTE TO DONALD EUGENE BROOKS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 29, 1991

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Donald Eugene Brooks on the occasion of his retirement after 42 years of inval-

able service to the police department and citizens of Montgomery County, MD.

Donald Brooks, with unwavering diligence and a commitment to excellence, rose through the ranks and was appointed chief of police in 1988. Chief Brooks had a long and distinguished career of service and witnessed the county change from a predominantly rural setting to one that was highly urbanized. With great foresight, Chief Brooks recognized the early signs of crime such as drug-related violence. Working in partnership with affected communities and governmental agencies, Chief Brooks helped to avoid the dramatic rise in such crime that was experienced elsewhere. With the development of innovative strategies to combat crime, the transition of Montgomery County had far fewer impediments.

For a man with such a long and varied career, it would be difficult, at best, to list all of his accomplishments. Chief Brooks never lost sight of the reason he joined the Montgomery County Police Department; to serve the citizens and provide them with the very highest quality police service. He will be honored at a retirement celebration on August 23, 1991.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague BILL GREEN, I am pleased to introduce the Assault Weapon Act of 1991.

This bipartisan measure, sponsored by 35 Members of Congress, will:

First, ban both the future domestic manufacture and importation of only those firearms that have specific provisions designed to accept a silencer, a bayonet, a grenade launcher, a flash suppressor for night-time shooting, or a folding stock;

Second, ban the future manufacture and importation of all semiautomatic shotguns with a fixed magazine of more than 7 rounds—like the 12-round riot shotgun known as the Street Sweeper;

Third, ban the future manufacture and importation of all ammunition magazines of 10 or more rounds;

Fourth, ban the future manufacture of the aftermarket do-it-yourself kits which enable a firearm to accept a silencer, bayonet, flash suppressor, grenade launcher and which enable a firearm to accommodate a folding stock—intended to make the weapon more concealable; and

Fifth, impose a mandatory minimum Federal prison sentence of 10 years for the use of those firearms in a crime of violence or a drug-trafficking crime—30 years second offense.

In July 1989, the Bush administration banned the importation of 43 types of foreign-made semiautomatic assault rifles—totalling over 700,000 rifles—in an effort to address the increasing use of specific types of firearms—the AK-47, for example—in crimes of violence or drug-related crimes.

The administration banned these firearms because they violated the existing Federal firearms statute that imported firearms must be "suitable for, or adaptable to, sporting purposes." The administration issued its complete report on the issue after an exhaustive study and review. For the first time, the executive branch developed constructive criteria to justify its decision and distinguished the difference between military-style semiautomatic

assault rifles and common, conventional semiautomatic firearms used for hunting or sporting purposes.

The Stark/Green bill is based primarily on the criteria developed by the Bush administration. The bill addresses the firearm's specific characteristics—like a threaded barrel intended to accept a silencer, a bayonet lug, a grenade launcher, a flash suppressor for night-time shooting, or a folding stock for concealing the firearm.

This measure also addresses the ammunition magazine issue. The Stark/Green bill proposes to ban the future manufacture and importation of 10 or more rounds of ammunition, unlike the Bush administration's crime package proposal which banned ammunition magazines of 15 or more rounds.

Though the President's import ban was an important and commendable effort, the administration has inexplicably failed to address the proliferation of domestic-made semiautomatic assault rifles. Unfortunately, U.S. manufacturers appear to have filled much of the vacuum created by the 1989 ban.

The Bush administration's 1989 ban was not without precedent: in 1986 and 1987, the Reagan administration had banned the importation of the Striker 12, a South African semiautomatic assault shotgun with a fixed magazine of 12 rounds. Later, the Reagan administration prohibited the importation of a South Korean 12-round riot shotgun named the U.S.A.S. 12. Not surprisingly, the import ban has been easily circumvented by a U.S. manufacturer, who is today producing the domestic version of the Striker 12, affectionately renamed the "Street Sweeper." Who on earth would name, let alone defend, the manufacture of a 12-round riot shotgun named the "Street Sweeper?"

In a letter to me earlier this year, the Bush administration revealed that in 1989 almost 100,000 semiautomatic assault weapons were manufactured in the United States with specific provisions to accept a silencer or bayonet—a 51 percent increase from the previous year. What legitimate sporting purposes do silencers and bayonets have?

Silencers have been prohibited since the 1934 National Firearms Act. Yet last year, 406 Federal criminal cases involved silencers. Weapons designed to accept these attachments are popular with drug dealers and terrorists. No legitimate hunter or sportsman in my congressional district would defend silencers, bayonets, Street Sweepers, or 95-round ammunition magazines.

The Bush administration took the first significant step toward curbing the proliferation of semiautomatic assault weapons with its 1989 import ban. The Congress, together with the White House, should address the domestic question.

Statistics show that these laws can, and do, have an effect. For example, California's Semiautomatic Assault Weapon Act took effect in July 1989. One year later, the city of Oakland, in my own congressional district, reported a 37 percent cut in criminal misuse of these weapons for drug-related crimes and crimes of violence.

From 1985 to 1989, the Oakland Police Department kept meticulous records of assault weapons used in crimes of violence or drug-

related crimes, such as Ak-47's, MAC-10's, TEC-9's. In 1985, it was 12; in 1986 it was 56; in 1987, it was 113; in 1988, it was 214. In 1989, what happened when the California law passed? Criminal misuse in crimes of violence or drug-related crimes decreased, to 162 in 1989 and 134 in 1990.

While these laws do not eliminate all criminal misuse, they do help law enforcement do the job the public asks of it. Placing reasonable restrictions on the availability of semiautomatic assault weapons—those firearms not used for traditional hunting or sporting purposes—are a commonsense approach to a complex problem.

The Bush administration has taken action already. I recently read of a poll taken by a legitimate polling agency which reported that 70 percent of Americans favor a ban on assault rifles. We have the opportunity to pass legislation that will treat semiautomatic weapons comprehensively.

This bill is not revolutionary—it uses the same criteria the administration developed for the 1989 import ban and proposes simply that made in the U.S.A. semiautomatic assault weapons be addressed through a ban on future manufacture. This bill says nothing about current ownership or future transfer, and is limited in its approach by only addressing the manufacture question.

I look forward to working with my colleagues, the law enforcement community, and those who wish to take a tough stance in our Federal crime-fighting efforts and a strong war on drugs. The text of the assault Weapon Act of 1991 legislation follows:

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This act may be cited as the "Assault Weapon Act of 1991".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST THE IMPORTATION AND THE MANUFACTURE OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND RELATED DEVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(s) It shall be unlawful for any person to import or manufacture—

"(1) a firearm having threading, lugs, or other characteristics which are designed to facilitate the direct attachment of a silencer, bayonet, grenade launcher, flash suppressor, or folding stock to the firearm;

"(2) any part or combination of parts designed to facilitate the attachment of a bayonet, silencer, grenade launcher, flash suppressor, or folding stock to a firearm;

"(3) a shotgun with a fixed magazine which is capable of holding 7 or more rounds of ammunition;

"(4) a detachable magazine, drum, belt, feed strip, or similar device which has a capacity of, or can be readily restored or converted to accept, 10 or more rounds of ammunition;

"(5) any combination of parts—

"(A) designed and intended solely and exclusively for assembling a device described in paragraph (4); and

"(B) from which a device described in paragraph (4) could be assembled if such parts were possessed or controlled by 1 person; or

"(6) any part specifically designed for use in assembling a device described in paragraph (4)."

(b) PENALTY.—Section 924(a) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following: "(5) Whoever knowingly violates section 922(s) shall be fined not more than \$10,000, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both."

SEC. 3. ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR THE POSSESSION OR THE USE OF AN ASSAULT WEAPON OR A RELATED DEVICE IN A CRIME OF VIOLENCE OR IN A DRUG TRAFFICKING CRIME.

Section 924(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the second sentence of paragraph (1), by striking "subsection" and inserting "paragraph"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall apply in like manner to whomever, in the circumstances described in such paragraph (1), uses or carries an item described in section 922(s), except that—

"(A) in the case of the first conviction of a person under this paragraph, such person shall be sentenced to imprisonment for ten years; and

"(B) in the case of the second or subsequent conviction of such person under this paragraph, such person shall be sentenced to imprisonment for thirty years."

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill which has strong support by both labor and management. This bill would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exempt district wildlife managers from the act.

Without the exemption, my State alone stands to lose \$1.4 million through the payment of overtime. Most of the district wildlife managers around the country view themselves as professionals, but because of the varied nature of their jobs they do not fit under the professional exemption in the FLSA.

Not only does this mean that State governments will lose money, but services would not be met. District wildlife managers may work as few as 14 hours per week or as many as 70 hours per week. During peak work periods, many State wildlife management agencies are so financially strapped that they cannot pay their employees overtime, leaving much work left undone. This only increases the chances that illegal poachers will continue to decimate animals and that legitimate hunters will hunt without the presence of wildlife management officers.

Many State wildlife management agencies across the country support this exemption. More importantly, many of the employees of those agencies also support this exemption. The employees feel that they are hindered by the FLSA coverage and cannot do their jobs properly. This bill would help the agencies, employees, and the public who rely so heavily on these multitalented individuals.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose

of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 30, 1991, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 31

9:00 a.m.
Labor and Human Resources
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business. SD-430

9:15 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Business meeting, to mark up S. 543, to reform Federal deposit insurance, protect the deposit insurance funds, and improve supervision and regulation of and disclosure relating to federally insured depository institutions. SD-538

9:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Business meeting, to mark up H.R. 794, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Act, S. 391, Lead Exposure Reduction Act, S. 455, Indoor Air Quality Act, S. 792, to authorize funds for programs of the Indoor Radon Abatement Act of 1988, S. 36, New York Zebra Mussel Monitoring Act, S. 1278, authorizing funds for the Office of Environmental Quality, S. 627, Lindy Claiborne Boggs Lock Designation, and to consider other pending committee business. SD-406

Small Business
To resume hearings to examine a report on how to improve the Small Business Investment Company Program of the Small Business Administration. SR-428A

10:00 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Merchant Marine Subcommittee
To hold hearings on H.R. 1464, authorizing funds for fiscal year 1992 for the Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation. SR-253

Finance
To resume hearings on S. 612, to encourage savings and investment through individual retirement accounts (IRAs) in an effort to stimulate economic growth for Americans and the nation. SD-215

Judiciary
To hold hearings on pending nominations. SR-385

Labor and Human Resources
To hold hearings on provisions of S. 1227, to provide affordable health care to all Americans. SD-430

10:30 a.m.
Judiciary
Antitrust, Monopolies and Business Rights Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine how the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) oversees the activities of the Executive Life Insurance Company in California. SD-226

11:00 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Environmental Protection Subcommittee
To resume hearings on S. 976, authorizing funds through fiscal year 1996 for programs of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, focusing on products packaging and labeling provisions. SD-406

1:00 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine Soviet trade opportunities. SR-253

2:00 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To resume hearings on S. 1351, to encourage partnerships between Department of Energy laboratories and educational institutions, industry, and other Federal laboratories in support of critical national objectives in energy, national security, the environment, and scientific and technological competitiveness. SD-366

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to review the recently completed Geneva Meeting on National Minorities of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and to examine U.S. policy objectives, strategies and major issues to be discussed at the September 10-October 4, 1991 human rights meeting in Moscow. SD-562

AUGUST 1

9:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings on coal mine health and safety issues. SD-138

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands, National Parks and Forests Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 1156, to provide for the protection and management of certain areas on public domain lands managed by the Forest Service in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington. SD-366

Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Department of Energy procurement and subcontracting practices. SD-342

Select on Indian Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Interior Committee on S. 1036 and H.R. 1426, bills to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Indian Tribe of North Carolina. 1310 Longworth Building

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
Business meeting, to mark up H.R. 2942, making appropriations for fiscal year

1992 for the Department of Transportation.

SD-116

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings on S. 22, to regulate interstate commerce with respect to parimutuel wagering on greyhound racing, and to maintain the stability of the greyhound racing industry.

SR-253

Environment and Public Works
Water Resources, Transportation, and Infrastructure Subcommittee

To hold hearings on a proposed Department of Transportation headquarters, the relationship between the Judiciary and the Government Services Administration for the provision of space for the Courts, and on the General Services Administration's (GSA's) planning and management procedures and the condition of the Federal Building Fund.

SD-406

Foreign Relations
Terrorism, Narcotics and International Operations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine narcotics and foreign policy implications of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) affair.

SD-419

Judiciary
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

Special on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the role of music for the aging, focusing on music as medical therapy and a means of extending human vitality.

SH-216

2:00 p.m.
Foreign Relations

Terrorism, Narcotics and International Operations Subcommittee

To continue hearings to examine narcotics and foreign policy implications of

the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) affair.

SD-419

3:00 p.m.
Judiciary
Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposals to extend the patent term of certain products, including S. 526 and S. 1165.

SD-226

4:00 p.m.
Select on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on intelligence matters.

SH-219

AUGUST 2

9:30 a.m.
Special on Aging
To hold hearings to examine issues relating to aging women remaining in the workforce and aging women re-entering the job market.

SR-385

Joint Economic
To hold hearings on the employment-unemployment situation for July.

SD-628

10:00 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the impact of trucking company takeovers on employees and the trucking industry.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.
Select on Indian Affairs
Business meeting, to mark up S. 1530, to authorize the integration of employment, training and related services provided by Indian tribes to improve the effectiveness of those services, reduce unemployment in Indian communities, and adhere to the policy of Indian self-determination.

SR-485

SEPTEMBER 10

10:00 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings on the nomination of Clarence Thomas, of Georgia, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

SR-325

SEPTEMBER 19

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold oversight hearings on the resettlement of Rongelap, Marshall Islands.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 24

9:00 a.m.
Veterans Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

334 Cannon Building

CANCELLATIONS

JULY 30

2:00 p.m.
Environment and Public Works
Superfund, Ocean and Water Protection Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 1445, to revise the Safe Drinking Water Act to reduce human exposure to lead in drinking water.

SD-406

POSTPONEMENTS

JULY 31

2:00 p.m.
Joint Economic
To resume hearings to examine the current poverty situation in the United States.

2359 Rayburn Building