

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE MEDIGAP CONSUMER PROTECTION  
ACT OF 1995

HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Medigap Consumer Protection Act of 1995, which will help millions of seniors hang on to the private health insurance they purchase to pay for the deductibles and services which are not covered by Medicare.

In recent years, insurance companies have increasingly sold Medigap policies whose premiums are determined using a method known as "attained age rating". An attained age policy offers the buyer lower premiums at an early age but its premiums increase as a result of the aging of the policyholder. At various age thresholds the insurer raises premiums to reflect the expected greater use of health care by older policyholders. Due to the high inflation rate in the cost of health care, all Medigap policy premiums increase with time, but the premiums of attained age policies increase much more sharply.

The Medigap Consumer Protection Act would prohibit annual Medigap premium increases from being based on the age or aging of the policyholder. This would prohibit insurance companies from selling any more attained age Medigap policies. Ten States already prohibit attained age rating for Medigap: Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, and Washington. The bill would allow people who have already purchased attained age policies to keep them if they choose to do so. However, insurance companies would have to offer these policyholders the option of changing their insurance coverage to a policy not based on attained age rating, for example, a community rated or issue age rated policy.

Most Medigap purchasers, and many insurance agents, do not understand how attained age rating works, so prospective policy buyers often have a difficult time in making an informed decision. Senior citizens who purchase attained age policies and later face unexpectedly large premium increases as they age find it difficult to change policies because they usually must face a 6-month waiting period for pre-existing health conditions. When seniors enter the Medicare system—usually at age 65—they have a 6-month window of opportunity during which they can sign up for Medigap insurance without being denied coverage because of pre-existing conditions. At all other times they are subject to such a pre-existing condition waiting period.

The Medigap Consumer Protection Act would direct the National Association of Insurance Commissioners [NAIC] to develop guidelines to eliminate attained age rating which would then be implemented in all States. The

NAIC, founded in 1871, is the Nation's oldest association of State public officials. It is composed of the chief insurance regulators of all 50 States, the District of Columbia and the 4 U.S. territories. In the past, Congress has requested similar action from the NAIC, which has successfully completed these requests.

For instance, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 instructed NAIC to develop model standardized benefit packages for the Medigap market. After holding public hearings, and consulting with interested parties, the NAIC completed the standards, which were approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and became law.

I would like to include in the RECORD the following excerpt from a Consumer Reports article of August 1994 which describes the attained-age pricing problem in the Medigap market:

Many companies have changed the way they price policies so they can bait consumers with low premiums at the outset and trap them with very high increases later on.

In 1989, most carriers used either "community rates" or "issue-age rates" to price their policies. With community rates, all policyholders, young or old, pay the same premium. With issue-age rates, premiums will vary depending on the age of the buyer. But in either case, the annual premium will go up only to reflect inflation in the cost of benefits; it will not rise because you get older. Both community and issue-age rates protect policyholders from steep annual increases.

Now, however, more and more insurance companies are restoring to a less benign strategy as "attained-age" pricing. It allows companies to gain a competitive advantage by selling cheap policies to 65-year-olds when they enter the Medicare-supplement market. With attained-age pricing, the initial premiums, especially for those between 65 and 69, are usually lower than for issue-age or community-rated policies. But there's a catch: Premiums will rise steeply as the policyholder gets older.

In 1990, 31 percent of all Blue Cross-Blue Shield affiliates sold policies with attained-age rates. In 1993, 55 percent did. At the same time, the proportion of Blue Cross-Blue Shield plans offering community rates has dropped from 51 percent to 21 percent. AARP/Prudential still offers community rates but finds its initial premiums have become less competitive for policyholders age 65 to 69.

Attained-age policies are hazardous to policyholders. By age 75, 80, or 85, a policyholder may find that coverage has become unaffordable—just when the onset of poor health could make it impossible to buy a new, less expensive policy. Take, for example, an attained-age Plan F offered by New York Life and an issue-age Plan F offered by United American. For someone age 65, the New York Life policy is about \$114 a year cheaper. But by age 80, the New York Life policyholder would have spent a total of \$5000 more than the buyer of the United American policy.

Buyers are rarely warned of these consequences. Neither insurers nor agents are

required to tell consumers how expensive attained-age policies will become over time. A sales brochure from California Blue Cross, which boasts one of the state's hottest-selling Medicare supplements, says nothing about rate increases; it doesn't even mention that rates are calculated on an attained-age basis. Of the 17 agents our reporter heard, only one discussed the way his company's rates were set—and he thoroughly confused the three methods. "The vast majority of agents don't understand attained-age pricing, so they can't possibly explain it to their customers," says Mark McAndrew, president of United American.

Only 10 states—Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, and Washington—either require that insurers use community rates or specifically ban attained-age policies. In most other states, insurers are shifting to attained-age policies. United American, a large seller of Medicare-supplement policies, has just notified state insurance regulators that it plans to switch from issue-age to attained-age rates. "We think attained-age rates are a bad thing, but our agents had to eat," explains Joyce Lane, a United American Vice president.

Mr. Speaker, Bonnie Burns, a private contractor for California's Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program delivered the following testimony before the House Health and Environment Subcommittee earlier this year:

The danger [with attained age rating] is that just when people begin to need more and more medical care, they will also be hit with much higher premiums. Alternative methods of calculating premiums mean that older beneficiaries will almost always pay less than with attained age rates. The impact of sharply increased premiums is minimized.

Most seniors are in the middle class or below and are already spending about 23 percent of their income on health care expenses according to the AARP, while those under 65 spend about 8 percent. As people age their income and resources go down over time, particularly for older widowed women, and out of pocket costs for health care consume an increasingly larger part of their income. Their ability to absorb additional costs in premiums, deductibles and coinsurance is limited.

Mr. Speaker, affordable premiums and reliable health care coverage are crucial issues for millions of elderly Americans on fixed incomes. At age 65, virtually all Americans recognize the importance of good health coverage. Seniors face rapidly increasing health costs as they reach their seventies and eighties. It is inappropriate to lure seniors into attained age policies which they will not be able to afford if they live for a decade or two. That is why Consumers' Union and the National Council of Senior Citizens have written letters strongly supporting the Medigap Consumer Protection Act.

I would like to close, Mr. Speaker, by describing a few of the things the Medigap Consumer Protection Act will not do:

● 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.

The Medigap Consumer Protection Act does not place price controls on the insurance industry. Under this bill each insurance carrier will continue to set its own rates and can charge as much or as little as it feels is prudent as long as it continues to meet the loss ratio requirements which are already in place under current law.

The Medigap Consumer Protection Act does not diminish valuable consumer choice. Attained age rating makes it more difficult and confusing for consumers to make price comparisons and compare different policies. Attained age rating confuses prospective policybuyers and insurance agents. Attained age rating deceives the average Medigap purchaser into purchasing coverage which they may not be able to afford later in life. This bill only prohibits the sale of any more of those policies that Consumer Reports correctly described as bait and trap policies.

The Medigap Consumer Protection Act will not force insurance carriers out of business. Under current law, insurance carriers must meet loss ratio requirements of 65 percent for the individual market and 75 percent for the group market. Loss ratios represent how much an insurance company must spend on benefits for each dollar it collects in premiums. For instance, a carrier selling Medigap policies to individuals must offer an average of at least 65 cents in benefits for each dollar it collects in premiums. This bill will still allow insurance carriers to clear up to 35 cents on each dollar in premiums they collect.

I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in cosponsoring the Medigap Consumer Protection Act and in working toward its enactment so we can help seniors retain affordable, private Medigap coverage as they grow older. This legislation simply eliminates a type of policy that ropes seniors into policies with deceptively low initial premiums followed by sharp increases when those consumers may no longer have the option of switching to a competing policy.

#### PASSAIC HIGH SCHOOL INDIANS

### HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate one of the greatest high school basketball teams of all time, the 1919-25 Passaic High School Indians. Over that 6-year stretch, the Indians enjoyed the longest winning streak ever for a high school, college, or professional team. They won an incredible 159 games in a row.

From December 17, 1919, to February 6, 1925, Passaic High was unbeatable. In an era of low-scoring basketball, they outscored their opponents by an average of 39 points, topping 100 points a dozen times. They once crushed an opponent 145 to 5.

While these teams were blessed with great players, such dominance transcends individual stars and usually begins with the coach. It was Prof. Ernest Blood that led the charge for these young men for so many years. Blood began playing basketball just a year after it

was invented, and soon after he stopped playing he was coaching. In Potsdam, NY, his high school team did not lose to another high school team from 1906 to 1915.

A move to Passaic, NJ, in 1918 brought him to the job that would make him famous. Although his first season was marred by a defeat in the State championship, the streak began on the first day of the 1919 season. Win after win turned into State championship after State championship. As the streak progressed, the team became the center of attention for this industrial city: A factory whistle would indicate the results of the game, two loud blasts for a win, one long blast for a loss. Blood's foresight and desire kept the team ahead of its time, and he eventually led them to five consecutive undefeated seasons, 147 games in all.

Blood left after the 1923-24 season, but the streak continued well into the next season, finally coming to an end in a 39 to 35 defeat at the hands of Hackensack High on February 6, 1925. It had been 159 games since the Indians had experienced a defeat, and the magnitude of their accomplishments did not go unnoticed. Coach Blood was the third coach ever elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame, and one of the team's greatest stars, Johnny Roosma, was also accorded that honor.

And to this day, the wonder teams of Passaic High are enjoying much-deserved accolades. On May 18 of this year, they will be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame of New Jersey. Congratulations to the families and friends of all of those connected with these special athletes. Their accomplishments are rightly being enshrined into the memory of our great State, and memorialized for basketball fans across the country.

#### STATEMENT HONORING RAY AND BETTY WELLS

### HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the Girl Scout spring gala being held by the Girl Scout Council of Bergen County, May 12, in Teaneck, NJ. They will honor Ray and Betty Wells, who will receive the Girl Scouts Outstanding Achievement Award for their many years of service to the Girl Scouts and other community and civic organizations. Proceeds from this event will benefit nearly 10,000 girls and 2,500 Girl Scout volunteers.

Ray and Betty Wells, whom I have known for many years, are community leaders who are an inspiration to us all. Each has a résumé of service, activities, and dedication that is incomparable. Their energy and enthusiasm are endless. It is their brand of volunteerism and personal generosity that has made our county an exceptional place to work and raise a family. Bergen County has been blessed to have good citizens like Betty and Ray.

Betty Wells, a Girl Scout herself for 5 years as a young girl, worked as a volunteer in Girl Scouting for more than 25 years, highlighted

by 10 years as the leader of Troops 350 and 276 in Paramus. She was a charter member of the Order of the Evergreen and is a recipient of the "Thanks" badge, the Girl Scouts' highest honor for adults. She served as the association chairwoman and service team chairwoman in Paramus.

Ray Wells became involved in the Girl Scouts through Betty's involvement, serving first for several years as the fund drive chairman in Paramus before ultimately taking on the fundraising efforts for all of Bergen County. He also served on the board of directors. An architect, he also wrote a Girl Scout manual on building.

The Wells' Girl Scout activities centered, of course, around their daughter, Holly, who enjoyed Girl Scouting from age 7 to 17 with her mother as troop leader. Holly today continues the tradition of shaping young people as owner and operator of a preschool in Pennsylvania.

Holly, of course, is only one member of Ray and Betty's lovely family, to whom they are immensely dedicated. They have two other daughters, Kerry, a secretary who lives in Fair Lawn, and Julie, a nurse in Seoul, South Korea. Their son, Tom, is an attorney, Peter is director of the Paramus Building Department and Jeff is the principal of Wells Associates, the family architecture firm.

Betty and Ray, who both grew up in Lyndhurst, moved in 1953 and began their involvement in community service almost immediately. Both served as Sunday School teachers at the Old Paramus Reformed Church, where Ray was Sunday School superintendent and Betty was a choir member, deacon, and elder. Betty joined the Stony Lane Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization after their children began school, eventually becoming its president. She also was a member of or volunteered at the Paramus Junior Women's Club, the Paramus Garden Club, the Paramus Women's Club, the Juvenile Conference Committee, the Hermitage in Ho-Ho-Kus, the Church Guild at Valley Hospital.

Ray was a member of or worked with the Paramus Jaycees, the George Washington Cemetery Board, the Aviation Hall of Fame, the Bergen County Regional Blood Center, the Oradell Planning Board, the Bergen Museum of Arts and Science, the Boy Scouts, March of Dimes, and United Way. He joined the Paramus Rotary Club in 1964 and went on to serve as a director, president, and district governor before becoming an international director of the service organization. He headed up Rotary projects as diverse as Polio Plus—an effort to eradicate polio—Preserve Planet Earth and restoration of the gazebo at Bergen Pines.

The Rotary motto best describes Ray and Betty: "Service Above Self." Their good work and service to their neighbors and fellow men are limitless. Four decades of community service is a record that few can even come close to matching. I give my heartfelt congratulations to the Wells and wish them the best for the future. We are all blessed to have you pass our way. God bless and Godspeed.

CHANGE OF COMMAND OF  
ADMIRAL SKIP DIRREN

**HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Rear Adm. Frank M. "Skip" Dirren, Jr., who has been the commander of Naval Base Jacksonville since July of 1992, and who will be leaving us tomorrow to accept a new command in Norfolk, VA. Admiral Dirren is a man of character, courage and compassion and an outstanding naval officer. I am proud to call him my friend.

If it is true that "nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else," as J.M. Barrie once said, then Skip Dirren has not done a lick of work since he joined the Navy in 1964. He loves his job and is the quintessential Navy man—patriotic, loyal, and devoted to duty. A decorated veteran helicopter pilot, he has made the Navy his life, and he exemplifies the virtues that I associate with the service at its best.

Skip is also a fine leader and good man to have in your corner, as he has consistently demonstrated during his tenure in Jacksonville. His turn at the helm of our Navy complex has helped to steer our facilities and personnel through some very rough waters, and he has strengthened the already good relationship between the community and its Naval facilities in many ways.

His community activism has particularly endeared him to our citizens, and his warmth and eloquence have made him a much sought-after speaker. In short, he has become a respected and beloved member of the community, and his generosity, his kindness, and his many talents will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, although the business of the House prevents me from attending Admiral Dirren's change of command ceremony tomorrow, my thoughts will be with him and his lovely wife, Susan, as they celebrate a job well done and prepare to enter a new chapter in their life together. I hope they know that they take with them the gratitude and affection of our entire city. I wish them both fair winds and following seas.

TRIBUTE TO MORTON GOULD:  
COMPOSER, CONDUCTOR, AND  
FRIEND

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight merely a few of the countless accomplishments in my dear friend Morton Gould's distinguished career, recently capped off by his receipt of the Pulitzer Prize for music composition.

A New York native, Gould began this career at the early age of six, when his first composition was published. His tutelage in piano and composition continued, and by age 21, he was

conducting and arranging weekly orchestra radio programs for the WOR Mutual Network.

Perhaps Gould's most performed instrumental piece is his "Pavane," from his "Second Symphonette." Other works familiar to all of us include "Latin-American Symphonette," "Spirituels for Orchestra," "Tap Dance Concerto," "Jekyll and Hyde Variations," and "American Salute."

The Library of Congress has commissioned his work, as well as the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, The New York City Ballet, and the American Ballet Theater. He has composed scores for Broadway musicals, films, and both television movies and series.

Conductors worldwide have had the pleasure of directing performances of his compositions, and, as conductor, Gould has appeared with major orchestras in the United States, Japan, Australia, and Israel.

Some of Gould's other awards include a Grammy Award, several Grammy nominations, the 1983 Gold Baton Award, the 1985 Medal of Honor for Music from the National Arts Club, and the Kennedy Center Honors in 1994. He received the Pulitzer Prize this year for "Stringmusic," which was composed at the request of Director Rostropovich, to commemorate his last season as director of the Washington, DC, National Symphony Orchestra.

Gould served as president of ASCAP [American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers] from 1986 to 1994. He has been an ASCAP member since 1935 and a board member since 1959.

Certainly we have all benefited over the years from his work and know that future generations will benefit as well. Please join me today in honoring one of America's truest virtuosos.

SALUTE TO MR. ROBERT HEENAN

**HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert T. Heenan, the business manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 542, who is the 1995 recipient of the Salute to Labor Gold Medal Award.

Mr. Heenan joined the Operating Engineers Local 542 in 1948 after completing his service with the U.S. Army. He has served as the business agent, collection manager of the welfare and pension fund and the business manager for local 542.

In addition to his work with local 542, Mr. Heenan has served with distinction on the Pennsylvania State Housing Authority, the CETA board of Bucks County, PA and the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority. Mr. Heenan is the current vice president of the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council and the Pennsylvania State AFL-CIO Council.

Mr. Heenan's commitment to community service has led to significant strides in neighborhoods throughout the Philadelphia region. Under Mr. Heenan's leadership, local 542's

apprenticeship program has donated a great deal of assistance to local nonprofit groups. For example, Mr. Heenan is responsible for the reconstruction of two ballfields at seventh and Packer Streets in Philadelphia.

Mr. Heenan is also a long-time supporter of UNICO Charities the American Diabetes Association, and the Marine Corps League's toys for tots campaign.

I join the Philadelphia chapter on UNICO, Bob's wonderful wife Mary Heenan, and the Heenan children and grandchildren in recognizing Mr. Robert Heenan for his fine contributions to his country and community. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors and am confident that he will continue to be a great contributor to communities throughout the Delaware Valley.

THE MILITARY HOUSING  
ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1995

**HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing H.R. 1611, the Military Housing Assistance Act of 1995. The purpose of this measure is to enable active duty military personnel to purchase homes for themselves and their families in areas where the supply of suitable military housing is inadequate. As a result, the Department of Defense's on-base housing costs could be significantly reduced. This joint Department of Veterans' Affairs/Department of Defense [VA/DOD] program would be an excellent example of Federal agencies working together to enhance the lives of our armed services personnel while reducing DOD construction expenditures.

Under this program, DOD would be authorized to buy down the interest rate for certain active duty personnel purchasing off-base housing using the VA guaranteed home loan. This buydown would lower the monthly mortgage payment during the first 3 years of the loan. Loans covered by this proposal would, as is currently the case with VA home loans, be made by private lenders. The escrowed funds needed for the buydown would be provided to the lender by the VA. DOD would then reimburse the VA. These loans would be processed in the same way as any other VA loan which includes a buydown except that these loans would be underwritten at the second-year rate rather than at the full note rate, thus enabling more individuals to qualify for the loans. Additionally, DOD would be authorized to indemnify mortgagees against any loss, thereby covering the difference between the VA guaranty and any actual loss on the sale of the property.

Eligibility for these loans would be limited to all enlisted members and officers in the pay grade O-3 or below who are first-time users of the VA home loan program. Application for participation in this program would be made within 12 months of assignment to a housing shortage area. The service Secretaries would designate those bases that have a housing shortage.

An important component of this bill would require individuals participating in the program to participate in comprehensive prepurchase counseling. It has been demonstrated that counseling of this type results in borrowers who are better prepared to assume the responsibilities of homeownership. Additionally, VA would be authorized to assign qualified VA loan guaranty personnel to the bases designated as having housing shortages. These VA personnel would provide prepurchase counseling and loan servicing assistance and assist GI's with the purchase and subsequent sale of their homes.

After consulting with and obtaining the agreement of the VA, DOD would be authorized to transfer its property management jurisdiction to the VA. Thirty VA FTEE would be authorized to fulfill these responsibilities.

Under this bill, DOD would be authorized \$104 million and \$6 million would be authorized for the VA. VA estimates these amounts would provide for 32,000 loans per year.

I believe the Military Housing Assistance Act of 1995 would establish an excellent program, and I urge my colleagues who would like to cosponsor this measure to contact Bo Maske at 225-5031 or Beth Kilker at 225-9756.

REMARKS BY MAJ. GEN. VANG PAO AT THE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL CEREMONY IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SAIGON

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, April 30, I was at the Vietnam Memorial here in Washington. I met personally with many Vietnam veterans and their families at the Wall there to remember the sacrifices of our soldiers and the 20th anniversary of the tragic fall of South Vietnam to communism.

One of the important ceremonies that I attended at the Wall was held by the Counterparts organization where thousands of Montagnards, Hmong, Laotians and Vietnamese attended to mark the 20th anniversary of the tragic and bloody Communist takeover of their homelands. Some of those in attendance at this somber and important event were Grant McClure, Commanding Officer of Counterparts and former advisor to the Montagnards in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam, Ambassador Bill Colby former director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Maj. Gen. Homer Smith head of the Defense Attaché Office during the fateful last hours in Saigon; Brig. Gen. Kor Ksor, a Montagnard leader; Maj. Gen. Vang Pao, Commander of Military Region II for the Royal Lao Army and head of Hmong Special Forces; General Thonglit Chokbenbun, Royal Lao Army Commander; Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt the distinguished Lao/Hmong scholar, author and photojournalist; and Philip Smith, Senior Legislative Assistant to former U.S. Congressman Don Ritter and current Director of the Center for Public Policy Analysis.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is crucial for the United States and Thailand not to forget the

tremendous sacrifices of our former Vietnamese, Montagnard, Hmong and Laotian allies during the Vietnam War. I call upon all Vietnam veterans and Americans to oppose the current U.S. State Department and Thai policy of forcibly repatriating many of these former Hmong and Vietnamese Special Forces Commandos and combat veterans from refugee camps back to the repressive Communist regimes that they fled.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to make a part of the public record the speech that Maj. Gen. Vang Pao gave at the 20th Anniversary Ceremony which describes so well the major contribution made by many of our former allies and so many American soldiers during the Vietnam war.

STATEMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL VANG PAO

Dear Honorable Guests, Fellow Veterans, Ladies and Gentlemen: We are gathered here today at this ceremony to mark the 20th Anniversary of the tragic fall of South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to invading Communist forces. But, we are also gathered here to recognize and honor those men and women who sacrificed and lost their lives in the Vietnam War—the Second Indochina War—fighting for freedom, democracy, and for the peace and security of Southeast Asia and the United States.

Tens of thousands of Lao and Hmong soldiers and their families who fought against the invading Soviet-backed North Vietnamese Army during the war are buried in unmarked graves in Laos and Vietnam. They fought to defend their country and to help the United States against the expansion of Soviet Communism through its proxy regime in Hanoi. But, their names are not on the Vietnam Memorial Wall here in Washington. So, we must be vigilant to keep alive their memory in our hearts and tell the story of their brave sacrifices to our children and our children's children so that their memory and the important cause that they fought for is not forgotten by future generations.

In Laos, from 1969 to 1970, the Lao and Hmong Special Forces under my command captured and occupied the strategic site of the Plain of Jars (Thong Haihin) which was crucial to the overall course of the war effort. The Plain of Jars is near the border of North Vietnam and was controlled by three North Vietnamese divisions. During heavy fighting the Lao and Hmong Special Forces under my command defeated the North Vietnamese troops and captured many Soviet-supplied tanks, artillery pieces, anti-aircraft guns, trucks and many hundreds of tons of small arms and other equipment which cost Moscow an enormous amount of money. The Superpowers—the Soviet Union and the United States—were surprised that such a small number of Hmong and Lao soldiers could defeat such a large force of the North Vietnamese Army and then occupy and defend the Plain of Jars. This battlefield victory saved many Americans from having to fight against these North Vietnamese troops and their weapons as well as greatly slowing the advance of Communism in Southeast Asia for many additional years.

It is also important to note the major contribution made by the Lao and Hmong soldiers of the Royal Lao Army in locating and destroying many of the North Vietnamese Army's supply lines along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The Lao/Hmong Special Forces caused heavy losses to the North Vietnamese troops and rescued many hundreds of downed American pilots.

The United States did not lose the Vietnam War on the battlefield. The United

States withdrew from the Indochina War in 1975 because of world politics, U.S.-Soviet détente, American-Chinese relations and U.S. domestic opposition to the War. However, the United States eventually won the war in world politics in the struggle between Communism and Capitalism. Communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe collapsed with the help of freedom fighters like the Hmong and Lao combat veterans who assisted the United States in resisting the expansion of international Communism. Many Communist countries changed to become free countries because of the sacrifices of the Laotian and American men and women who defended freedom and democracy during the Cold War. Therefore, we must recognize and honor those men and women-in-arms who fought and died in the Vietnam War and remember that freedom, democracy and peace will once again return to Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia in the near future.

Thank you for joining me here today to mark this important occasion. God bless you all.

CENTRAL NEW YORK: NATION'S FIRST PEE WEE WORLD HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, last year I was as proud as I could be, or thought I could be, of some very special young athletes in my home district, the Syracuse Stars Pee Wee Hockey Team. They had won the USA Nationals and all of our hometown was awash in publicity and congratulations.

Today I am eager to report that the same team has once again prevailed. They are now the holders of the World Cup of Pee Wee Hockey, having won on February 19 this year the 36th Annual Tournoi De Quebec in Quebec City. The tournament hosted 115 teams from 17 countries. The Stars defeated teams from Russia, Ukraine, Detroit, and Toronto on their way to becoming the first United States team to ever win the World Cup.

To put this tournament in perspective, more than 550 former or present NHL players have participated, including Wayne Gretzky, Brett Hull, and Mario Lemieux.

The players are: Daniel Bequer, goalie, of North Syracuse; Brian Balash, forward, of Auburn; Gary Baronick, forward, of North Syracuse; Drew Bucktooth, forward, of the Onondaga Indian Nation; Tim Connolly, forward, of Baldwinsville; Jeremy Downs, defense, of Syracuse; Joshua Downs, defense, of Syracuse; J.D. Forrest, defense, of Auburn; Todd Jackson, forward, of Cortland; Josh Jordan, forward, of Marathon; Tom LeRoux, forward, of Syracuse; Doug MacCormack, forward, of Cortland; Matt Magloine, defense, of North Syracuse; Freddy Meyer, defense, of New Hampshire; Anthony Pace, forward, of Cortland; Steve Pakan, defense, of Syracuse; Mike Saraceni, goalie, of North Syracuse; and Ricky Williams, forward, of McGraw. Head Coach Don Kirnan was assisted by coaches Mike Connolly and John Jackson and manager Chris Kirnan.

Freddy Meyer won the Tournament MVP trophy and Drew Bucktooth won the Grand Finale Game MVP. Tim Connolly was top scorer

of the tournament and along with Anthony Pace was named a single-game MVP. Dan Bequer gave up only two goals in the last three games, which proved for some exciting hockey, especially in the Stars' 6-2 final game win over the Toronto Young Nationals.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these young athletes for their performance, and for bringing home to the United States our first World Cup of Pee Wee Hockey.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOOD SERVICE STAFF AT THE MIDDLE COUNTRY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the excellent food service staff at Middle Country School District in Centereach, Long Island, NY, for their hard work and outstanding service.

Next week, we will begin to celebrate National Child Nutrition Week, and it's an important time for us all to focus on the health and well-being of our children. For the food service staff at Middle Country schools, however, every week is Child Nutrition Week and every day is an opportunity to make sure that children are eating healthy and staying fit.

These individuals at the Middle Country schools continually go above and beyond the call of duty. Their work is not just another job, it is an important vocation. They are entrusted with our society's most precious possessions—our children. In their delicate hands, we place the crucial responsibility that's usually just reserved for mothers and fathers—the responsibility of caring for our children. The food service workers rise to this occasion graciously, and they gently nurture our students.

The food service staff who work at the Middle Country schools know that the little things make all the difference. They go out of their way to make sure that a particular little boy finishes his milk or a certain little girl sticks to her special diet. For this extra effort, we are most grateful, and on behalf of all of the people of eastern Long Island, I would like to thank them for a job well done. They truly are role models. Their example can teach us all.

I would also like to extend a special note of congratulations and gratitude to Audrey Prentice, the coordinator of the Middle Country School District's food service program. Audrey is a tireless champion for the health and welfare of our society's most vulnerable members. Her heart is in her work and that makes all the difference. I am very thankful for all of her wisdom, her counsel, and her service.

**WELCOME TO JESSAMINE COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**HON. SCOTTY BAESLER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. BAESLER. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to welcome Jessamine County Middle School

from Nicholasville, KY, to Washington, DC, on their annual trip.

There is a proud history in our Nation's Capital and I am pleased that these fine young men and women are able to take advantage of the educational opportunities available here in Washington.

**REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the more than 1.5 million victims of Armenian genocide who perished 79 years ago, and their families who still to this day remember this crime against humanity with the same intensity and pain that was felt during 8 years of murder, plight, and savagery.

For 3,000 years, Armenians and Armenian culture had thrived in the area covered by the Ottoman Empire. The Turkish authorities in power in 1915, however, systematically wiped out nearly two-thirds of its Armenian population. They first executed intellectuals and doctors, then adult males, leaving the elderly, the very young, and women defenseless, as the Turkish Government forced them on death marches through the deserts.

In 8 short years, Turkey managed to slaughter a vibrant, thriving, indigenous population, whose descendants today are ever vigilante in their reminding the world never to repeat crimes of this magnitude again.

For too long, people have ignored or forgotten this unimaginable atrocity. The time has come for the United States, and people everywhere, to remember and honor the victims of this brutal crime against humanity. It is imperative that we all remember the incredible inhumanity of which people are capable, for to remember is to be vigilant. And vigilance is the only way we can ever keep such atrocities from reoccurring. Through these efforts we can promote peace and goodwill among all nations and cultures. We must, for if not all that we consider humanity will be lost.

**CUTS ENDANGER OUR ELDERLY**

**HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Republican party is certainly full of contradictions. Six months after signing a "Contract With America" that included a platform promising fairness for senior citizens, they propose a budget that will harm the poorest and the least healthy of our Nation's older population. The House Republican budget outlines cutting Medicare funding by \$270 billion over the next 7 years. In the same period of time, they propose that we abdicate responsibility for the Medicaid to the States, while decreasing the funding by \$184 billion. In order to justify their cuts, they are insisting that without reform, the

Medicare Program will be bankrupt by the year 2002.

Frankly, their new position makes very little sense. After all, nothing is being done to actually reform the system. Capping Medicare spending is not reform. Last year, President Clinton and the Democratic leaders in Congress struggled to reform the whole health care system, and to prevent the very crisis in Medicare that the Republicans decry today. Republicans refused to assist in the health care debate, and preferred partisan sniping. They were hiding their heads in the sand. They were all too eager to criticize the Democratic reform that would have applied small Medicare savings to comprehensive health care reform.

This year, we hear nothing of comprehensive reform. We are moving no closer to universal and affordable coverage. There are no genuine efforts to make our health care system more effective and more affordable. But the Republicans are talking about Medicare and Medicaid cuts. The cuts that they are proposing will not go toward saving Medicare, or ensuring universal coverage, but toward tax breaks to the wealthy.

The Republican party, which proudly authored a bill entitled the "Senior Citizens Fairness Act" now proposes to take a hit and the poor and the sick elderly, without putting one penny back into their health care. They are offering us all the pain of cuts, without the benefits of reform. Cuts like these are misguided, and should not be tolerated. Many people who have made tremendous contributions to this Nation, people in the twilight of their life, will suffer as a result of this budget.

**SUPERFUND LIABILITY ALLOCATION ACT OF 1995, H.R. 1616**

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, if ever a Federal program needed reform, it is the Superfund Program. It was first created in 1980 under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act [CERCLA]. It was changed and reauthorized in 1986 under the Superfund Amendments and Re-authorization Act [SARA]. It was supposed to be reauthorized in the last Congress and committees in the House and in the other body reported comprehensive reform bills, but this effort fell short in the final days of the session.

At the center of the Superfund Program are liability provisions arguably more draconian than found in any other Federal statute. Superfund liability is retroactive, meaning that potentially responsible parties can be held liable for lawful actions taken before enactment of CERCLA or SARA. Superfund liability is also strict, meaning that there is no need to prove negligence to establish liability. It is also joint and several, meaning that a party or parties that contributed small amounts of contamination to a contaminated site can be held liable for all cleanup expenses.

With Superfund site cleanups now averaging \$30 million, the incentive to avoid any liability at any cost is strong. Small wonder that

Superfund has launched a tidal wave of litigation. At least \$1 in \$4 spent on Superfund cleanups is spent on lawyers and the consultants needed to support lawyers in litigation to avoid Superfund liability or to transfer liability to other parties via so-called contribution suits.

In my district, one of these contribution suits eventually involved more than 700 firms and organizations. More recently, a firm that had negotiated a cleanup plan costing nearly \$20 million with EPA turned around and filed contribution suits against three dozen local firms. More important than the moneys involved, these Superfund-driven suits have divided whole communities and created resentment that will last for years. This can't be what Congress wanted to happen when the program was created.

In response to these unpleasant realities, I am today joining the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BOUCHER], in introducing the Liability Allocation Act of 1995. Mr. BOUCHER and I first addressed these issues in November 1993 in the Superfund Liability Reform Act (H.R. 3624). After negotiations with the administration and other Superfund stakeholders, we introduced a revised version of H.R. 3624 as H.R. 4351, also entitled the Superfund Liability Allocation Act. This latter measure became section 412 of H.R. 3800, as reported by the then Committee on Energy and Commerce, and section 413 of the same bill as reported by the then Committee on Public Works and Transportation. As I mentioned earlier, H.R. 3800 was not considered by the House prior to adjournment in 1994.

This legislation would create an entirely new system of liability under Superfund, one based upon proportionality and the allocation of liability shares among potentially responsible parties. It places a moratorium on the commencement of cost recovery and contribution suits for cleanup costs until the allocation process is concluded and a stay on all existing cost recovery and contribution litigation. Each party's liability would be calculated in expedited manner; parties will pay only their equitable share of the cleanup costs, those clearly related to their respective roles at the site and to the amount of waste they actually contribute; finally, the expedited process for assigning liability and the limited court review of that process should significantly decrease transaction costs for all parties at Superfund sites.

The new system established under this bill would operate as follows:

First, after a site is listed on Superfund's National Priority List, EPA notifies all parties at the site that they are required to participate in the liability allocation process.

Second, the parties choose from an EPA-approved list of private allocators to conduct the allocation.

Third, EPA and any of the parties may nominate additional parties to be included in the process or may excuse parties from the process.

Fourth, EPA is able to provide expedited settlements to "de minimis" and "de micromis" parties to enable such parties to avoid having to participate in the 18-month allocation process, satisfying small business' major concern.

Fifth, the allocator is armed with the necessary information-gathering powers, including subpoena power, and is able to enforce such

powers with the backing of the Justice Department. Parties who do not cooperate in providing information are subject to stiff civil and criminal penalties.

Sixth, each party is given the opportunity to be heard, including submitting an initial statement and commenting on the draft allocation report before the final report is issued.

Seventh, after considering the "Gore Factors"—including the party's role at the site and the toxicity and volume of material—the allocator issues a report identifying each party's share of liability for the cleanup costs at the site.

Eighth, each party may settle with the EPA based on its allocated share. As consideration, the party is shielded from joint and several liability and from actions for contribution from other parties. Any party who rejects its allocated share will be exposed to joint and several liability and remains unprotected from contribution suits. Although the allocation is nonbinding as to the parties, the exposure to joint and several liability serves as a disincentive to reject the allocated share.

Ninth, the Government is bound by the allocation unless there is proof of bias, fraud or unlawful conduct on the allocator's part or if "no rational interpretation of the facts before the allocator, in light of the factors he is required to consider, would form a reasonable basis" for the allocation. The Government only has 180 days during which such review can occur, after which the right to reject the allocation is waived.

Tenth, the orphan share—for defunct and insolvent parties—is paid out of the Superfund.

Eleventh, the Government reimburses parties who pay for the cleanup for amounts spent beyond their allocated shares. The Government also pursues recalcitrant parties who fail to pay their allocated shares.

Mr. Speaker, many interests worked together in developing this legislation. If the adage that success has many fathers while failure is an orphan is accurate, then the father of this excellent proposal is my cosponsor and learned friend from Virginia, Mr. BOUCHER. We have cosponsored several bills in the past and each of these bills has done well in the legislative process. It is a pleasure to join him again in offering this legislation.

We urge every Member of this House to join us in cosponsoring H.R. 1616, the Superfund Liability Allocation Act of 1995, and ask that they call David Luken of my staff (ext. 53761) or Andrew Wright of Mr. BOUCHER's staff (ext. 53861) to do so.

RABBI AND REBBETZEN RYBAK  
HONORED

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday night, May 14, 1995, Rabbi Dr. Solomon Rybak and Rebbetzen Dr. Shoshana Rybak will observe the completion of 10 years affiliation with the congregation and service to the Passaic and Clifton communities at Congrega-

tion Adas Israel in Passaic, New Jersey. I congratulate them and wish them all the best as they celebrate this truly special occasion.

Rabbi and Rebbetzen Rybak have been recognized as exceptional personalities in the Passaic-Clifton area as well as in the larger metropolitan New York-New Jersey educational community. Both have attained significant achievements in furthering Jewish education and values. Upon completing his studies at Yeshiva University and receiving rabbinical ordination from the late, renowned Torah giant Rabbi Dr. Joseph Soloveitchik, Rabbi Rybak served as Rabbi Soloveitchik's research assistant in the Rogosin Institute of Ethics. Rabbi Rybak was appointed by Dr. Samuel Belkin, President of Yeshiva University, to the position of Rosh Yeshiva at the Yeshiva University High School and held that position for 27 years. Rabbi Rybak earned his Ph.D. in Semitic languages from the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University and has lectured and published on educational and Halachic topics. In addition to his duties as spiritual leader of Congregation Adas Israel, Rabbi Rybak is a Professor of Jewish Studies at Touro college, serves as the editor of CHAVRUSA, the professional publication of the Yeshiva University Rabbinical Alumni and is a member of the executive board of the Rabbinical Council of America.

Equally accomplished, Rebbetzen Rybak has balanced the dual role of a Rebbetzin and a professional in her daily routine. Rebbetzen Rybak was educated in both Israel and in New York and holds a Jewish Teacher's Diploma from Beth Jacob Seminary and a Doctorate in school and clinical psychology from Pace University. Rebbetzin Rybak has been involved in many of the congregation's programs, concentrating on the youth Yom Tov celebrations and the congregation's Simchat Torah, Purim, and Yom Haatzmaut festivals. As a therapist and licensed psychologist, Dr. Rybak has been involved with several groups of exceptional children including the handicapped, the developmentally disabled and the gifted. She is currently the clinical coordinator at the Hebrew Academy for Special Children [HASC] in Brooklyn and is a member of several professional organizations including the American Psychological Association, the National Association of School Psychologists, and the Council for Exceptional Children.

Upon their arrival in Passaic in 1984, Rabbi and Rebbetzen Rybak found a diversified community representing the full spectrum of modern Jewish society. In a quiet and unassuming manner Rabbi and Rebbetzen Rybak began actively participating in the ongoing revitalization of the Passaic-Clifton community. The contributions of Rabbi and Rebbetzen Rybak over the past 10 years have been instrumental in continuing to make Passaic and Clifton attractive to young Jewish couples looking for a vibrant area in which to establish their home. Their dedication to community service and education serves as a role model and inspiration to all. I salute these two fine individuals, and can only say that I am proud to call them members of the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey.

RACHEL D. KILLIAN,  
SCRIPTWRITING CONTEST WINNER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its ladies auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. This past year, more than 126,000 secondary school students participated in the contest competing for the 54 national scholarships totaling more than \$109,000.

This year's Tennessee winner is Rachel D. Killian, a junior at South-Doyle High School. Miss Killian is an active member of her student council, enjoys reading and drama, and belongs to Knoxville Youth in Government. She plans a career in television and radio journalism-communications. Miss Killian was sponsored by VEW Post 1733 and its ladies auxiliary in Knoxville, TN.

I would ask that Miss Killian's essay, "My Vision for America" be entered into the RECORD. I believe we can all benefit from her insightful, patriotic remarks:

MY VISION FOR AMERICA

This country was founded by people of great vision. Although they came from different countries and backgrounds, they had a common dream which brought them together—the dream of a land where they could have better lives. By working together, these strong pioneers made this dream of freedom and opportunity a fantastic reality we call "America."

During the past two hundred years, this vision of freedom has appealed to many trapped under oppressive governments. Thousands found their way to America each year, escaping from wars, hunger, political unrest and religious persecution. They found a haven in America. These immigrants are our ancestors. They are our relatives not necessarily by blood, but by a common heritage. They endured many pains and sacrifices to arrive here. Many had nothing to hang on to but a dream.

These early Americans were genuinely grateful for every opportunity they were given. They respected the government for all it provided and gladly participated in the duties of citizenship. Unlike the grateful citizens of the past, many Americans today insult the government and blame the system for every problem. They demand benefits, such as military protections, without accepting the burden of paying taxes. They often believe they are entitled to certain rights over others and have forgotten what it means to be tolerant of others' beliefs. Worst of all, they display a loss of confidence in the future of America and the capability of American leaders. These unpatriotic feelings are destroying the optimism, the honor and the pride we should have in America. Because there are people burning with anger instead of burning with pride, we have lost the sense of brotherhood which once flowed from sea to shining sea and united this country.

My vision of America calls for a change in every American heart. We must remember the dreams of our immigrant ancestors and imitate some of their patriotic values such as love for each other, for our community and for our government. The men and women who created our nation did not expect others

to rescue them from hardships. They were not complainers, but achievers, and their hard work brought America prosperity.

In my dream we are more like our ancestors. We are people of vision pushing for what we know is right. We display tolerance and patience for other individuals, and we emphasize our similarities rather than our differences. We look at our collective ancestors and say, "We are one, with one spirit. We are an American Family."

In my vision, I see a "new" America with patriotic citizens who know and appreciate all the lyrics to the "Star-Spangled Banner." I see citizens who talk about what's right with the country instead of what's wrong, where Uncle Sam is welcome at every dinner table and where citizens are proud to show they are Americans at times other than during the Olympics. I see a country that shares dreams and reaches for goals that will benefit everyone, not just a select few. I see Americans with changed attitudes toward each other and a land where every worker has a respected place and purpose—where every single person feels like an important part of one united spirit.

There are ways that my vision for America could be achieved. First, American newspapers need to print more positive articles to improve the public morale. Second, to remind citizens of their many blessings, everyone needs to be informed of the lack of human rights in other countries. It is so easy to forget how lucky we are to be living in the United States. Finally, Americans must stop dividing into so many groups. Instead of being Democrat or Republican, upper class or blue collar, black or white, we should be American. If we are going to be strong as a country, and supportive of each other, then we must be united as a people.

My vision for America is not a new one. Our ancestors held the same hopes for this country, but over the years their visions have been forgotten. If we could remember one thing from their success, then it should be that we must never stop believing in our visions for America. History has taught us that there are dreams that can come true.

VISION FOR AMERICA

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its ladies auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. This year more than 126,000 secondary school students participated in the contest, competing for the 54 national scholarships totaling more than \$109,000. The contest theme for this year was "My Vision For America."

I am proud to announce that one of my constituents, Stephen Jensen, won fourth place honors and a \$6,000 scholarship in the Voice of Democracy contest. Stephen is a junior at Tarpon Springs High School and hopes to pursue a career in entertainment or public relations.

In his speech, Stephen reminds us all of what can be accomplished when people are united by a common objective. I would like to share Stephen's speech with you.

What a vision we must have been. Drenched in sweat, caked with mud, and sur-

rounded by the foul stench of rotting vegetation and debris, over six thousand volunteers toiled in Albany, Georgia this past summer under the blazing July sun to help the people whose lives were devastated by the worst floods in recent history. Side by side we gutted out homes and churches sodden by the floods and stripped the buildings down to their foundations. Sharing in this service gave me a vision of what an American community can accomplish when people are united by a common purpose.

There are those in this country who are overwhelmed by another flood sweeping through the streets of our land. The surge of violence and crime, drug abuse, loss of private and public virtue and the erosion of the family are but some of the storm-waters surging over the banks in our country today. Our first reaction is to view these problems with bitterness and despair, but if we can truly hold on to a positive vision, we will not lose hope. Let us share in the view expressed by American poet, Carl Sandburg when he wrote, "I see America not in the setting sun of a black night of despair ahead of us. I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun, fresh from the burning, creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible to men and women of will and vision."

Experiencing great opposition is not unique to Americans today. Are the challenges we face any more difficult than those faced by previous generations? Early colonists struggled with disease, famine, and the rigors of an untamed wilderness. Later, our inexperienced forefathers fought the superior military and economic might of Great Britain to claim their freedom from oppression. In the nineteenth century, America was literally torn apart by Civil War yet a people was freed from slavery. Pioneers of that day endured tragic hardships in settling the West, yet prevailed and helped this country grow to its present dimensions. In this century, Americans have faced World War I and the devastation of the Great Depression, followed almost immediately after by the exhausting conflicts of the second World War. America's foundation was created and strengthened through overcoming all of these trials.

My vision for America calls for renewal of the ideals and faith in this country that made our forefathers victorious and America great. It was their commitment to these beliefs that gave them the determination to sacrifice and surmount tremendous obstacles. We as Americans must uphold heritage of freedom. We must reaffirm respect for the dignity of the individual and respect for our laws and those who work to carry them out. We must acknowledge a higher power and adhere to the principles of honesty, hard work, cooperation with others and loyalty to our country.

As President John F. Kennedy declared, "No nation can remain free unless its people cherish their freedoms, understand the responsibilities they entail, and nurture the will to preserve them."

Working side by side with fellow American in Albany, I experienced first hand the vision of mankind which has given us strength and hope and courage in ages past as we have faced adversity and challenges. I felt the spirit of brotherhood of putting aside personal differences and working together for the common good. This is the vision which calls out through the Pledge of Allegiance, for us to be—"... one nation, under God, indivisible." My vision for America is the one bequeathed to each of us, the legacy of our forebearers who sacrificed their lives in every

age for all our freedoms. I see an America at peace through the renewed commitment of her people, an America that is still the hope of the world. To this vision I pledge, in the words of the Declaration of Independence, 'my life, my fortune, and my sacred honor.'

**THE ENERGY RESOURCE CENTER  
OF DOWNEY, CA, LEADING THE  
WAY FOR AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT  
NATION**

**HON. STEPHEN HORN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, in this day of growing concern over both the economic and the environmental future of our Nation, I rise to spotlight a "new" building in my district that sets a national standard in energy efficiency, environmental concern, and the use of recycled materials. It is the Southern California Gas Company's Energy Resource Center [ERC] which is located in Downey, CA. Envisioned as a clearinghouse on energy and energy conservation information, the planners of the ERC sought to house this information center in a building that embodied the environmental goals of recycling and energy and resource conservation. They succeeded magnificently.

The ERC opened its doors in April in its "new" recycled building as a one-stop center where customers can find the most efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally sensitive solutions to all their energy needs. At the ERC, people will be able to get answers to energy questions on such diverse subjects as natural day lighting, gas cooling, and low emissivity windows. The ERC will also house an air quality permitting office of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, that will allow businesses to make energy decisions and understand air quality permitting requirements in one stop. The ERC will provide meeting space for up to 700 people.

Designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] as an "Energy Star Building," the ERC is one of the Nation's best working models of energy efficiency and cutting-edge environmental products—a living example of how to recycle a building and use energy in the most efficient way. When construction began on the 38-year-old building in April of 1994, there were no wrecking balls. Instead, builders reused many of the materials that were already there. They incorporated those materials with many of the most advanced and environmentally sensitive technologies which are available today.

During the construction process, all of the 550 tons of material removed from the building—asphalt, red clay brick, porcelain plumbing fixtures among others—were sorted and stockpiled. Materials that could not be used again in the building were taken to recycling centers or were given to other builders. About 60 percent of the materials removed—approximately 350 tons—were recycled one way or another.

Contractors were required to use recycled, toxic-free, and environmentally-sensitive materials. As a result, 80 percent of the materials

used in the construction of the ERC came from recycled or reused materials. The ERC building now features many unusual recycled materials such as concrete reinforcement bars made of recycled steel from weapons confiscated by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department; flooring made of wood recovered from a condemned turn-of-the-century building in San Francisco; a wall made from recycled aircraft aluminum; and sections of the movie set used in the recent Warner Bros. film "Disclosure."

In addition to the construction materials, other state-of-the art, environmentally-sensitive methods were used such as soil protection, dust minimization, and adherence to noise control regulations. The preservation of existing land resources was not forgotten—whether they were trees, shrubs, vines, and or top soil. Drought-resistant plants were used for exterior landscaping. There are plans for an underground drip irrigation system to be fed by reclaimed water.

The Southern California Gas Company's Energy Resource Center in Downey, CA, is leading the way for sound environmental construction that is economics-friendly. Mr. Speaker, the Energy Resource Center will enable those who use it to have a much better energy-efficiency future and that is good news for our Nation.

**TRIBUTE TO COLONEL SCOTT E.  
MILLS**

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Scott E. Mills, U.S. Air Force, on the occasion of his retirement from the military.

Scott Mills has served as Chief of the U.S. Air Force Academy Activities Group since June, 1993. During the last 2 years, he has worked closely with many of our offices in coordinating Congressional nominations and inquiries for the Academy.

Born in Berkeley, CA, Scott Mills received a Bachelor of Science degree as a member of the U.S. Air Force Academy Class of 1973. He received a Master of Science in Logistics from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1984. His professional military education includes Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and the Air War College.

Scott Mills' Air Force career is one marked diverse accomplishments. He is a Master Navigator with over 3,000 flying hours, serving as both C-141 navigator and C-141 navigator instructor. He has served with 4th Military Airlift Squadron, 323d Flying Training Wing, Headquarters Air Training Command, the Joint Cruise Missiles Project, and the 323d Support Group.

Scott Mills has received numerous awards including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

Mr. Speaker, Scott Mills' service to his country has touched the lives of countless young men and women either serving in the

U.S. Air Force or attending the United States Air Force Academy. His integrity and his commitment to excellence are the trademarks of his career.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his distinguished and selfless service to our Nation. As he returns to civilian life, may he and his family enjoy the full blessings of the freedom he has so ably defended during this career as a officer in the U.S. Air Force.

**CAREERS BILL INTRODUCTION**

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Training Subcommittee Chairman BUCK MCKEON, his Vice Chairman FRANK RIGGS, Youth Subcommittee Chairman DUKE CUNNINGHAM, Congressman STEVE GUNDERSON, Majority Whip TOM DELAY, Conference Chairman JOHN BOEHNER, and Budget Committee Chairman JOHN KASICH, to introduce the CAREERS (the Consolidated and Reformed Education, Employment, and Rehabilitation Act) Act to reform the Federal job training system.

This bill is the result of a number of subcommittee hearings, and is the first complete product of the Opportunities Committee's Agenda 104 process in which we examined the various programs within our committee's jurisdiction to determine their effectiveness. Our committee will be working to mark up this bill throughout the month of May, and will hopefully send a bill to the floor for consideration early this summer.

We drafted this bill starting from the position that the current Federal work force preparation system is fundamentally flawed and in need of reform. There are simply too many programs, too much bureaucracy, too much duplication, and too much waste of taxpayer money.

The CAREERS bill is drafted based on two overarching principles: quality and local control. For many years, I have been talking to anyone who would listen about the need to institute quality into the Federal training system. Briefly, CAREERS focuses on providing quality training services by:

Simplifying the entire system from more than 100 programs into just 4 that we believe should be the focus of Federal involvement in job training: adult employment and training; adult education; vocational rehabilitation; and, career education and training for youths;

Giving States and communities the maximum amount of responsibility to run their own programs;

Because we believe that education and literacy hold the key to maintaining the long-term economic competitive position of the United States, we require that these issues are a key focus of the Federal work force preparation system; and

Demanding results in the form of high standards for improvement of local training and education systems.

With regard to local control: let me be clear, we are giving States and localities more power

to run Federal job training programs than they have ever had in recent history. Governors will have unprecedented power to coordinate all work force preparation State level activities. As a State's highest ranking elected official, a Governor is the key to the job training system in every State.

It is at the local level, however, where the most dramatic change takes place. Work force development boards led by businesses will coordinate the entire system in communities around the Nation. They will create one-stop sites to ensure coordinated access to all local work force preparation programs. They will operate programs for adult training and severely disabled adults, as well as work with schools, libraries, literacy providers, and others to ensure the entire training system works together within the community.

As you can see, this is a tremendous undertaking and truly a dramatic reform in the way the Federal Government does business in job training. The CAREERS bill also undertakes enormous reforms in the higher education arena as well by eliminating SPRE's (State Postsecondary Review Entities) and privatizing the SALLIE MAE and CONNIE LEE corporations.

Our final note. We have looked carefully at other approaches that would completely turn this program over to States in a modified version of revenue sharing. As I have said many times, I do not support revenue sharing because we have no revenue to share. What I support is outlined in this bill: four consolidated programs, additional flexibility for States and communities, but we must continue the Federal role in demanding results in the form of broad standards and goals to ensure accountability for this important investment of taxpayer dollars.

Again, I salute the hard work of committee members to come up with this bill, and I look forward to working with the administration and committee Democrats to develop a bill that truly reforms our Nation's job training system.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE "CONSOLIDATED AND REFORMED EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND REHABILITATION SYSTEMS ACT" THE "CAREERS ACT"**

**HON. STEVE GUNDERSON**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the skills levels of the American work force are more important than ever before to U.S. competitiveness, this country's programs designed to prepare its workers are seriously fragmented and duplicative. Because education and training programs have been developed independently over many years, there is no national strategy for a coherent work force preparation and development system.

As we all know by now, the U.S. GAO has identified 163 different Federal programs, totaling \$20 billion, which offer some form of job training and/or employment assistance to youth and adults in the United States—yet over the past several years we have continued

to add to this number. A major focus of any reform effort must be to eliminate unnecessary duplication and fragmentation in these systems, and at the same time, provide States and localities with the flexibility needed to build on successful existing programs and initiate change where appropriate.

Today we are introducing the Careers Act—a multitiered job training reform effort that: Streamlines work force preparation programs at the Federal level through consolidation of similar programs; and provides flexibility needed by States and local areas to further reform State and local systems—building on existing successful programs, encouraging change where such change is needed, and involving the private sector at all levels in development of the system.

This proposal builds very closely on two bills that committee Republicans introduced last Congress—H.R. 2943, the National Workforce Preparation and Development Act; and H.R. 4407, the original Careers Act. It also follows through on legislation we introduced earlier this year, H.R. 511, which pledged significant reform in this area. With the Careers Act, we are going much further with reform than anyone dreamed was possible during last Congress.

Specifically, the Careers Act consolidates well over 100 Federal education and training programs—as listed by the GAO—into 4 consolidation grants to States and local communities. The four consolidation grants include: A Youth Workforce Preparation Consolidation Grant—consolidating Vocational Education; School-to-Work; and JTPA's Summer Youth Employment, Year-Round, and Youth Fair Chance Programs with programs would be built on a model integrating academic, vocational, and work-based learning, and enhancing State and local employer input in the design/development/delivery of programs; a vocational rehabilitation consolidation grant; an adult training consolidation grant including programs for disadvantaged adults and for dislocated workers; and an adult education and literacy consolidation grant—including all adult education and literacy programs. The legislation will provide maximum authority to States and localities in the design and operation of their work force preparation system; drive money to States—and down to local communities to the actual points of service delivery; require the involvement of local employers in the design and implementation of local systems—through employer-led local work force development boards; require that service delivery be provided through a one-stop delivery structure; and we even allow the Secretary of Labor and States to use a portion of their funding to establish employer loan accounts for the training of incumbent workers.

Further, the legislation privatizes two existing Government-sponsored enterprises, Sallie Mae and Connie Lee, in the spirit of reduced Federal control for programs that no longer need Government support.

There is no doubt that future U.S. competitiveness is dependent on the skill levels of our workers. In addition to global competition, technological advances and corporate realignments highlight the need to focus on worker preparation. The future of U.S. competitiveness really rests on what I describe as a "3-

legged stool." We have already accomplished the construction of the first leg—tearing down barriers to trade through the enactment of NAFTA and GATT. We are currently working on the second leg—providing tax and other incentives for modernization of the workplace. Finally, the third leg, and probably the most difficult to strengthen and uphold, but one that is imperative to succeed, is that of investing in and strengthening the education and training of our citizenry.

I think that the Careers Act accomplishes the building and strengthening of this third leg. It focuses on the work force preparation and literacy needs of youth, adults, and individuals with disabilities. I hope that we will succeed in seeing its enactment this year.

**FRANKING REDUCTION ACT OF 1995**

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Franking Reduction Act of 1995, legislation that is necessary if we are to truly reform this House. The bloated franking budget has become nothing more than a blatantly abused political advertising slush fund, and it has got to stop. My bill, which has received bipartisan support, would slash the \$31 million franking budget in half.

The past 100 days have seen the passage of several substantial in-House reforms, proving to the American people our commitment to real change. The American people are getting the message that real change is finally happening here in Washington, which is precisely why we can't stop now. We need to continue to pass legislation consistent with our promise of reform to the American people.

To keep the spirit of reform moving, I urge my colleagues to join me in some spring House cleaning. The frank has grown from a tool to inform and educate constituents about legislative issues into a campaign advertisement to promote personal and political agendas. We need to restore credibility to the franking process by making Members accountable for the costs they incur.

Not only will my bill cut franking by 50 percent, but it also requires monthly statements of costs charged to each Member's account to be made available to the public. This bill will apply to sessions of Congress beginning after the date of enactment.

The bloated franking budget can be cut without damaging the ability of Members to communicate with their constituents. In the 103d Congress, I used less than 50 percent of my franking budget, without impairing my ability to effectively correspond with my constituents. It is a common misnomer that a reduction in franking affects a Member's performance. Rather, it forces Members to use their mail budget solely to inform and educate.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can all agree that bringing an end to franking abuse is long overdue. Cutting the franking budget by 50 percent will restore the original intent of the frank while following through with our promise of continued congressional reform. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD H.  
MACKAIN

**HON. JAY KIM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise before the House floor today to recognize a major civic leader in the 41st District who has recently retired from many years of public service. The city of Brea has greatly benefited from the contributions of Mr. Leonard H. MacKain who has been a leader in our community for many years.

Mr. MacKain has previously served on the Brea City Council from 1972 to 1976 with two consecutive terms as mayor from 1974 to 1976. During this period, he played an integral part in the building of the Brea Civic Center and Library and forming redevelopment areas which allowed for the construction of the Brea Mall.

In his career in education, Mr. MacKain has held the positions of superintendent, assistant superintendent, teacher principal, project manager, and board educator member. His commitment and enthusiasm in this area has led to the construction and expansion of five schools in Brea and has created strong bonds between the city and the school district.

I also want to mention that Mr. MacKain has also served on the harbors, beaches and parks commission in 1976 and held this position for the next 15 years.

As the U.S. Congressman for the 41st District, I salute Mr. MacKain for his outstanding achievements and dedication as a public servant. Washington is beginning to delegate its power to the State and local level. This requires able leaders to use excellent judgment with this new responsibility. Mr. Speaker, I believe that Mr. MacKain is a fine example of a decisionmaker at the local level who has put in the effort to successfully transform a community by understanding and recognizing how to utilize existing resources given to it. America needs more people like him.

**HOME FOR GUIDING HANDS**

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, mentally and physically disabled people are being helped by computers in two homes for the disabled because of techniques developed by Lloyd Hartvigsen. He credits part of the success for the lab he established at the Home for Guiding Hands at Lakeside, CA, to Lorraine Barrack, now 36 years of age, who has had cerebral palsy since birth.

"It just made sense that people who can't speak might find their voice with the aid of a computer," said Mr. Hartvigsen, a retired printer who established a 10-terminal lab for residents of the Home for Guiding Hands. The mother of Lorraine Barrack, Mrs. Elaine Barrack, said "It's the first time my daughter has been able to write us a note that says 'I love

you.' This was the first year she's been able to send out Christmas cards. You just can't know how precious these notes and letters are to me."

Mr. Hartvigsen, working with Lorraine's family, decided that the wand and touch screen would be perfect, since she had control of her head movements. "With a touch screen, everything you do with a keyboard can be done just by touching the screen," he explained. "To use the computer, Lorraine puts on a cap with a foot-long wand attached. By leaning forward and tapping the wand on certain parts of the computer screen, she can write a note or play a game."

Lorraine and 14 classmates at the Home for Guiding Hands use the computer system to do schoolwork, to paint and draw, and also to learn to type and send letters to relatives and friends. Mr. Hartvigsen is also employed part-time as a computer instructor at St. Madeleine Sophie's Center for the Handicapped in El Cajon, CA. He began volunteer work at the Home for Guiding Hands in 1988, but it was in the past 4 years that he realized how helpful computers could be as communication tools for the developmentally handicapped. Originally a volunteer at the Home for Guiding Hands, he was hired several months ago by the home to operate the computer lab that he had set up. He now instructs residents of the home in the use of computers, as well as residents of the St. Madeleine Sophie's Center.

Mr. Hartvigsen is the son of Austin Hartvigsen of Santee and the late Mrs. Austin Hartvigsen, both of whom were volunteers for several years at the naturalization ceremonies in San Diego. They welcomed the new citizens, answered any questions they might have, and helped them register to vote. The family is an outstanding example of the best in volunteerism in America.

**WHY AMERICA NEEDS A DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share with my colleagues a letter written by the Honorable Jesse Brown, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to Mr. Stuart Butler, vice president of the Heritage Foundation. The letter is in response to the Heritage Foundation's proposal to eliminate the Department of Veterans Affairs and establish it as a bureau within the Department of Defense.

I believe Secretary Brown's remarks point out how important it is to maintain the Department of Veterans Affairs. In the wake of all the myths being printed in the media about the Department's facilities and the services it provides, the facts laid out in Secretary Brown's letter make for very compelling reading.

THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,  
Washington, May 10, 1995.

Mr. STUART BUTLER,  
Vice President, The Heritage Foundation, Massachusetts Avenue NE., Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. BUTLER: I was rather perplexed when I read your proposal to eliminate the

Department of Veterans Affairs and establish it as a bureau in the Department of Defense. Likewise, I was mystified by some of the specific program recommendations in your report on "Rolling Back Government." About the only statement that I agree with is, "The care of Americans who have served their country in the armed forces is a core function of the federal government." At least you are right in that regard.

**CABINET STATUS**

VA was elevated to Cabinet status in 1989 after years of congressional deliberation. President Reagan agreed with Congress that the agency charged with administering benefits and services to our veterans and their dependents (who now number 26 million and 44 million, respectively) belongs at the Cabinet table when issues are being formulated and acted upon. President Reagan was right. Your report portrays VA as an inefficient bureaucracy while offering no evidence in support of such a statement. I am curious how you arrive at the conclusion that the existing structure for providing veterans benefits and services would become more efficient with another layer over it, that of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and possibly others. Further, if VA were to be made a bureau within DoD, the Nation's obligations to our veterans would constantly be at risk of being subordinated to National defense and security needs, particularly in time of conflict or great danger. The lack of wisdom of placing veterans programs in such a precarious position has been obvious to Congress and Presidents for many decades. How could you possibly fail to realize—or even address—the fact that a separate VA assures that veterans' needs are addressed on their own merits and not based on whether our Nation needs to spend more or less on defense?

**DISABILITY COMPENSATION**

Turning to the proposals you make for specific VA programs, I found it extremely ironic that, in the name of "allowing veterans to enjoy the benefits of privately provided . . . retirement services" and modernizing the VA disability compensation program, you simply propose taking away compensation from certain veterans. One group who would "benefit" from your efforts to bring VA up to the private, modern standards you admire are veterans with service-connected injuries or illnesses rate 10% or 20% disabling who do not meet an economic-need test that you failed to disclose and, thus, would lose their benefits. These veterans could have lost two fingers or four toes, or they might have persistent, moderate swelling of a foot as a residual of frostbite, or any of a wide range of other impairments—for which VA pays about 1.2 million veterans monthly compensation in the amount of \$89 (the 10% rate or \$170 (the 20% rate). These veterans, the target of your efforts to provide the "benefits" of what the private sector provides, will certainly be grateful for your efforts. I am also certain that they will find dismaying, as will all disabled veterans and all other Americans with disabilities, your unfounded conclusion that "[d]isability is no longer a major hindrance in finding work."

You also urge that disability compensation payments be limited to those disabled as a result of "direct" active duty experiences. This apparently would mean that compensation would no longer be paid for disabilities incurred during military service unless it can be shown they were caused by the performance of official duties. However, military personnel are considered to be on duty 24 hours a day and are subject to military

discipline and the military system of criminal justice around the clock every day of the year. Unlike civilian employees, who can refuse assignments and leave their jobs, service members cannot refuse orders sending them to remote or unfamiliar areas in the United States or overseas. Doing so would subject them to criminal prosecution, as would unauthorized absences. In addition, our people in uniform are often subjected to unusual physical and psychological stress, including the special dangers involved in training for combat and the horrible risks and unique hardships of armed conflict. In a very real sense, whatever happens to them during their period of service is in the line of duty.

Given these unique circumstances of military service, it is only fair and reasonable that the package of pay and benefits for our military personnel includes comprehensive health care during service and, thereafter, a system of disability compensation and medical benefits for any disabilities incurred during service. I see these benefits as essential to the maintenance of our All-Volunteer Force.

Moreover, I believe it would be a disgrace, as well as very harmful to recruitment, if our military were to take a young man who was left paralyzed from an off-base accident, for example in Thailand or on an icy road in New England, and simply send him back to his parents and tell them that the Government was not going to be responsible for his medical bills or pay him compensation to make up for his lost earning power. To me, that would be a tragic reversal of our current, very sound policies.

#### MEDICAL CARE

Your assertion that the VA health-care system provides poor care to American veterans is totally unsubstantiated—except for a newspaper article by a disgruntled former VA employee (hardly the type of scholarship expected of a prestigious policy institute). Our accreditation scores are consistently substantially higher than those in the private sector. You say that "most telling is that only 9.6 percent of eligible veterans rely exclusively on the VA system for their health care." What this tells is not that VA provides poor service. Rather, it says that VA does not have the resources to treat many veterans who are not service-disabled or poor. Veterans groups tell us that many of their members who are locked out by current constraints would prefer to use VA health-care services.

You cite as evidence of poor medical care successful malpractice suits against VA of \$254 million during the decade 1983-1992. That comes to an average of about \$25 million per year. Our data indicate a slightly higher number, about \$30 million annually. However, in the absence of any comparative data regarding the private sector, these numbers have no significance. In fact, when you consider that VA runs the largest health care system in the country and annually provides care to 2.5 million veterans, including 1 million episodes of inpatient care and 26 million outpatient visits, that figure does not seem out of line. Perhaps, your figures show just the opposite; that VA is providing high quality care.

You advocate a voucher system to provide health care for veterans. You say that this would permit veterans to choose their own insurance plans and that this would help save \$7.9 billion over five years. I would really like to see the economic analysis underlying that ridiculous projection. To whom would you provide vouchers: The 2.5 million

veterans who receive VA care in any given year; the 5 million who receive care over a five-year span; or the approximately 12 million service-disabled and low-income veterans who have entitlement to VA care? How much would these vouchers be worth? Would they be sufficient for our veterans with a history of heart attacks or cancer to purchase comprehensive health care? Would they enable veterans with chronic mental illness, diabetes, or epilepsy to obtain all the care they need? Would your vouchers cover the complete health-care and rehabilitation needs of veterans with spinal-cord injuries, missing limbs, and blindness? Would you provide vouchers for World War II veterans needing long-term care? Or would your vouchers shift major costs of care to sick and disabled veterans or simply leave many of them out in the cold?

Have you examined the several studies suggesting that VA care is less costly than private care? How did you arrive at your apparent conclusion that private care would be more economical?

I believe you also need to realize that about 1 million of our patients have Medicare eligibility but have chosen VA as their health-care provider.

You want VA to close many of its hospitals, and you claim that the majority of VA buildings are under-used. Our hospitals run at an occupancy rate of 75 percent, compared to the private sector average of 67 percent. Our nursing homes have an occupancy rate of over 90 percent; and our domiciliarys, 83 percent. What kind of survey enabled you to reach the preposterous conclusion that most VA facilities are underused? Again, I would like to see the underlying research and analysis.

You call for a halt to all new VA construction. You obviously haven't seen the things that I have—veterans housed in open wards, communal bathrooms, inadequate facilities for female patients. These deficiencies need to be corrected; and we need to meet the growing need for modern outpatient facilities and fill major gaps in inpatient care in certain areas. We can't just terminate our construction program, unless we wish to close down the VA system. Unfortunately, that appears to be your goal.

You also mistakenly took a swipe at VA construction as "pork barrel spending." Very little pork creeps into VA construction, and your unfamiliarity with veterans' programs is revealed by your silly, mistaken reference to the appropriation of \$5 million for bedside phones "in Virginia medical centers."

The appropriations conference report item you referred to used the expression "VA medical centers." The money was to assist in VA's national effort to provide bedside phones in all VA hospitals. In the veterans' area, "VA" usually means the Department of Veterans Affairs, not Virginia. If you continue to work in this field, this is one of the many, many things with which you'll need to become acquainted. Most are more consequential, such as the extent of the Nation's obligation to those who have served and sacrificed so much and the gratitude that the American people feel for their defenders.

Because of your reputation as a think tank, your report will receive serious consideration in Congress. It's a shame that it is as lacking in concern for our Nation's veterans as it is in rigorous analysis and pertinent data. I wish you had done a better job.

Sincerely,

JESSE BROWN.

## SPEAKING OUT ON MEDICARE/ MEDICAID BUDGET CUTS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my distinguished colleagues, FRANK PALLONE, KAREN MCCARTHY, and CAL DOOLEY, for sponsoring this special order. I am pleased to join them for this candid discussion on proposed budget cuts to the Medicare and Medicaid Programs.

The Republican plan calls for nearly \$200 billion in cuts to Medicaid and other health initiatives. In my congressional district, and in communities throughout the United States, millions of Americans are served by the Medicare and Medicaid Programs. In spite of this critical need, in order to fund a tax cut for the wealthy, Republicans in Congress have placed Medicare and Medicaid on the chopping block. By taking this position, they are continuing to exhibit a callous disregard for those most vulnerable in our society—those in the dawn of life, our children; those in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadow of life—the sick, the needy and the handicapped.

Medicaid is America's largest health care program for the poor, covering about 60 percent of all Americans. This year, Medicaid will provide basic health care coverage for over 36 million low-income children, mothers, elderly, and disabled Americans.

Mr. Speaker, approximately 40 million Americans have no health insurance coverage. Without Medicaid, the number of uninsured would nearly double. This would result in needless suffering, and death and disease would increase. Further, we have not considered the drain this would create on the Nation's health care delivery system in treating those who are uninsured.

Between 1988 and 1994, Medicaid was expanded to provide coverage for pregnant women and children. This was done in an effort to decrease the Nation's infant mortality rate, and, at the same time, increase childhood immunizations. The expansion signaled our commitment to guarantee our children a healthy start and thus, a brighter future.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership has promised to balance the budget by cutting \$1 trillion from the budget over 7 years. This would finance a proposed \$350 billion tax break for America's wealthiest citizens. In addition to its assault on Medicare and Medicaid, the Budget plan represents an assault on programs such as housing, summer jobs for our youth, education, job training, and energy assistance for our elderly.

As Members of Congress, we must take a strong stance in defense of our Nation's seniors. It is estimated that the proposed \$282 billion in cuts to Medicare would add more than \$3,000 to seniors' health costs. In fact, if the cuts to Medicare become law, the average Medicare beneficiary is expected to pay approximately \$3,500 more in health costs over the same 7-year period.

According to the Urban Institute, the typical Medicare beneficiaries already dedicate a

staggering 21 percent of their incomes to pay out-of-pocket health care expenditures. While our Republican colleagues say that they aren't cutting Social Security, under their budget proposal for Medicare, seniors would see 40 to 50 percent of their cost-of-living adjustment consumed by increases in Medicare cost sharing and premiums.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my colleagues for allowing this meaningful discussion on a very important issue. I share their concern that we must protect Medicare and Medicaid from the Republican budget ax. We must not allow the Republican Party to balance the budget on the backs of those most in need. By the same token, we will not allow our seniors and the poor to be used as pawns in a tax give-away scheme for the rich.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSOLIDATED AND REFORMED EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND REHABILITATION SYSTEMS ACT, THE CAREERS ACT**

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, Rep. BILL GOODLING, all Republican Members of our Committee, and Representatives KASICH, DELAY, BOEHNER, and DAVIS, in introduction of the Consolidated and Reformed Education, Employment, and Rehabilitation Systems Act—better known as the Careers Act of 1995. This legislation transforms this Nation's vast array of career-related education, employment, and job training programs into a true system of workforce preparation and development.

As was brought to the attention of the Congress by the U.S. General Accounting Office over the past several years, the United States currently has as many as 163 different Federal programs, totaling \$20 billion, which offer some form of job training and/or employment assistance for youth and adults. In addition to the excessive number of Federal programs, the quality of U.S. training programs varies significantly. As a result, earlier this year we introduced H.R. 511, the Workforce Preparation and Development Act, which pledged that the 104th Congress would, thoroughly evaluate our current programs, and subsequently develop and enact legislation that: First, Eliminates duplication and fragmentation in Federal workforce development programs; Second, transfers major decision-making to States and local communities; Third, stresses the vital role of the private sector, at all levels, in the design and implementation of the workforce preparation system; Fourth, is market driven, accountable, reinforces individual responsibility, and provides customer choice and easy access to services; and Fifth, establishes a national labor market information system that provides employers, job seekers, students, teachers, training providers, and others with accurate and timely information on the local economy, on occupations in demand and the

skill requirements for such occupations, and information on the performance of service providers in the local community.

Today, after a comprehensive set of hearings on this issue, we are following through on our promise. We are introducing legislation that will do what was pledged in H.R. 511. The Careers Act, does all of the above and more. The Careers Act would consolidate and eliminate over 150 existing education, training, and employment assistance programs into 4 consolidation grants to the States. Such grants would include: A Youth Workforce Preparation Grant; and Adult Employment and Training Grant; a Vocational Rehabilitation Grant; and an Adult Education and Literacy Grant. And these 4 programs, working together, will form each State's workforce preparation system.

Our bill provides maximum authority to States and localities in the design and operation of their workforce preparation systems. We significantly reduce administrative requirements, paperwork, duplicative planning, reporting, and data collection requirements across the various programs—in general eliminating vast bureaucracy within the system. However, our legislation does provide some broad parameters for the design of a workforce development system, that we feel are necessary to move the system in the right direction, based on testimony heard in our numerous hearings, and in talking to people around the country.

Specifically, title I of Careers, is designed to build an infrastructure in States and local communities for development and implementation of a comprehensive workforce development system. At the State level, Governors are asked to pull together key State agency heads and leaders from business and education to develop a single State plan and performance measurement system for the entire workforce development system. Governors are also asked to designate workforce development areas throughout the State, for the distribution of funds and service delivery under much of the system.

To ensure the involvement of employers in the design and implementation of local systems, Careers requires the establishment of local, employer-led, workforce development boards. These boards would provide policy guidance and oversight over local systems, and would be responsible for the establishment of local one-stop delivery systems—easily accessible single points of entry into the local workforce preparation system.

The youth workforce development program pulls school systems and postsecondary institutions together with local business leaders to develop a school-to-work system for both in-school, and out-of-school youth in the community. This system is designed to result in challenging academic and occupational competency gains for all youth in the community, as well as completion of high school, or its equivalent, and other positive outcomes such as placement and retention in employment, or continuation into postsecondary education or training. States would also be required to show how special population students meet the performance standards.

Under the adult and the vocational rehabilitation programs, upfront or core services—such as information on jobs, assessment of skills, counseling, job search assistance, infor-

mation on education, training, and vocational rehabilitation programs in the local community, assessment of eligibility for such programs—including eligibility for student financial aid—and referral to appropriate programs would be available to all individuals through a net work of one-stop career centers and affiliated satellite centers throughout each community. For individuals with severe disabilities and determined to be in need of more intensive services, such services would be available through vouchers and other means to be used with approved providers of vocational rehabilitation services. Under the adult training system, for individuals who are unable to obtain employment through the core services, more intensive service such as specialized assessment and counseling, and development of employability plans, would be available—also through the one-stops. For those unable to obtain employment through these services and determined to be in need of education or training, such services would be provided—through the use of vouchers or other means that offer maximum customer choice in the selection of training providers. States would be required to establish a certification system for the identification of legitimate providers of education and training for receipt of vouchers—taking into account the recommendations of local workforce boards.

Finally, beyond the specific area of job training, the Careers Act includes privatization proposals for 2 existing government sponsored enterprises—again focusing on the streamlining of federal programs. Sallie Mae and Connie Lee were created by the Higher Education Act and are examples of for-profit, stockholder owned GSEs which have successfully fulfilled their intended purposes. Privatization cuts the ties to the Federal Government and establishes a willingness on the part of the Government to take a successful public-private partnership and turn it into a completely private venture when government support is no longer necessary. I want to thank the administration for its thoughtful testimony at our hearing on the issue of privatization and for its assistance in identifying and addressing the important and complex issue involved in privatization proposals. And also, I would like to thank the administration for its testimony and advice on reform of our job training system.

As a Congressman from a district in California that has been hit hard by defense and aerospace cutbacks—I understand that the skills of this Nation's workforce are more important today than ever before to U.S. competitiveness. However, our current patchwork of Federal programs is not the answer. The Careers Act addresses our long term workforce preparation strategy by creating a seamless system for youth and adults to meet the competitive needs of our work force. I thank our distinguished chairman for his insight and leadership on this vital issue and I invite all of my colleagues to join with us in this dramatic effort to overhaul the Federal approach to job training and work force preparation.

DEDICATION OF THE RICHARD  
BOLLING FEDERAL BUILDING

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the Members of this body that on Sunday, May 13, the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri will pay tribute to the late Dick Bolling, a Member of the House of Representatives from 1949-1983. We come together this weekend to dedicate the Federal building in downtown Kansas City as the Richard Bolling Federal Building.

Dick Bolling represented my congressional district for 34 years and it is a fitting tribute that this building be named in his honor. This building resulted from his vision—the vision of a man who understood how vitally important it is for the employees of the Federal Government to live and work in local communities like Kansas City throughout the country.

Dick Bolling will long be remembered as a giant of the House, and a voice for his constituents on the national political stage. He is a shining example of the generation we so recently honored on VE Day, a generation that fought economic depression, went overseas to defend our freedom, and returned to build a new society with opportunity for all.

Initially intent on an academic career after college, World War II intervened and Dick Bolling enlisted as a private and emerged 5 years later as a lieutenant colonel with a Bronze Star. Continuing as he began, Dick Bolling battled entrenched forces all of his life—the armies of ignorance, segregation, and machine politics. His first post-war job brought him to Kansas City as director of Student Activities and Veterans Affairs at the University of Kansas City, now known as the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

While at the University Dick Bolling became very active in the American Veterans Committee and the Americans for Democratic Action. His political activities led to his decision to run for Congress in 1948 against the Pendergast machine candidate in the primary and against a one-term Republican who was perceived to have a lock on the district. Mobilizing a core group of activist veterans, Dick Bolling characterized his election on President Truman's coattails as a fluke. He went on to be re-elected, by overwhelming victory margins, to 16 additional terms.

It is difficult to describe in a few short sentences the career of a man who served in this institution for 34 years. He was passionate about the House of Representatives. He was not afraid to be critical of the House as he was in his best known book, "House Out of Order," and he devoted much of his career to reform of its shortcomings. Known for his parliamentary skills, he was particularly proud of his contributions which led to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the first meaningful civil rights legislation enacted after Reconstruction.

Dick Bolling served as an adviser to many of the great political personalities of his time: Speakers of the House of Representatives, Presidents and Presidential contenders, and

other national leaders. I have also been moved by the statements of his colleagues made in tributes at the time of his retirement from the House in 1982 and at the time of his death in 1991. He was a mentor to many of those elected to serve in this body and clearly the hero of countless more both inside and outside of the House of Representatives.

Perhaps Dick Bolling's greatest contribution to those who knew him or who know of him was his spirit. He never shied from fighting for a cause in which he believed. He urged his fellow Members to work hard, to serve their constituents, to be honest, and to have the courage of their convictions. He is a role model to me and to countless others of my generation who have chosen public service. His leadership is a contribution which will not be forgotten in his congressional district or by the country. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Missouri I am proud to join in the dedication of the Richard Bolling Federal Building.

WE NEED TO BAN TOY GUNS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, once again, another child in the city of New York died needlessly at the hands of a police officer who thought the child had a gun. While the child did have a gun, it was a toy gun.

As a result of this ongoing crisis, I am introducing a bill today asking the Consumer Product Safety Commission to ban toys which in size, shape, or overall appearance resemble real handguns. Congress tried to ban toy handguns by passing the Federal Energy Management Improvement Act of 1988 which required that all toy guns manufactured or sold after May 5, 1989, be marked to distinguish them from real weapons.

The act required one of the following markings: a blaze orange plug inside the muzzle; an orange band covering the outside end of the muzzle; construction of transparent or translucent materials; coloration of the entire surface with bright colors; or predominately white coloration in combination with bright colors. The act also required the Director of the National Institute of Justice [NIJ] to conduct a technical evaluation of the marking systems.

The conclusion of the evaluation conducted by NIJ showed that the orange plug marking standard completely failed to enable police officers to identify the weapon as a toy gun. In fact, clearly marked toy guns were most likely to provoke shootings on the first trial, and less likely only after police officers gained some familiarity with the situation and the possible appearance of toy guns.

It is quite clear to me, and should be to all of you, that something drastic needs to be done to stop the needless shooting of innocent children. Markings are not enough—they do not work.

To ensure that there are no mistakes, no failures to recognize plastic from steel, I strongly encourage you to vote for a total ban on the manufacturing of realistic toy handguns.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JOSEPH  
GALAPO

**HON. THOMAS J. MANTON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, as a former New York City police officer and in recognition of National Police Week, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Joseph Galapo.

Officer Joseph Galapo was killed in the line of duty on August 16, 1988. He made the ultimate sacrifice for those he served. I extend my most heartfelt condolences to Officer Galapo's widow and three children. I hope it is of some comfort to the family to know the people of New York City feel a deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice you have made.

During the week of May 14, we recognize the tremendous sacrifice officers of the law make to keep our society free from crime and violence. I hope my colleagues join me in acknowledging the police officers who continue to protect the community in which they live and remember those who have lost their lives in doing so. I encourage you all to visit the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial located in the heart of Washington, DC at Judiciary Square. This is a fine way to remember those who we could never repay.

A TRIBUTE TO FATHER MICHAEL  
LAVELLE

**HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand here today to honor a remarkable man from the 17th Congressional District of Ohio. Father Michael Lavelle took great pleasure in helping others and this Earth will sorely miss the light his presence brought.

Father Lavelle had a long and illustrious career with John Carroll University, culminating in his appointment as president of the university. He was a scholar of the highest order and a social worker with a giant heart. Father Lavelle is even known in international circles for his successful efforts to bring books and religious items into Communist Eastern Europe. Indeed, Father Lavelle was a scholar, an author, a linguist who spoke most of the major languages of Europe, and a literary man whom more than one Jesuit referred to as the "last of the Renaissance men." But, above all else he was a loyal and faithful priest who cared deeply not only for his fellow countrymen but for all people.

Mr. Speaker, it is rare that I have the opportunity to honor someone like Father Michael Lavelle who gave so much not only to his own community but also to the entire country. My heartfelt appreciation goes out to Father Lavelle for his contributions. He was a great man and will be sorely missed. May he find eternal peace and happiness in his reunion with the Lord.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL GANNON

**HON. KAREN L. THURMAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, this year, the State of Florida is celebrating its 150th birthday. This important milestone, Florida's Sesquicentennial, will be observed all year as our citizens recognize the varied events and people that have contributed to our State's rich heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor someone who has contributed greatly to the understanding and popularization of Florida's history, Dr. Michael Gannon.

Dr. Michael Gannon is a distinguished service professor of history at the University of Florida. A specialist in the Spanish colonial history of Florida and the Caribbean, he is also director of the Institute for Early Contact Period Studies, which conducts research into the voyages of Christopher Columbus and the first contacts between Europeans and Native Americans in the New World.

Raised in St. Augustine, FL, Dr. Gannon has had a long interest in the early Spanish missions of Florida about which he has written extensively. Two of his books, "Rebel Bishop" (1964) and "The Cross in the Sand" (1965) give readers an in-depth look at the early history of Florida. He is coauthor of two other books and a contributor to numerous others on the region, including "Spanish Influence in the Caribbean, Florida and Louisiana, 1500-1800," and "The Hispanic Experience in North America." Dr. Gannon also edited the comprehensive "New History of Florida," which will appear in bookstores later this year.

Dr. Gannon served for 19 years as a member and two-time chairman of the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board; and currently serves under the Secretary of State as chairman of the De Soto Trail Committee and chairman of the Spanish Mission Trail Committee. Under the Secretary of Commerce he served as a member of the State's Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission, and chairman of that body's History and Culture Committee. In 1992 the U.S. Secretary of the Interior appointed Dr. Gannon to a 4-year term on the National De Soto Expedition Trail Commission. He is an honorary board member of the St. Augustine Historical Society, and a member of the editorial board of the Florida Historical Quarterly.

In the area of military history, Dr. Gannon published "Operation Drumbeat," a history of Germany's first U-boat operation along the American coast in World War II. The book became a national best seller and the subject of a National Geographic Explorer program. The show won an Emmy award as the best historical program in 1992. Dr. Gannon published "Florida: A Short History" in 1993 and in 1994,

"Secret Missions," a Florida-based historical novel set in World War II.

Dr. Gannon has published numerous articles on history, religion, military affairs, and ethics in national journals and magazines. In the summer of 1968, Dr. Gannon served in Vietnam as a war correspondent for the journal, "America" and the National Catholic News Service. He is the author of the historical article on "The Catholic Church in the United States" that appears in the 1994 edition of the "Encyclopedia Americana" and of another article under the same title that appears in the "Encyclopedia of Southern History." Dr. Gannon has lectured widely in this country, as well as in Spain, Italy, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gannon is a distinguished professor who has been honored for his expertise and achievements. In 1979, the University of Florida National Alumni Association awarded him its first distinguished alumni professorship in recognition of the impact that he has had on student's lives and careers. In 1990, King Juan Carlos I of Spain conferred on Dr. Gannon the highest civilian award of that country, Knight Commander of the Order of Isabel la Catolica. Dr. Gannon has also been the recipient of the Arthur W. Thompson Prize in Florida History and in 1978 was named Teacher of the Year for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gannon's work has added a great deal to our knowledge of the varied influences that have shaped the history of Florida. The sesquicentennial celebrations in Florida will be that much more meaningful because of the careful research of Dr. Gannon. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to represent the University of Florida and professors like Dr. Gannon, who are dedicated to excellence.

## MARTIN UNIVERSITY

**HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, Martin University is the oldest University in Indiana primarily devoted to the education of African-American students.

What follows is a richly deserved editorial about the University which was published in the Indianapolis News in April 1995.

[From the Indianapolis News, Apr. 13, 1995]

## A PILLAR IN BRIGHTWOOD

Thanks are due those community leaders who have made the inner-city Brightwood area a little brighter. What has happened there is an example to the nation of how local institutions can make a difference in their communities.

In 1987, Martin University moved its main campus from College Avenue to the Brightwood address of 2171 Avondale Place.

The low-budget, nondenominational school came to the neighborhood at a time when families and businesses were moving out.

"The primary reason we moved to Brightwood is because the vacated buildings, including the beautiful St. Francis de Sales Catholic parish, became available to us at a great price. The revitalization in the community is a by-product," said Martin's public relations director, Pat Stewart.

Martin University still has four buildings at the original College Avenue campus. And in 1988, the university opened the Lady Elizabeth. Campus at the Indiana Women's Prison for inmates there.

The main campus in Brightwood comprises nine buildings. The university's move has provided a unifying entity for the community, which was divided in the 1970s when I-70 was constructed. The neighborhood also suffered from a loss of residents who moved to the suburbs.

Martin University has offset some of these changes.

Besides making good use of old buildings, the 84 faculty and staff members educate and train people who may not have similar opportunities elsewhere.

The institution serves 520 students from all over Indianapolis, most from minority and low-income back-grounds. Approximately 150 students reside in the Brightwood neighborhood.

The university offers more than traditional academic courses.

Senior citizens and children may attend computer classes and summer school programs, and all residents may attend seminars about economic and political empowerment.

The university also runs a health clinic where university staff, students and Brightwood residents who aren't students can come for counseling and medical services. And it holds clothing and food drives to benefit people with various needs in Brightwood.

The school doesn't stop there, however. Recognizing the need to broaden the experiences of the people it serves, it provides artistic and cultural events for residents. Among those activities, it has hosted the Carmel Symphony Orchestra and holds an annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

"Caring about this community isn't an afterthought of the university. It's in our mission statement." Sister Jane Schilling told News reporter Judith Cebula. She teaches and serves as vice president at Martin.

The Rev. Boniface Hardin, founder and president of this university, deserves commendation for the vision he has for his university and community. His goal of serving others and seeking to make them successful is the cause of success in his efforts.

One of the most impressive aspects of Martin University is its financial foundation. The money comes through tuition, private donations and foundation grants.

At a time when welfare plans are being debated to death, it is refreshing to see dedicated individuals responding to urban problems with so little dependence on government remedies.