MEDICARE BENEFICIARY PROTECTION AMENDMENTS—H.R. 1707

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, last May, I introduced legislation designed to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have access to quality care and fair treatment by their HMO's and managed care plans. Today, I reiterate the need for Medicare beneficiary protection and urgent passage of the needed safeguards that H.R. 1707 provides.

An important issue addressed by this measure is the serious abuse of marketing practices by HMO's. Abuses by sales agents are especially prevalent in geographic areas where people have little experience with managed care. The commission system in which many HMO agents work is an inappropriate financial incentive which leads to pressure sales to vulnerable beneficiaries. For example, when Geraldine Dalek of the Center for Health Care Rights provided testimony last year to the Senate Special Committee on Aging, she reported a story of a woman from Los Angeles who was a victim of these practices. The woman, Mrs. B., who has a fifth grade education, received an unsolicited visit from an HMO marketing agent. When Mrs. B. refused to sign up for the plan, the representative persuaded her to sign an enrollment form by telling her that it would only be used to verify his visit.

To remedy abusive HMO marketing practices, H.R. 1707 would prohibit door-to-door marketing and allow beneficiaries to enroll via mail. Also, it would limit the percentage of compensation received through commissions and require plans to recover commissions if the beneficiary disenrolled within 90 days.

Most HMO enrollees give up their supplemental or MediGap coverage when they enroll in an HMO. Many fear that if they disenroll from an HMO, no insurance company will sell them a supplemental policy. This is a very serious issue for those who leave their HMO because they are ill and believe the HMO is not providing them adequate care. Under my bill, beneficiaries will be able to secure a supplemental plan after moving out of an HMO. H.R. 1707 requires Medicare-contracting plans and MediGap plans to participate in an open enrollment process. This provision allows for a beneficiary to enroll, disenroll, or change plans during this period without being subject to medical underwriting or preexisting exclusions.

Also, the difficulty beneficiaries have making comparisons among Medicare coverage options would be dealt with by having the Secretary conduct annual open enrollment periods. During this period, Medicare beneficiaries could enroll in traditional Medicare coverage or any additional HMO-managed care options.

Differences in plan benefits and costs would be presented in easy, comparative formats. A criticism of managed care plans has been the lack of readily available, understandable and comparable information of plans. This legislation works to correct this by requiring Medicare-contracting plans to provide descriptive information on plan utilization review requirements, plan standards for contracting with providers, provider credentials, and plan physician payment arrangements. This bill would standardize the basic benefit package for Medicare HMO's. Plans could not impose cost sharing other than nominal copayments for Medicare-covered services. Also, limits on additional benefits must be fully explained and enrollees given reasonable notice that benefits are expiring.

Managed care is a system that provides financial incentives to provide less care. A 1989 GAO report concluded that this system that puts providers at financial risk for expensive medical treatment inherently contains incentives to deny care. First, second, and third party payment systems are a way to control costs and health care. The problem of inconsistent and delayed utilization review practices of managed care plans would be remedied in several ways by H.R. 1707.

First, financial compensation could not be given to individuals performing the UR based upon the number of denials. Second, negative determinations about medical necessity or appropriateness will be required to be made by clinically qualified personnel. Also, final determination of coverage must be made within 24 hours.

The amendments would also update HMO plans in the area of access to emergency medical services. Specifically, plans could not require preauthorization for true emergency medical care and could not deny a claim for a beneficiary who uses the "911" system to access services. Also, plans must define "emergency medical care" in terms easily understood by the average person. An example of why this is needed is given by the Center for Health Care Rights, which reports a case of a San Diego woman who went to her HMO's urgent care center for treatment of an injury. She was told that the center had many people waiting and only one doctor on duty. The beneficiary was instructed to go to the nearest emergency room. The HMO later denied her claim because the emergency room treatment was not authorized.

These requirements will also benefit physicians by mandating reimbursement by the plan to those physicians who provide emergency services in nonplan hospitals in order to fulfill the Federal antidumping law.

An important protection standard in this legislation would benefit those who seek out-of-plan treatment. Providers plans would be prohibited from charging more than Medicare would have paid under fee-for-service rules. Also, plans would be required to make arrangements for beneficiaries to have occasional dialysis service outside the plans area.

Recognizing the special needs of individuals with disabilities and chronic-illness, the amendments guarantee enrollee access to designated centers of excellence. The standard for the designation of a center of excellence will be established by the Secretary. Factors that would be included in the Secretary's designation would include specialized education and training, participation in peer-reviewed research, and treatment of patients from outside the facility's geographic area. To improve due process for providers in networks, public notices would be required as to when applications by participating providers are to be accepted. Notification of a decision to terminate or not renew a contract would be required not later than 45 days before it is to take effect.

In order to ensure access to enrollees throughout a plan's service area, the Secretary may require plans to contract with certain clinics and other essential community providers in the service area. In general, the service area of a Medicare-contracting plan would be an entire metropolitan statistical area.

To comply with this plan, Federal regulators would be given authority to impose intermediate sanctions. Currently, the Secretary has the authority to bar participation in Medicare. .

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REMARKS

HON. BILL RICHARDSON
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, in just a few short weeks, many of us will be attending college graduations watching as countless numbers of our constituents finish their college education, graduate, and become alumni. As seasoned alumni know, you always maintain a special tie to your college. At my alma mater, Tufts University actively encouraged alumni to celebrate their college days by...
A special award for what the Pulitzer board described as ‘his extraordinary and continuing contribution to the advancement of the science of his craft’... I can be serious about that. I am as seriously touched — and overwhelmed — as I am seriously in love with my city. The Pulitzer, coming on the heels of my 80th birthday last week, with its attendant tributes and demonstrations of friendship, has rendered me limp with gratitude, speechless with swirling thoughts impossible to articulate. Mixed up somewhere in the award, I figure, is a streak of sentimental regard for an old party who has been grinding it out, year after year, and, at the same time, a salute to longevity, for which I thank my German mama and my French papa who had the good taste to come to this loveliest of cities so long ago.

This is also, of course, a victory for the mechanical typewriter over the burgeoning forces of cyberspace. I hereby hub my Royal, a brand name that is currently being dragged through the mud. The suspected Unabomber is said to have written over the bombing of my 80-year-old Royal, the same age as mine. As for the part about being “the conscience of the city,” this city had one — plus great style — long before I came down the river from Sacramento. The city’s overriding sense of fair play always appealed to me and I have been delighted to get the chance to help keep it alive. About being “the voice,” I seem to have lost it at the moment, being speechless with surprise. All I can manage to croak is, “For columns like this, they give a Pulitzer?”

IN TRIBUTE OF PROF. JAN KARSKI
HON. NANCY PELOSI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the full Court of Representatives to honor Prof. Jan Karski, a member of the Polish underground during World War II who risked his life in an effort to stop the Holocaust. Prof. Karski, a devout Roman Catholic, was captured and savagely tortured by the Gestapo while working as a courier in 1940. Willing to sacrifice his life to protect the underground, Prof. Karski escaped with the help of the Polish workers, and returned to his work as a courier.

In 1942, Prof. Karski was smuggled into the Warsaw ghetto and death camp near Belzec, and then traveled secretly to Washington, D.C., where he provided President Roosevelt, other top Government officials, journalists, and religious leaders with a terrifying eyewitness account of the extermination of thousands of helpless and innocent Jews. Prof. Karski traveled extensively throughout the United States lecturing about the atrocities he had witnessed. In 1944, he published a best-selling book, “The Sun is Not Yet Set,” which exposed the Nazis’ genocidal plans.

Twenty-five years later, Prof. Karski broke his silence about the terrible secret in
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Claude Lanzmann's epic Holocaust film documentary, "Shoah." In recognition of his courage on behalf of the Jewish people, Professor Karski was honored at Yad Vashem as a Righteous Among the Nations in 1982 and the Israeli Government awarded him honorary citizenship in 1994. I am pleased to join with the Holocaust Center of Northern California and the Jewish religious community to pay tribute to this great man on Yom HaShoah, the Day of Holocaust Remembrance, which begins at sundown on Monday, April 15, 1996.

Professor Karski is a hero not only to his own people but to all of humanity. With his unwavering courage and integrity, Professor Karski is a role model for us all, for he demonstrated how the human spirit can triumph over extreme evil and adversity. Now in his eighties, Professor Karski continues to speak out against racism, anti-Semitism and intolerance so others might learn from the horrible mistakes of the past.

HONORING HONEY MILLER FOR HER MANY YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my constituents and with the members of the Eastern Queens Democratic Club as they honor Honey Miller at the club's annual dinner at the Douglaston Manor in Queens County, N.Y.

For many years, Honey Miller has been a model of what the term "community activist" should mean. While serving as deputy director of Queens community boards from 1985 through 1990, Honey used her expertise to help with a broad address major, complex issues that impacted on the growth and development of the borough's many communities. While immersed in this ongoing role Honey developed a second field of expertise by becoming a professional volunteer. As a PTA leader, president of the Aviva chapter of B'nai Brith, a companion to children with emotional problems at the Creedmoor Hospital, a chairwoman of the adult-education program at the Marathon Jewish Center, a volunteer at the Queens County District Attorney's office, and a chauffeur for senior citizens at the Samuel Field Y, Honey Miller established a reputation as someone who could undertake any task and get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, the community has not only benefited from Honey's dedication, but also has responded to her good works by presenting her with many and varied honors, including Woman of the Year for the northeast Queens Memorial Day parade, certificates of achievement from B'nai Brith and the Marathon Jewish Center, citation of achievement from the metropolitan region of the United Synagogue of America, the Community Service Award from the Glen Oaks Volunteer Ambulance Corp., and the certificate of merit from the Queens Women's Center.

Fully understanding the workings of American government and responding in the true American spirit of voluntarism and civic participation, Honey has risen to a variety of prominent positions in the area of elected leadership. While currently serving as Democratic district leader for the 42nd Assembly District, the position which she has held since 1972, Honey has also chaired the women's division of the New York State Democratic Committee, was treasurer of the Women's Executive Committee of the Queens County Democratic Organization, second vice chairperson of the Queens Democratic Committee, and served as delegate to the last five Democratic National Conventions.

Mr. Speaker, Honey Miller has come to symbolize the truest example of the American participatory spirit. I ask all my colleagues to join with the grateful people of the Fifth Congressional District in extending to Honey Miller the highest accolades of appreciation and recognition.

HONORING SISTER CHARLOTTE

HON. ED PASTOR
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Sister Charlotte of Project YES!, who has been chosen as a recipient of the National Service Award. I am especially pleased that her work is being recognized at the national level for two reasons: First, she has been a strong and tireless advocate for children, and second, she has brought resources and attention to an economically deprived area. It is because of her work that the children living in this multiethnic area have access to educational opportunities, and more importantly, hope.

She has provided opportunities for the children in her neighborhood to work with tutors, to socialize, to have enriching educational experiences, to be in sports leagues, to develop spiritually, to better understand their culture, and to bond with adults. She has created a loving, caring, safe environment for many children who have never known such a place. For many of these children, Project YES! is not just a home away from home, it is the only home they know.

Because Project YES! is so special to the children, the only discipline needed is the threat of time out from Project YES! No one misbehaves because no one wants to be excluded even for a few hours.

Sister Charlotte first became involved in Project YES! in 1983 as a member of its board of directors. Her background in guidance counseling and teaching encouraged her interest and her enthusiasm for this alternative way of reaching children. Consequently, in 1987 she left her elementary school administrative position with the Santa Cruz Catholic School and became the executive director of Project YES!

Under her creative and enthusiastic direction, Project YES! has become a vital force in the lives of hundreds of children and of the parents living in the supportive environment and programs for the children, she has created parent-to-parent workshops in both English and Spanish where parents can learn from each other about good parenting skills. Parent-to-parent combines teaching, peer counseling, and sharing to help parents find caring ways to guide their children.

Sister Charlotte is a resource we treasure in the Second District of Arizona. We are proud that her programs for children are being recognized, and I congratulate her on her accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO JEWISH WAR VETERANS U.S.A.

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special group of Americans from the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey. On March 15, 1996, a group of Jewish veterans gathered for the first time and formed an organization by pledging to maintain their true allegiance to the United States, to stand against the sway of bigotry, and to honor the patriotic service performed by men of Jewish faith. This organization, the Jewish War Veterans U.S.A., has for a century offered a steadfast portrait of loyalty, sacrifice, and self-solve.

Our loyalties mark the kinds of persons we have chosen to become. Real loyalty endures inconvenience, withstands hardship, and does not flinch under assault. The individuals who make up the Jewish War Veterans U.S.A. consistently allow this genuine loyalty to pervade the whole of their lives.

The members of JWW, Post 146 remind us that the loyal, patriotic citizen expects no great reward for coming to his country's aid. On the contrary, a devoted patriot seeks only that his country flourishes.

When it comes to honoring their country, their faith, and their comrades, the veterans of Post 146 know that good intentions are no guarantee for right actions. Indeed, the members of Post 146 have demonstrated both the wisdom to know the right thing to do, and the will to do it. Certainly, they have lived up to the obligations of loyalty, patriotism, and service.

To be a loyal citizen means to achieve a high standard of caring seriously about the well-being of one's nation. I am proud to honor and praise the Jewish War Veterans U.S.A. for exceeding this standard. Congratulations JWW U.S.A. for 100 years of Jewish pride and American patriotism, and Post 146 on your 60th anniversary.

WELCOME BACK LOU STOKES

HON. STEVE C. LATOURETTE
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday my friend and colleague, Lou Stokes, returned to the House of Representatives. I
wanted to take this opportunity to tell him how much his presence and guidance were missed in this institution, and how the Congress is enriched to have him back, and in good health.

Anyone who knows LOU STOKES knows it would take nothing short of major surgery to keep him away. As it turns out, it was major heart surgery that kept Lou away, which seems fitting because Lou has one major heart. I am pleased he came through his surgery with flying colors, and know he will resume his work with the same level of intensity and commitment we’ve all come to expect from him. I thank the fine doctors of the Cleveland Clinic for taking care of our good friend, and sending him back to us as good as new.

As a member of the Ohio delegation and a Representative from northeast Ohio, I have always valued Lou’s experience and wisdom, and feel blessed to have a role model like him in the House. In all my dealings with LOU STOKES he has been fair, forthright, and decent, and it is greatly appreciated.

So, on the occasion of his return to the House, I wish him well. The dean of the Ohio delegation was clearly missed, and I for one am very glad that he is back.

LARS ANDERSON

HON. BILL RICHARDSON
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I honor today a business associate, good friend, and fellow New Mexican, Lars Anderson.

Mr. Anderson was recently honored by the New Mexico AIDS Services by receiving the Ron McDaniel Award, named for the late AIDS and human rights activist. This tribute recognizes commitment and compassion for people impacted by HIV in Santa Fe, NM. Today I salute Mr. Anderson for this revered honor.

Mr. Anderson is a highly dedicated and responsible individual, whether in financial management, where I have benefited from his expertise, or in his steadfast endeavors to help others in need. He has been volunteering many hours for over 2 years with the Hand-in Hand Practical Support Program, assisting those who are dying with AIDS. He has given his loyal support to help relieve the pain, both physically and emotionally, to those afflicted with this fatal disease.

I am extremely grateful to be associated with Mr. Anderson. I respectfully invite all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in giving tribute to this esteemed New Mexican.

CUPA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an association that has had a significant impact in the advancement of higher education human resource management—the College and University Personnel Association (CUPA), which celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 11, 1996.

The association was started by a visionary named Donald E. Dickason, a former director of nonacademic personnel at the University of Illinois at Champaign in 1946. At that time, Dickason invited representatives from more than 50 post-secondary institutions in the Midwest to a forum to discuss problems unique to higher education personnel administration. He envisioned an Association that would provide timely information and support to help foster leadership among personnel administrators. He envisioned an Association that would provide timely information and support to help foster leadership among personnel administrators and growth among institutions. The 44 individuals who attended the meeting agreed and thus CUPA was born.

I first became aware of CUPA when I sponsored H.R. 127, the Employer Provided Education Assistance Act to reinstate the exclusion from income for employees who receive compensation for education expenses from their employer. As many colleges and universities use this valuable training and re-training tool to help their personnel keep on the cutting edge of new technology and information in various education fields, CUPA has helped to lead the charge in trying to reinstate this important provision to the tax code.

It is in this tradition that CUPA promotes effective management and development of human resources in higher education by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and providing valuable information and services to its membership on the national, regional, and chapter level.

Among the functions CUPA provides is the distribution of information critical to expanding and enhancing the higher education human resource management profession through publications and other actions. CUPA provides such support and assistance to help its membership understand and comply with various federal laws and regulations such as the Civil Rights Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act [ADEA], the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA], and the Family Medical Leave Act [FMLA] to name just a few. By providing this valuable information in a timely and professional manner, CUPA helps to ensure their members are living up to both the spirit and the intent of these important worker right and protection laws.

CUPA has grown from the original 44 individuals who attended the first meeting in 1946 to 6,100 human resource administrators representing more than 1,800 colleges and universities and other institutions interested in the advancement of the human resource profession nationally.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many accomplishments of CUPA, in congratulating them on 50 years of excellence, and in wishing them well in their next 50 years of service.

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HISPANIC COORDINATING COUNCIL AWARDS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 13, 1996, numerous outstanding Hispanics from Indiana’s First Congressional District were honored for their notable contributions to northwest Indiana. Student Recognition Awards, a President’s Award, a Community Outreach Award, a Cesar Chavez award and an Outstanding Family Award were presented by the Hispanic Coordinating Council during a banquet held at the American Legion Post No. 369 in East Chicago, IN.

Sixty Hispanic students representing thirty northwest Indiana and northeast Illinois high schools were recognized for their academic and athletic achievements. The students who received awards for Outstanding Academic Achievement include: Melissa Hogg, Andrean High School; Angelica Quiroz, Calumet High School; April Ybarra, Clark Middle/Senior High School; Leandro Cortez, Jr., East Chicago Central High School; Fidel Lopez, Edison Junior/Senior High School; Nicole Yadron, Highland High School; Nina Ramos, Hobart High School; Elvin Roman, Horace Mann High School; Megan Mendoza, Lowell High School; Carmen Bonilla and Robert Martinez, Merrillville High School; Rebekah Perez, Morton High School; Christopher Garcia and Odette Gutierrez, Munster High School; James Espinoza, Portage High School; Patricia Cisneros and Javier Fuentes, River Forest High School; Mabel Lamas and Allison Karas, Thornton Fractional North High School; Leslie Cruz, Thornton Fractional South High School; William Marquez and Alison DeSchamp, Valparaiso High School; and Santiago Rodrigues, Jr., Whiting Middle/High School.

The students who received awards for Outstanding Athletic Achievement include: Matthew Murawski, Andrean High School; Israel Anthony Roman, Bishop Noll Institute; Daniel Mendez, Boone Grove High School; Seleno Gomez, Calumet High School; Melinda Amezcua, Clark Middle/Senior High School; Paul Maidano and Frank Chabes, East Chicago Central High School; Nick Reyes, Edison Junior/Senior High School; Enrique Luna, Gavit Middle/Senior High School; Stefanie Duran, Griffith Senior High School; Diana Cruz, Hammond High School; Jennifer Corley, Hanover Central High School; Rachel Guzman, Highland High School; Kristopher Kingery, Hobart High School; Jose Fogelman, Lowell High School; Mike Villanueva, Merrillville High School; David Mendoza, Morton High School; Alaina Altschu and Derek Serna, Munster High School; Nicholas Munoz and Leroy Vega, Portage High School; Melissa Pinti, River Forest High School; and Robert Dominguez, Whiting Middle/Senior High School.

Those students who received awards for being an Outstanding Student include: William
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HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special individual from the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey. Dr. James J. Fadule, Jr. has served as a superintendant of the New Jersey Public Schools for the past 18 years and has set the standard for pedagogical excellence.

"What should I be when I grow up?" is a question many young people ask when they are in school. Dr. Fadule has changed the premise of that question. He encourages students to ask "What should I be in the world?" This is not a question about a paycheck, but a question about life. The work of Dr. Fadule's life has been to push students and teachers to expand their energies for the sake of achieving something special. Work in this intrinsic sense is not what we do for a living but what we do with our living.

Some of life's greatest joys come from the work of one's life. Indeed, those who have neglected the joy of work, of a job well done, have lost something very meaningful. Thank you, Dr. James Fadule for your life's work—I am certain that as you begin your retirement you will continue to encourage, teach, and appreciate others in all that you do.

THE ENVIRONMENT

HON. NANCY PELOSI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 26th anniversary of the first Earth Day next Monday, I would like to make the following observations about the 104th Congress.

The 104th Congress came to Washington with an aggressive, antienvironment agenda. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) budget proposals to open Alaska's Tongass National Forest to increased logging and continue the moratorium on listing new endangered species. The funding for protection of our Nation's wetlands, endangered species, forests, and public lands must not be sacrificed in favor of short-term profits for miners, grazers, and developers. Programs to protect our Nation's water and air should not be held hostage to budget antics that have left these primary environmental agencies limping through the 1996 fiscal year with only a fraction of the funding needed to function.

The impacts of Republican cuts to the EPA include: weakened enforcement of environmental laws—including a 40-percent reduction in health and safety inspections of industrial facilities; new standards to protect drinking water—including tap water standards for pollutants like cryptosporidium, which killed 100 people in Milwaukee in 1993; new and ongoing cleanups at toxic waste sites—start of new construction halted at 68 sites; pace of cleanup slowed at 400 sites; new standards for toxic industrial air pollutants; new review of air pollution standards to ensure adequate health protection; and new studies on how toxic chemicals may impair reproductive development and studies on how pollution affects high-risk populations.

These are just some of the effects of the cuts to EPA funding. I have not even listed the serious impacts of spending cuts on the Department of the Interior.

I would like to make two observations. First, scientists say you cannot separate personal health from the health of our environment. Pollution prevention equals disease prevention. These foolish cuts are reducing our Nation's investment in public health. It is false economy to cut back on enforcement of clean air and clean water. How sad that 26 years after the passage of the Clean Air Act, we have not even listed the clean air, clean water, and safe drinking water laws. The Interior appropriations bill included provisions to open Alaska's Tongass National Forest to increased logging and continue the moratorium on listing new endangered species.

The American people have the answer—they want a safe and healthy environment. We should follow their lead, and we should live up...
to their expectations that the Federal Government will ensure their health and safety at all levels. We should remember that every day of every year.

H.R. 3173—THE CONSUMER PRODUCTS SAFE TESTING ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of my colleagues the Consumer Products Safe Testing Act which I recently introduced, along with thirty-two of our colleagues. This long-overdue legislation aims at scaling back outdated and burdensome federal regulations used by the FDA and other Federal agencies regarding toxicity testing of cosmetics, corrosives, and other substances. The bill calls on all Federal regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over toxicity testing to review and evaluate their regulations concerning animal acute toxicity testing. The bill establishes no new mandates regarding animal toxicity testing. For many years, the Federal Government has used animals to test the toxicity of consumer products. This bill seeks to establish, wherever possible, non-animal acute toxicity testing as an acceptable standard for Government regulations without compromising human safety.

Development of new technology has achieved substantial gains in the field of non-animal alternatives for acute toxicity tests. Many cosmetic companies, including Avon, Revlon, Redken, Paul Mitchell, The Body Shop, and Nexus, already use alternatives to animal testing for screening and developing their products. In addition, many biotechnology firms are developing non-animal tests to determine the safety of various consumer products they produce. These tests include Skintex by InVitro International and Textskin by Organogenisis, Inc., which use human skin equivalent tissue. InVitro has actually developed a series of non-animal test kits which evaluate and rank irritancy and toxicity of a wide variety of substances.

Despite these advances, the Federal Government still relies on animals for toxicity testing. The result is that many companies at the cutting edge of non-animal technology are forced to market their products overseas. If the United States is to remain a world leader in biotechnology, we must reexamine our Federal regulations to reflect the advances in testing methods already in progress. If we fail to encourage developments in this field and continue using outdated federal regulations, we run the risk of falling behind the rest of the industrialized world and losing our position as a world leader in science. By calling on the Federal Government to reevaluate its regulations on toxicity testing to include non-animal tests wherever possible, the Consumer Products Safe Testing Act will encourage U.S. companies to develop and market non-animal testing products in the United States.

Non-animal alternatives to toxicity tests, in addition to being more humane, produce better data and reduce costs over the long term.

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Scientists agree that, despite the usefulness of animals for testing purposes, human cells and tissue produce more accurate results. As technology progresses to develop an acceptable battery of non-animal toxicity testing, we can provide a more cost effective method of testing products. Savings can be realized from reduction in animal care and storage, in addition to time saved.

Time involved in product testing remains a crucial factor. Many product development companies spend large amounts of time and resources in the government regulatory process. Animal testing often takes several years to complete. If acceptable alternatives are developed, this would save the producer, as well as the regulatory agency, time and money during the lengthy and cumbersome approval process. In asking the Federal Government to review its regulations concerning toxicity testing, the bill takes a bite out of federal regulation, while ensuring consumers' safety.

In recognition of the contribution animal tests make to the medical community, the bill specifically exempts all medical research. Only regulations regarding toxicity testing are affected.

I am delighted to sponsor the Consumer Products Safe Testing Act. This legislation will move towards ensuring that the Federal Government treats non-animal acute toxicity testing as an acceptable standard and that outdated and cumbersome regulations are reviewed and reevaluated.

THE "WE THE PEOPLE" PROGRAM

HON. DAN BURTON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on April 27-29, 1996, more than 1,300 students from 50 States and the District of Columbia will be in Washington, D.C., to compete in the national finals of the "We the People...the Citizen and the Constitution" Program. I am proud to announce that the class from Lawrence Central High School in Indianapolis, IN, will represent Indiana's Sixth Congressional District. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals by winning local competitions in their home States.

The distinguished members of the team representing Indiana are: Amber Anderson, Carrie Anderson, Heather Bailey, Alicia Crichton, Nathan Criswell, Finda Fallah, Jeremy Freimuth, Lourie Gilbert, Robert Gordon, Phillip Gray, Amanda Gross, Tim Halligan, Lindsey Hamilton, Brandon Hart, Scott King, Brent Patterson, Mike Petro, Megan Pratt, Jason Roberts, Anthony Roque, C. David Smith, Tony Snider, Tomeka Stanberry, Crystal Sullivan, Sarah Thompson, Gene Wagner, Maurice Williams, and Mike Zabor.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Drew Horvath, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the team, The district coordinator, Langdon Healy, and the state coordinator, Robert Leming, also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help the team reach the national finals.

The "We the People...the Citizen and the Constitution" Program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The 3-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students' oral presentations are judged on the basis of their knowledge of constitutional principles and their ability to apply them to historical and contemporary issues.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the "We the People..." Program, now in its ninth academic year, has reached more than 70,400 teachers, and 22,600,000 students nationwide at the upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers.

The "We the People..." Program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective on the significance of the U.S. Constitution and its place in our history and our lives. I wish these students the best of luck in the national finals and look forward to their continued success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LOREN BENESLY OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

HON. DAVE CAMP
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize an outstanding teacher, writer, and scholar as he retires from Central Michigan University. On May 2, 1996, Dr. Loren Bensley will celebrate his retirement after 53 years of service to his students, the community, and the health profession.

Dr. Bensley is recognized as a State, national, and international scholar in the field of health education, with 60 publications and more than 100 presentations to his credit. As president of the American School Health Association, he received 32 awards from various professional organizations for his leadership and contributions. Under his leadership, the Eta Chapter of Eta Sigma Gamma, the National Health Science Honorary, won the National Chapter of the Year award 10 times. Such outstanding accomplishments are a testament to his academic brilliance and exceptional leadership capability.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Loren Bensley's love for dedication to education is clear. He has consistently gone beyond what was expected or required to achieve excellence not only in teaching, but writing and leadership. His reputation as a kind, inspiring, and hard-working scholar will serve as an example to all who know him for many years to come. I know you will join me in recognizing his achievements and wishing him a satisfying retirement.

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

America's call is a call to uphold her commitment to peace, freedom, liberty, and justice for all. In an age where discontent and excessive patriotism are out of style, we must continue to remember the sacrifices of thousands, even millions, like Corporal Far. They believe in America's future and they proved it with their lives. Each one of us must answer America's call.

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my congratulations to the Peace Corps on the celebration of its 50th anniversary and to thank all of the young volunteers who have given so much of themselves over the past 50 years. The Peace Corps has been instrumental in helping people around the world improve their quality of life. It is a program that has gained national recognition from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of America and serves as the senior essay of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Competition. The author, Emily Shumway, explored the theme "Answering America's Call." Her entry gained national recognition from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and she was recently awarded the Mr. and Mrs. James H. Black Scholarship.

Answering America's Call
(By Emily Shumway)

A young boy clings to his mother's black dress, his eyes fixed on the bright flag draped over a coffin. The rays from the blazing Arizona sun sparkle and dance on the shining flag. A bugle from its case. The bugle boy raises the bugle to his mouth and begins to play "Taps." The haunting melody of "Taps" fills the little boy's ears and goose bumps rise on his skin. Soberly, the music peters out. The final note floats solemnly over the crowd into the air and fire three shots as the final note of the bugle plays into the air. The music ceases and the crowd is at it again, Mr. Speaker. They never tire of their sneaky attempts at legalizing drugs. Their latest endeavor is in, nor surprise here—California—where a fringe group called Californians for Compassionate Use is lobbying the California Legislature to pass two bills which would legalize the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. Because marijuana has no medicinal value, it is fairly obvious that this is nothing but a backdoor attempt to legalize the use of marijuana for all purposes. And that is not just my opinion.

Mr. Speaker, the FDA has repeatedly rejected marijuana for medical use because it adversely impacts concentration and memory, the lungs, motor coordination and the immune system. A recent evaluation of the issue by scientists at NIH concluded, "after carefully examining the existing preclinical and human data, there is no evidence to suggest that smoked marijuana might be superior to currently available therapies for glaucoma, weight loss associated with AIDS, and nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy."

Marijuana weakens the human immune system. That is why oncologists reject the idea of prescribing smoked marijuana for cancer chemotherapy. Experts also oppose the use of marijuana to treat glaucoma. As for AIDS patients, it does not facilitate weight gain, further weakens the immune system, and puts them at significant risk for infections and respiratory problems.

For these reasons the American Cancer Society, the American Glaucoma Society and the American Medical Society all oppose using marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Unfortunately, this seriously misguided effort is not limited to some hippies out in California. It has reached the Congress of the United States. Representative BARNEY FRANK has introduced legislation—H.R. 2618—that would federalize the right to use marijuana for medicinal purposes. This is dangerous legislation—and I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I will stop H.R. 2618 dead in its tracks should it receive significant support—something I do not anticipate happening.

I urge my colleagues to focus on what this issue is really about. The organizations lobbying for H.R. 2618 are not fighting to protect the pain and suffering of others as part of their backdoor attempt to legalize marijuana.

TRIBUTE TO JACK SHAFFER
HON. BUD SHUSTER
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Jack Shaffer. No words could better describe the character of Jack Shaffer than would be expressed in Time magazine on the naming of his new cabinet officers by President Nixon in 1968, "cool competence rather than passion or brilliance."

Many of our Nation's leaders are born in small rural towns. Everett, PA on Feb. 25, 1910, was Jack's birthplace. He grew up much the same as any small town boy would. Appointed to West Point in 1941, where he played football, he was a member of the first
to receive airmen's wings upon graduation. From there he went to transition flight school, thence to England where he flew forty-six combat missions over Europe in a B-26. Staying in the Air Force, he became a project officer in Ohio directing the engineering development of the B-47 and B-50 programs. He then resigned his commission and joined the Mercury division of the Ford Motor Co., moving to Washington as corporate vice president for customer requirements of TRW Inc.

With the return of the Republican Party to the Presidency in 1968, President Nixon selected him to become Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and he was easily confirmed by the Senate.

Having volunteered his time to the Agency before confirmation, he recognized the need for a massive increase in the civil aviation infrastructure. He saw, as his first priority, the need to modernize and update the Nation's air traffic control and airport systems. He also recognized that the surrounding environment needed protection. Although he was at odds with others in the administration, he stuck to his principles and succeeded in passing, through a Democratic Congress, the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1970. The Legislation set aside a trust fund for airport construction which is still a vital element in providing for the ever-increasing use of air transportation, not only in the United States but throughout the world.

In order to protect the flying public, although faced with strong opposition, he also established regulations to limit the number of flights per hour into five of the Nation's air traffic hubs. JFK Kennedy, Washington National, LaGuardia, O'Hare, and Chicago Midway. Although designed as a temporary fix, the restrictions still remain in place today. Growth continues to outpace capacity.

Another issue with heavy international connotations was the increase in aircraft hijacking. Hijackers flew aircraft to Cuba for refuge and in several instances, passengers or crew were killed. Negotiations with Cuba and other countries denied these criminals a safe haven. Passengers and luggage were held hostage with weapons. With the hijackings assigned by the FAA, the number of hijackings decreased dramatically by 1972. However, some of the safety arrangements still exist. During his tenure air safety reached a new high. In 1970, only two deaths occurred on U.S. air carriers.

The most difficult task for the Administrator was to instill confidence in the Agencies air traffic controllers. Following a sick-out by controllers on duty, with as many as 50% of a single shift calling in sick, delays and flight cancellations became burdensome to the flying public. Finally, in 1972, it took court action to curtail their union activities. The Air Traffic Controller Career Act, spearheaded by Jack Shaffer, provided early retirement and retraining for over 20,000 employees.

As a result of these many advancements in the aviation system, Jack Shaffer, in 1972 was awarded the Wright Brothers' Trophy for outstanding service in advancing aviation. He was the first FAA Administrator to be so honored.

One of Jack Shaffer's friends is the legendary golfer, Arnold Palmer, also raised in a small Western Pennsylvania town. In many regards, the two are a lot alike, sharing the same qualities; tenacity, desire, passion for what they do and love of the game of golf. Both have reached the pinnacle of their profession, are pilots, and remember their heritage.

After leaving the FAA, Jack continued his career in the private sector acting as a consultant to Beech Aircraft Corp. and advancing the use of Liquid Natural Gas as a preserver of the environment. He is a role model for political appointees who move from the private sector to government when duty calls.

Jack has been married to Joan for over fifty years and they have raised three fine children. He is currently in a nursing home in Frederick, MD, and is sorely missed by those who know him and have benefited by his influence on their lives.

IN SUPPORT OF ROTARIANS AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE FOUNDATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today a House concurrent resolution to recognize the work of the Rotarians Against Substance Abuse Foundation, the First Presbyterian Church of Concord, CA, and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Contra Coasta County, CA.

These organizations came together in 1983 to promote the idea of engaging teenagers in positive activities and having fun without using alcohol and drugs. Through programs such as Friday Night Live, Club Live, and Rotary Life Club #1, teenagers participate in on-campus peer counseling, community services, Kidsfest, and other fun and worthwhile activities. Today, with the success of these programs, this idea is being promoted all across our Nation and throughout the world.

These organizations deserve our commendation for their concern for children's well-being, community service, private initiative, and international promotion. Their work in providing positive activities for teenagers deserves the recognition and support of this House.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

TWIN CITIES COMMUNITY HONORS INFLUENTIAL RESIDENT

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work of Rev. James w. Battle and to thank him for his outstanding dedication to the St. Paul/Minneapolis communities in Minnesota.

Reverend Battle is the pastor of the Mount Olivet Baptist Church in St. Paul. His activities in the community, however, go far beyond his duties as pastor. Recently, the Luther Seminary recognized him for some of those activities by giving him the Seminary's Race, Church and Change Award. This award was given to Reverend Battle to honor him for his outstanding and tireless efforts to improve cross-cultural relations within the community.

Along with organizations such as the Urban League, Chamber of Commerce, Council on Black Minnesotans, Rainbow Coalition and others, Reverend Battle has taken the lead in the efforts to address many of our community's most daunting problems. He helped organize a meeting of gang leaders from cities across the Nation, brought together to talk about problems associated with gang activity and how they could help forge peace between gangs in their communities. On the local level, he has helped unite several Twin Cities congregations, forming the St. Paul Ecumenical Alliance of Churches. This amazingly effective alliance is helping these 16 congregations coordinate their efforts to address community problems.

During the years he spent giving his time and efforts to our community, Reverend Battle has participated in many efforts to improve the lives of our most precious and vulnerable citizens, our children. They are the future of the Twin Cities, and the nation. By opening doors of opportunity for young Minnesotans in the Twin Cities, Reverend Battle has helped ensure a strong future for our community. The mentoring and guidance he has provided to so many youth will not only increase those children's chances to achieve success, it will also ensure that the next generation of Twin Cities adults feels the same commitment to their community and respect for their neighbors that Reverend Battle holds in such high regard. These lessons are some of the most valuable ones a child will learn in his or her lifetime, and Reverend Battle has served as an exceptional teacher of these lessons.

There is still much work left to be done to address and fill the needs of some Twin Cities residents. However, Reverend Battle's efforts serve as a strong foundation as he and the rest of our community continue this struggle. I join the entire Twin Cities community in thanking him for his hard work on behalf of the community and its residents, and I look to walk through Samaria and face the problems and meet the challenges of the community with a strong leader, Rev. James W. Battle.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter the following article into the RECORD. It was printed in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on April 9, 1996. It is a wonderful summary of the good work Reverend Battle has accomplished in the Twin Cities.

[From the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Apr. 9, 1996]

PASTOR HONORED FOR COMMUNITY MINISTRY

(By Pat Buson)

The Rev. James W. Battle Sr. has preached peace to gang members, repentance to sinners and colorblind community service to the clergy.

Battle, known as much for his social activism as his pastorate, was named Pastoral The­ bist Church in St. Paul, has opened the church's doors to the community for meet­ ings. In 1993, he helped organize a summit meeting of gang leaders from across the na­ tion to sit down and talk. He helped start an
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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

By Zina Vishnevsky

CLEVELAND—Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, nationally known as a fighter for civil rights and the state of Israel, died yesterday of complications from a brain tumor at Montefiore Home in Beachwood. He was 83.

The Cleveland resident was the spiritual leader of Fairmount Temple in Beachwood, one of the country's three largest Reform congregations.

He gained notoriety for his involvement in the formation of Israel, the civil rights movement and in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

Lelyveld served as Fairmount Temple from 1958 until retiring in 1986. After becoming senior rabbi emeritus at Fairmount, he served as a lecturer in Jewish thought at John Carroll University, a Jesuit institution.

Rabbi David J. Gelfand, now the leader at Fairmount Temple, said Lelyveld used strict Judaism teachings to bring his civil rights message to synagogues.

"He spoke fearlessly as one of the great advocates of civil rights by making the message of the prophets come alive through his words and deeds," he said. "He emphasized from our own Jewish particularity the eternal importance of universality, the notion that all human beings are interrelated.

"It was a great privilege for me and we were all made in the image of God..."

Lelyveld served on the board of the Cleveland chapter of the NAACP in the 1960s and played a major role in the civil rights progress of Cleveland.

"He was the conscience of the community on many critical issues," said Carole Hoover, executive director of the Cleveland Development Association. "His strength was in his ability to pull us all together.

"With the advent of America's first rabbis to join the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s campaign for civil rights. He participated in key marches, including Selma to Montgomery. Also, he provided financial support to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference."

In 1964, as part of the Cleveland clergy team, Lelyveld served as a counselor for the Council of Federated Organizations under the National Council of Churches Commission on Race and Religion.

He was beaten with tire irons by segregationists while helping to register black voters in Hattiesburg, Miss. The blow left him both as a rabbi and as a civil rights leader. He used his brilliant and keen mind to make people think deeper about civil rights issues, said Rep. Louis Stokes, a Cleveland Democrat, who served on the NAACP board with Lelyveld in the 1960s. Stokes; his brother, former Mayor Carl B. Stokes; and Lelyveld became lifelong friends.

After the beating in Hattiesburg, Lelyveld said that he worried that police would not apprehend the suspects and would continue to harass civil rights workers.

He issued a statement to his supporters in Mississippi. "There is only one way to stay
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

April 16, 1996

An outstanding student who has earned three letters in swimming, Jonathan plans to attend the American University here in Washington, DC, and pursue a career in international service. The ability for Americans to come together regardless of race, color, or creed and work in unity for the most basic of American ideals has always made this nation great. From the thousands of Union troops who fought to preserve the nation during the Civil War to the thousands of men who left their homes in 1942 to fight for a land and a people most of them had never even seen, all of them rose to the occasion and to the call from their homeland, America. But the call extended beyond military service it went out to every man and every woman regardless of age.

When our American troops landed at Normandy they did not land alone, but rather were backed by the support of millions of Americans. Millions of Americans who did everything from designing the landing craft which our troops used in their amphibious assault, to the fastening of bolts on the armor plating of tanks which our soldiers used to break the back of the Nazi war machine. When Alas Sheppard became the first American to enter space he did not accomplish this task alone but rather he rode on a rocket that countless Americans played a role in developing. Everyone person had a function and it was the compilation of these capacities that made this monumental feat possible.

But what now is America's call? Is it to again go overseas to defend freedom worldwide or has the call, now, in recent years, sounded closer to home? Has the proverbial battle of the "American Way" moved from foreign shores to our own sacred soil? The battle being fought now is on the streets of inner-city America and in the classrooms of every public school rather than at the 38th parallel or the DMZ. The answer is now.

HON. FRANK MASCARA
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to my colleagues that Jonathan glorious Gaylord High School in my district, has won first place in this year's Pennsylvania VFW Voice of Democracy broadcast script writing contest.

Student wins first place in VFW scholarship contest

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Tom has led a life filled with distinctions. The 1990 graduate of Ridgewood High School graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1964. At New York University Law School, he was a Root-Tilden Scholar. After graduation, he clerked for Warren Burger at the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington before the jurist was elevated to the U.S. Supreme Court. Tom joined the firm of Gravath, Swaine & Moore in 1966, was elected partner in 1975 and is presently head of the Corporate Law Department.

Despite a challenging career and a rigorous workload, Tom has always managed to find time to give service to the community of Ridgewood and other causes.

Tom is in his third year as president of the Ridgewood Public Education Foundation, with the mission of broadening our children's educational experience and helping our school system deliver a world-class competitive education. He has helped establish a successful partnership between the Patterson Education Foundation and a number of districts have looked to Ridgewood as a prototype.

In November 1994, Tom became president of the New York Legal Aid Society Board of Directors, an agency with which he has law school ties. As president, Tom had the task of negotiating contracts and restructuring Legal Aid's staff following an attorneys' strike and New York City's termination of Legal Aid contracts.

He is also co-chair of Weinfield Associates, a fund-raising arm of NYU Law School, a former president and trustee of the Ridgewood Board of Education, and a former vestryman and warden at St. Elizabeth's Church in Ridgewood.

Tom and I go way back—back further than either of us would care to admit. He was my student at George Washington Junior High School in Ridgewood. From those days a long time ago, I could see Tom was destined for great things. He was sharp, disciplined, handled himself very well, displayed great character and his classmates turned to him for answers. In short, he was a leader among leaders even then.

It is Tom's propensity for hard work, his facile mind and his wonderful ability to deal with people that allowed him to balance a truly Herculean schedule. Everything he does, he does with full effort and with grace and sensitivity. Perhaps it is the dignity with which Tom treats every individual that truly inspires people to do their best. Ridgewood is truly blessed to have Tom as a resident and I am truly blessed to be able to call him my friend.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL KENNY, FLORIDA VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Contest. This year, more than 116,000 secondary school students participated in the contest, competing for the 54 national scholarships totaling more than $118,000. The contest theme for this year was "Answering America's Call."

The contest theme was close enough that one of my constituents, Michael Kenny, won first place in the state and a $1,000 scholarship in the Voice of Democracy Contest. Michael is a senior at Tarpon Springs High School and hopes to pursue a career in theater.

In his speech, Michael reminds us all of what can be accomplished when we answer America's call and undertake individual acts to improve the world around us. I would like to share Michael's speech with you.

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

Around the first of December 1965, due to the efforts of people in Helena, Montana banding together to protect and care for certain ailing and threatened birds, the American Bald Eagle was taken off the endangered species list.

Murdor, poverty, homelessness, hunger, discrimination—these are problems we face every day. The evening news, or read the paper, we seldom see good news like the story about the Bald Eagle. We are often disgusted and shocked at what we see. If we do not fight to change matters, these problems will continue to affect us. Many are pointing out our problems without offering any solutions. They see America's failure to say we are a society destined to fail. America is endangered, but her critics are not listening. They do not hear the soft voice of America as she whispers. America is calling out to us. She asks for our love and respect for her and for her precious needy citizens. She is the voice of the twenty million children living in poverty and the 12 million children hoping for a hot meal so they won't go to bed hungry...again..."help us." America calls, "help them," "help each other.

Let's not waste time criticizing, let's answer. Let's work together and repair what is wrong with this country. She asks us to come together, to stand united in our communities and help those who need food, clothing and shelter. As a letter to the editor of a local newspaper recently put it, "America's truth is that no sense of community can survive unless we the people demand political respect and economic support for the values and dignity. To be American is to be like the many who just complained and put America down. I was angry at the world around me for all of its problems because I felt helpless to make right what was wrong. I am only one person, I thought, what can I do? Recently, desiring to at least do something, I went down to a local soup kitchen to offer some help. I noticed there a young girl in what appeared to have once been a pink dress, but was now only soiled rags. She was cold and clutching tightly an old doll with the stuffing coming out and she was desperately trying to keep warm. My heart sank as she timidly approached the counter. I offered her so much to help her. After she handed her a cup of chicken soup and saw the smile cross that dirt-stained little face as she took her first sip, I knew I had begun to answer her call. She received the nourishment she needed to get through the day. We helped her make her life, and others, a little easier, at least for the moment. I realized then that I was beginning to hear and answer the call of America.

Our country also calls out for us to be proud. We live in a nation where men and women have traditionally joined in a fight...
TRIBUTE TO NORA W. BRANDT:
SPEAKING OUT FOR PEACE

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Nora W. Brandt, the principal of W.J. Bryan Elementary School in north Miami. Mrs. Brandt will be honored here in Washington tonight at a ceremony recognizing her efforts to teach young people peaceful means of resolving conflict.

Too often in our society, conflicts are resolved through violent rather than through peaceful means. Mrs. Brandt's efforts to teach a new generation about ways to settle disagreements without fighting are very much needed today.

To advance the cause of peace, Mrs. Brandt, in 1992 initiated a schoolwide peace campaign at W.J. Bryan Elementary. In subsequent years the school sponsored the Annual W.J. Bryan Peace Summit which has become a model for other area schools. Earlier this year, more than 2,000 students and parents participated in a multicultural peace march organized by Mrs. Brandt and the students of W.J. Bryan.

Mrs. Brandt has also coordinated the schoolwide training of all teachers in "Creative Conflict Solving for Kids" and established a Peer Mediation Program.

In 1994 Mrs. Brandt was recognized as Peace Administrator of the Year by the Peace Education Foundation. Under her leadership, W.J. Bryan was named the 1995 Exemplary Peace School by Dade County Public Schools Multicultural Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, I join with all of our community in honoring Nora W. Brandt, educator and peacemaker.

DEDICATION OF THE GENE R. AL-EXANDER LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

HON. GLENN POSHARD
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gene R. Alexander of Elgin, Ill. For over 30 years he was a devoted teacher and principal, and on April 25 he will be honored for his service when the library at Benton Elementary School is renamed the "Gene R. Alexander Learning Resource Center." I would like to thank "Mr. A." he is fondly referred to, for his relentless promotion of education and his efforts on behalf of the children of Franklin County.

As an educator and administrator I understand the commitment and hard work it takes to make a profound impact on the lives of your students. This task is even harder today, for it seems all school employees are linked to make a case for the benefits of education; students crave entertainment and engagement as much as they desire fundamental knowledge.

Mr. A. understood that if he gave enough of himself to the children, they would respond. Even in retirement, he still can be found reading to students, cleaning and painting area schools, reading to patients at hospitals and even contributing his own money to purchase school resources. Mr. A. has been the difference for many kids between enjoying school and appreciating the value of education instead of just getting by. And, as so often is the case with community leaders, Mr. A.'s civic participation has not been confined to his chosen profession. He has taught Sunday School at the First Christian Church for 37 years and been an active member and past president of the Benton Kiwanis. His life is a testimonial to selflessness, and we the recipients of his kindness have been truly blessed.

Mr. Speaker, all too often we fail to recognize the contributions that the teachers of our children make to their lives. On this very floor, we hear about how our education system is letting down our students and how overall standards have decreased. Thankfully, Gene R. Alexander has made sure this is not the case in Benton and the surrounding area. I would again like to thank Mr. A. for his tireless efforts on behalf of the children of the 19th District. It is an honor to represent him in the U.S. Congress.

TRIBUTE TO LEO NELSON

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding civic leader of Illinois' 14th Congressional District, Leo Nelson, on his forthcoming receipt of the Elgin Cosmopolitan Club's Annual Distinguished Service Award.

Leo Nelson has served the community of Elgin with great distinction over the years, serving as a member of city government for over a decade and participating in a number of community activities. The list of accomplishments during his long career are many, and there are several States across this Nation that are better for his service there. Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, he graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor's degree in political science in 1957. He then served his country for several years in the U.S. Army, retiring and returning to college at Boston University where he received his Master's degree in 1964. He began his professional career as administrative assistant to the city manager of Rock Island, Ill in 1964, and followed that position with city management positions in Wyoming, Michigan and Sidney, OH before settling in Elgin, IL, in late 1972.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Nelson has been a highly valued member of the Elgin community for nearly 25 years, and his list of civic activities is quite lengthy. He is a former director and current chairman of the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce Board, the president-elect of the United Way of Elgin Board, member of the Elgin Community College Foundation Board and current chairman of the Robotics and High Technology Academy of School District...
April 16, 1996

U-46 in Elgin. His past activities have included time as chairman of the Jayne Shover Easter Seal Center, as chairman of the Greater Elgin Area YMCA Corporate Board, and as a member of the board of directors for the Elgin Area Services Board, the Well Child Conference and the Elgin affiliate of the Literacy Volunteers of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring this dedicated man, for his commitment to and leadership in the Elgin community and to improving this Nation. I wish him well as they years' recipient of the Elgin Cosmopolitan Club's Annual Distinguished Service Award, an honor that is richly deserved.

RECOGNITION OF CIVIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF ERVIN HIGGS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, for the past 60 years in Monroe County, one man has been at the forefront of fighting for the needs of the community for the needs of the Florida Keys. Ervin Higgs has taken a leading role in finding solutions to our communities' problems. In recognition of all of his civic achievements, I would like to take this time to outline all that he has done for south Florida.

The Ervin Higgs story began on April 30, 1936 in Key West, Florida. On that day, Ervin Higgs was born into a family of "conchs" who trace their heritage to Spanish Wells in the Bahamas.

In an attempt to contribute his energy to the community, Ervin sought out public service as a profession. He was first appointed by Governor Askew in 1976 as the tax assessor for Monroe County, FL and has served in that position ever since.

When the local government was mandated to adopt a comprehensive plan in compliance with certain state mandates, Ervin was acutely aware of the higher taxes paid under the school funding formula. Even at the early stages of the funding formula, Ervin could, and probably in the near future, reach a point where local taxpayers would be required to pay more into the state school fund than would be allowed to be expended by the local school board. In order to ensure that all properties were properly reflected on the tax roll when the country adopted the initial comprehensive plan, he realized that the mapping of the environmental features of properties was inadequate. He hired his own consultant and eventually produced maps that were adopted by the county.

Through the years Ervin has been in office, he has defended the equity of the tax roll and even fought in the courts to ensure that everyone paid their fair share. He has cost-effectively modernized the Property Appraiser's Office, passing cost-savings back to the taxpayers.

As he grew older, Ervin developed into one of those endangered species that is currently being threatened in south Florida as a result of an attempted almost every level of government to influence and control the future of the Florida Keys. As a "conch", he has always been acutely aware of the need to preserve the existing natural beauty of the Florida Keys while at the same time attempting to keep the local economic base viable. For all of his work, I would like to take this time to honor his achievements.

VETERANS AFFAIRS HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

HON. MIKE WARD
OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital Volunteer Program is one of the oldest and largest nationally coordinated programs and is an outgrowth of a movement that began during World War II. During that time, volunteers came, unsolicited, to VA hospitals to visit and entertain war-injured patients. After the war, national organizations and the VA formulated this effort by creating the VA Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee in 1945.

This year is the 50th anniversary of VA Voluntary Service. That organization has coordinated the donation of more than 400 million community volunteer hours at VA medical centers since 1945. At the VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Louisville, 585 volunteers worked a total of 58,225 hours last year. This is equivalent to 25 full-time employees and valued at $706,269.

Last year, Louisville VAMC volunteers gave $150,372 in material donations, such as personal hygiene items, art supplies, books, equipment, and vehicles to the medical center. In addition, our volunteers gave $58,321 in monetary donations last year.

Volunteers are vital to the delivery of healthcare to our nation's veterans. They assist at the Louisville VAMC by transporting patients to different areas of the hospital, transporting records and files, visiting patients, assisting with recreation programs, and helping with clerical work.

The most valuable contribution given to veteran patients by Louisville VAMC volunteers cannot be measured in any way. It is the gift of themselves—their compassion, caring, understanding, and dedication. Their very presence in the medical center contributes to putting frightened patients at ease and creating a comfortable environment for them.

I salute the Louisville VA Medical Center's volunteers for their tireless service to our Nation's veterans.

A TRIBUTE TO UTAH STATE SENATOR WILFORD "REX" BLACK

HON. BILL ORTON
OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. ORTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment today to honor Utah State Senator Wilford "Rex" Black of Salt Lake City, who is retiring from the Utah Senate after representing his west Salt Lake district for 24 years.

Senator Black has earned the high respect and admiration of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle as he has worked in the Utah Senate. An article, published in the Thursday, February 29, 1996, edition of the Salt Lake Tribune written by staff writer Tony Semerd, does a good job describing Senator Black. I would like to include portions of this article in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Wilford "Rex" Black, Jr., trusty locomotive driver of Utah's Democratic legislators, pulled into the retirement yard Wednesday after a quarter-century of service. Part statesman, part grump, part warm-hearted grandfather, Black, 76, ended a 24-year Senate career when the gavel fell. As the longest-serving senator in the chamber, he leaves an indelible mark on state government and the politicians who stay behind.

The Senate had been a dry-eyed place in 1996. That is, until Monday, when senators began speaking up at a Black farewell ceremony. One by one, leading Republicans and Democrats folded in tears as they bade farewell to the retired railroad engineer-turned-politician in his firm manner and, above all, his integrity.

"Rex tells you something, you can take to the bank," Black said. Senator Holmogren, R-Bear River City. "That's just the way it is."

Through six Senate terms, the Rose Park resident has served as majority whip when Democrats dominated Capitol Hill, and held the post of Senate minority leader for a decade. From key committee seats, he has influenced nearly every major piece of legislation since the late 1970s, focusing on public safety, transportation, credit unions and the state's retirement system.

Senate President Lane Beattie, R-West Bountiful, calls Black and his experience one of strongest arguments against the idea of term limits. "I can't imagine a worse mistake than limiting the expertise, knowledge and wisdom of a man like this," said Beattie.

Many find it impossible to imagine working in the Utah Legislature without Black's leather-tough, sometimes gruff, sometimes humorous presence. He was a part of a part of my mental visualization of what goes on in here as anything or anybody in the chamber," said Gov. Mike Leavitt, whose father, Dixie Leavitt, served alongside Black.

But the years catch up with everyone. "It's my time to go," Black said.

While still fit after surviving a bout with cancer six years ago, the gray-haired senator, named for his father, a Hercules shell-horse foreman. Seven months after marrying Helen Shiner, in 1945. Black entered the army, eventually driving supply and prisoner trains across Europe. Upon his return, Black resumed working for Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad, reaching the ranks of union leadership in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and its successor, the United Transportation Union. Black.

He has eight children, 34 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, a clan a fellow senator said "was practically the entire population of Rose Park." Black also is a devout Mormon.
Eddie Mayne labored in the Bingham open-pit mine 25 years ago, when he and a delegation from Utah AFL-CIO and a senator himself, said Black has come to a definite "no."

Black's wife, about running for the Senate. Black's wife, said Black has come to a definite 'no'.

Intermountain ten.

thanks to Senator Black, on behalf of the blue-collar jobs.

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tion of other workers approached Black

On their behalf, Black has charged into some of the major political fights of the age.

The only filibuster of his career came under the late Gov. Scott Matheson, Repub­licans proposed altering state procurement code in a way Democrats felt jeopardized the Intermountain Power Project, an immense coal-fire power plant near Delta, a boon for blue-collar jobs.

Black stalled Senate debate for an hour and 45 minutes, enough time to allow Demo­crats to pressure the bill's support­ers into backing down.

Finally, they asked me to call it off,' he said with a wry smile.

Mr. Speaker, I add my congratulations and thanks to Senator Black, on behalf of the people of Utah, for his many years of service in the Utah Senate. He will be missed but not forgotten.

MANOJ ILLICKAL WINS FIRST PLACE IN ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST

HON. PETER T. KING
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute a young constituent of mine, Manoj "Manny" Illickal, who is working toward his college degree with the assistance of the Gateway Job Corps. Manny recently took first place honors in the Joint Action in Community Service, Inc. [JACS] National Essay Contest.

I offer for inclusion in the RECORD, Manny's award-winning essay, "How Job Corps Changed My Life." It's an inspiring story of how he learned to discipline and the value of hard, honest work. After reading this essay, I am certain that you'll agree with me that Manny's future is limited only by how far he wants to take himself. He seems to have the right attitude for success.

How Job Corps Changed My Life

(By Manny Illickal)

While my classmates were cleaning other parts of the workshop, I was spending my Friday afternoon mopping the office of my instructor; that is, I was supposed to be mopping his office. What I was actually doing was trying to figure out how best to get out of Building and Apartment Maintenance, out of Gateway Civilian Conservation Center and (most Importantly) out of the U.S. Job Corps. I was a really smart kid when it came to quitting things, probably because I had a lot of money.

After the student-foreman had told me to mop the office I asked, "Don't you have someone who does that type of work here?" "You're the one," he told me. I was rather deranged, because the floor didn't seem to be getting any cleaner. Every few minutes, I would spill a few drops of dirty water onto the floor, and I would halfheartedly move the mop back and forth on the office floor to avoid walking through the window. Mopping the floor as part of my jobs was beneath me. I was a really smart kid.

Why should I have to do this work? I wasn't even building anything. Enough was enough. I was going to get my pay and get out of this place so fast that they would have to fly from the building. I had quite a few better places than this one, and it got easier every time. I came to Job Corps because I was a smart kid who had never wasted my time at the Job Corps work. After all, I was a really smart kid who had never had to work too hard when I was in school.

Of course, I didn't really understand why being smart didn't seem to help too much with my grades. Back in school, I knew I was smarter than most of my classmates. Whenever there was a good opportunity to leave campus, I would be one of the first guys gone to enjoy the time. A lot of the other guys would waste their time reading over the chapter assumed for tomorrow. The floor, now, since I could do it tomorrow or the day after tomorrow? I didn't need to waste a lot of valuable time reading textbooks. I could always do it later. After all, I was really a smart kid.

Those guys who didn't even know how to have a life, college, and there I was wasting a perfectly good Friday mopping my instructor's office. Actually, what I was doing had less to do with mopping and more to do with leaning on the mop while I contemplated the injustice of it all.

That was how my instructor entered the office without knocking first and when I began to think that maybe I wasn't such a smart kid after all.

I would describe what he said, but I doubt I could do it justice. He explained how everything involves work. "Do you expect me to fire you?" he asked. "No!" I said. "You're the one," he told me. I was the type of guy a boss wouldn't find, let alone compliment. Now they're recommending me for a Job Corps college program, I'm going to work hard to be a college "completer" too.

I have been accepted to the university of this type of work. "How had Job Corps changed my life?" Before I came to Job Corps, my self-portrait resembled the finger-printing of a slow kindergarten student. After I came to Job Corps it began to bear some likeness to a college man with a bright future. I would give you more of a critique, but I need to start reading NOW to get ready for college, but I will be bringing up everything great the moment I realized that I wanted to paint a pretty picture. What did change was that I didn't quit. Many months ago, my successful Job Corps, Building and Apartment Maintenance program of the Home Builders Institute. For the rest of my life, I'm a completer.

As I was completing my trade, my boss told me how proud he was of me. His boss took the time during a business trip from Washington, D.C., to tell me that everything went great. The moment I realized that I wanted to paint a pretty picture. What did change was that I didn't quit. Many months ago, my successful Job Corps, Building and Apartment Maintenance program of the Home Builders Institute. For the rest of my life, I'm a completer.

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April 16, 1996

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

pieces he was selling on Smithsonian letterhead.

Professor Hall contacted the FBI. At their request, he wore a hidden microphone when discussing various aircraft parts that were available for sale with the curator. As a result, the FBI was able to arrest him. Thanks to professor Hall's detective work, the Smithsonian is now undergoing an inventory to see what else might have been stolen and implementing a bar code system to ensure that such theft becomes much less likely in the future.