

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE WOMEN'S HEALTH AND
CANCER RIGHTS ACT OF 1997

HON. SUSAN MOLINARI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Ms. MOLINARI. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to introduce the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1997. This unprecedented legislation is not only critical for breast cancer patients, but also for all cancer patients.

Last year in the U.S., 182,000 women were diagnosed with breast cancer and 85,000 breast cancer patients received a mastectomy as part of their treatment—7,500 of which were performed in New York State. A similar survey found that 43 percent of the respondents had been denied coverage of followup reconstructive symmetry procedures and nearly 20 percent had been denied insurance coverage for revisions of an initial breast reconstructive surgery. These numbers are far too high and this denial of coverage must end.

Currently, many insurance companies are the sole decision makers in how long a breast cancer patient should stay in the hospital, without taking into account her individual needs or circumstance. In addition, these companies are frequently reluctant to pay for the initial breast reconstruction, as well as followup procedures because they deem reconstruction cosmetic. Ironically, insurance companies do not deny reconstructive surgery for an ear that is lost due to cancer. Insurance companies are simply not being sensitive to the needs of breast cancer patients, and this bill seeks to ensure a breast cancer patient's access to an appropriate hospital stay as well as reconstructive surgery.

There are few procedures which are of such a sensitive nature as mastectomies. Under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act, the patient in consultation with her physician, determines when it is medically appropriate to be discharged following a mastectomy. Rather than leaving the decision to insurance companies or even to Congress, this crucial decision is made by those personally involved. So if a woman is prepared mentally and physically to be discharged soon after the procedure, she may do so with her doctor's permission. This is also true in the case when a woman is not quite ready after several days. Patients should never be denied the opportunity to be covered by insurance in this frightening situation.

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act also ensures access to all stages of reconstructive surgery. Surgeons across the country have confirmed that the problems with reimbursement have grown worse in recent years as insurance companies become more cost-conscious. Women have been denied coverage for reconstructive surgery even in States where coverage for breast reconstruction was mandatory.

Finally, the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act ensures that individuals diagnosed with any type of cancer have access to a second opinion, including one that may be outside of their health plan network. It is vital that an individual facing a potentially life-threatening disease, such as cancer, have the opportunity to consult a second physician and not the anxiety of whether or not it will be covered by their insurance.

Unfortunately, almost all of us have had a family member or known someone who has been hit by breast cancer—and frankly all women live with that fear. This bill is attempting to provide some sense of security that hospitals and medical providers are able to do the right thing. We will be able to claim success if we can minimize the pain, confusion, and trauma following a breast cancer diagnosis—and the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act aims to do just that.

THE CITY CLUB OF SAN DIEGO:
TWO REMARKABLE DECADES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the City Club of San Diego.

Over the past 20 years, the City Club has become an integral part of San Diego—providing a public forum for nearly 500 programs presented in the highest public interest. These accomplishments have earned it the distinction as one of America's great public forums.

The President and Vice President of the United States have appeared before the City Club. On six occasions, the Governor of California has spoken. The list of speakers presented represents a remarkable variety of individuals and opinions, from Jerry Falwell to Gloria Steinem, from Maureen Reagan to Tom Hayden, from Tom Wolfe to Anthony Lewis. Local, State, and national elected officials, journalists, ambassadors, judges, authors, bank officers, media broadcasters, professors, business and sports figures, and others have presented their ideas in the forum of the City Club. The speakers represent rich and varied professions, philosophies, and political views. Senator JOE BIDEN returns for his 7th appearance as the featured guest of the 20th anniversary celebration on February 8, 1997.

In addition to the forums, the City Club has offered other special events: a national conference on immigration; another on press, libel, and American freedom; and a third on the state of our language. One of the City Club's most ambitious undertakings was a four-part series on leadership in San Diego, focusing on government, justice, finance, and the media.

City Club events have been covered on C-SPAN, the local PBS radio station, and cable television systems. A debate between Republican candidates for the U.S. Senate was carried statewide on cable TV.

The City Club has held fundraisers for other nonprofit organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the San Diego Public Library, the United Negro College Fund, and the National Jewish Hospital. These efforts are notable, for it is highly unusual for one nonprofit organization to undertake fundraising for other similar groups.

A lighter side of the City Club includes holiday parties, whale watching trips, theater evenings, a trip to the Nation's Capital, and Aspen ski trips—featuring programs with outstanding speakers as well as time on the slopes.

George Mitrovich, the president of the City Club and prime mover behind its success, has stated: "The ability of any democracy to survive, even in the United States, depends in no small degree upon the wisdom of its people—a wisdom that public forums help instill."

This is the mission of the City Club: to present an arena where the best ideas might prevail. On the joyous occasion of its 20th anniversary, I am honored to publicly recognize and honor the accomplishments of the City Club of San Diego.

"ENNIS COSBY KNEW WORTH OF A
HELPING HAND"—A COLUMN BY
ROBERT SCHEER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, research studies indicate that learning disabilities affect about 15 percent of the American population. One of the most common learning differences is dyslexia, which makes it difficult for persons to read and understand the written word. Our Nation recently suffered the tragic loss of Ennis Cosby, a young man with dyslexia who was committed to using his influence and education to start a school for children with dyslexia. Robert Scheer, renowned author and contributing editor for the Los Angeles Times, has written a sensitive essay about how dyslexia affects even the most successful persons in our society. I commend this column to my colleagues.

ENNIS COSBY KNEW WORTH OF A HELPING
HAND

(By Robert Scheer)

Properly credentialed and steady at my post in the press section at the president's inauguration, within shouting distance of the man himself, a witness to history surrounded by the most successful of my peers, I am, as so often before on such occasions,

● 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.

filled with fear. This time it makes me think of Ennis William Cosby.

Fear, not of the violence that took his life but rather the more mundane persistent and personal terror shared by all dyslexics over having to perform in conventional ways when your brain does not track quite that way. In my case today, it's the pressure to file properly spelled, cogently organized, grammatically correct copy, on deadline. Small potatoes to some, a horror to others. I'm not complaining, mind you. I made my claim to be heard, and the fact that you are able to read this means that with the aid of great teachers, computerized spelling checks and my wife, sons Christopher and Peter and friend Cara, all of whom are on line to protect me from the more egregious errors of syntax, I will be heard. But the fear never fully disappears.

It is a fear that young Cosby would have well understood, having devoted his life to working with kids with learning disabilities. It is a terror of failure, known keenly by those who, despite their ability and best efforts, flunked seventh grade. What we have in common, along with millions of others including my marvelous son Josh—who thrilled me by admonishing a smug Santa Monica school district special ed administrator to call it a "learning difference," not "disability" or "handicap"—is a conundrum of difficulties loosely labeled dyslexia. What we have in common is the fact that we learn differently than most folks because letters or numbers get scrambled, or we have small motor problems or we become confused under time pressure or are flustered in our efforts to conceptualize in ways that lend themselves to standardized tests. What we also have in common is the potential to excel.

In my time, in the public schools of the Bronx, no one knew of such complexity in the learning process. I was simply pronounced dumb and slow because I couldn't learn cursive writing or spell worth a damn and so was tracked to oblivion until a friendly science teacher discovered that I was good at physics and some other subjects if given half a chance. Since then, a great deal of progress has been made in recognizing and treating dyslexia, but even one from so privileged a background as Cosby went undiagnosed until college years. As he poignantly wrote, "The happiest day of my life occurred when I found out I was dyslexic . . . the worst feeling to me is confusion."

I have been thinking of young Cosby almost constantly since the news of his being gunned down off the San Diego Freeway not far from my home. The smiling optimism of his file photo burns into my brain and anger fills me that this young man's optimism spilled out wasted on the indifferent concrete of that freeway offramp. It's the same freeway my son Josh takes to a school called Landmark, where he has opportunities that could save the lives of so many others now tracked to state prisons and other societal markers of educational failure.

It was Ennis Cosby's dream to create a school for kids with dyslexia. "He wanted to make sure that kids who might not have the opportunity to have the help that he had would get it," his professor recalled. "So he did all he could to help poor kids." As I write help, it comes out hepl, and the reason I remain a bleeding heart liberal is that I think we all benefit when the cry for "hepl" is understood.

These are the thoughts that went through my frayed mind listening to the inaugura-

tion speech of William Jefferson Clinton, a guy who also came up the hard way but who was blessed with the saving grace of testing well. Clinton knows he benefited from the level playing field, and he will not compromise government's obligation to keep it level. But where he has failed is in reaching out to those who need a helping hand, as Jesse Jackson might put it, to be pulled from the quicksand of failure to the high ground of opportunity.

Those of us with dyslexia, and that ranges from Albert Einstein to Cher, have known that a helping hand spells the difference between pain and performance. Bob Dole, who pushed through the Americans With Disabilities Act, which has helped dyslexics enormously, knows that. If I had any moment of regret at the inauguration, it came with the sense that Clinton does not know what it means to flunk the seventh grade.

Ennis Cosby did. But despite that, he got a master's, was going for a doctorate and planning to start a school for dyslexic kids, making him—to use his father's words—my hero, too.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO END SUBSIDIES FOR THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce with my colleague, Representative MARTY MEEHAN, a bill entitled the Tennessee Valley Authority First Step Reform Act.

Two weeks ago, Tennessee Valley Authority Chairman Craven Crowell asked Congress to eliminate its \$106 million annual appropriation, so that the TVA can concentrate on its electricity business in preparation for upcoming energy deregulation. As a Federal agency since 1933, the Tennessee Valley Authority has provided the Tennessee Valley with flood protection, agricultural and industrial development, and electric power. Thanks to TVA's efforts, the economy of the Tennessee Valley has been greatly enhanced. However, as the TVA makes the transition to becoming an independent power producer, I congratulate the TVA for their recent initiative to eliminate its \$106 million appropriation. This legislation would codify that request by ending all appropriations for the TVA after fiscal year 1998.

Second, this bill would order the Office of Management and Budget to provide an independent audit of the rest of the Federal subsidies enjoyed by the TVA, as well as a plan to completely wean the TVA off taxpayer subsidies.

Today, I am distributing to every Member of Congress a report that describes the TVA's direct and indirect government subsidies. These include over \$1.2 billion in Federal and State tax exemptions, reduced borrowing costs, and exemptions from many Federal regulations that all other utility companies must obey. These subsidies allow TVA to provide cheap power to a select region subsidized at the expense of the taxpayers in the rest of the United States. This practice should not be allowed to continue.

As we move toward deregulation of the electric utility industry, these subsidies will give TVA an unfair advantage over the utility companies that pay taxes and are required to abide by State and Federal regulations. It is time we leveled the playing field. This legislation is the first step in making these reforms.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

FLORIDA'S HEALTHY KIDS PROGRAM: A MODEL FOR THE NATION?

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, it is America's shame that 10 million children—mostly the children of working parents—do not have health insurance. Health insurance equals access to health care. Lack of access to health care equals increased deaths and diminished lives.

We must find a way to insure these children.

Florida has developed a program run through the schools that provides a comprehensive set of benefits for children for about \$50 per month. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is giving \$3 million in grants to seven other States to see if they can replicate Florida's success.

Following is material from the RWJ Foundation's "Call for Proposals" which describes the Florida program. I think that the Federal Government might look to this State example as a way it could quickly and efficiently reach most of the 10 million uninsured. If we used President Clinton's \$500 tax credit idea with a program of school-based health insurance, we could obtain low cost but comprehensive insurance for millions of children without new bureaucracies or hassles.

I urge everyone to think how we could combine the Florida idea with Federal tax legislation to make new money available to end the national disgrace of 10 million uninsured children.

PURPOSE

Healthy Kids is a program designed to help states develop a comprehensive, affordable health insurance product for uninsured children. The program, initiated in 1988, provides grant funds to replicate a successful model in Florida that helps families that do not qualify for government aid—but that cannot afford private health insurance—buy health insurance for their children. Florida Healthy Kids is a subsidized insurance product sold through schools. School districts are used as a grouping mechanism to lower the cost of insurance for children, similar to the role employers play in providing group coverage to their employees.

Up to \$3 million has been made available for the Healthy Kids replication program. Under this three-year competitive program, approximately seven states will be awarded grants. These include planning grants for states to develop their programs and implementation grants for those ready to proceed.

BACKGROUND

One child out of every seven in America does not have health insurance, according to

a 1996 study by the Employee Benefits Research Institute. The number of uninsured children is increasing and current trends in private health care coverage and welfare reform threaten to accelerate the rate of increase.

The majority of Americans get their health insurance coverage from group insurance plans provided through their employers. Historically, covering a worker generally meant covering his or her children as well, but rising health care costs have begun to change that. Recent years have seen a drop in employer-provided dependent coverage (from 61 percent of children in 1988 to 54 percent in 1993). Additionally, many lower-wage workers cannot afford the higher costs of family coverage.

Expansions in state Medicaid programs were able to cover many children who otherwise would have been uninsured. But rising health care costs and recent changes in federal welfare rules have many experts predicting that further expansions will not be possible. The result of these two trends is that children are 40 percent more likely to be uninsured than adults. For children with medical problems, lack of insurance doubles their chance of not getting care.

Very few insurance companies offer policies only for children, but a model program, Florida Healthy Kids, has demonstrated that a children's insurance product has a place in the market. The feasibility of a children's school enrollment-based health insurance program was first explored in a 1988 University of Florida study and in a subsequent pilot program, jointly funded by the State of Florida and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The program designed a children's insurance product and used school districts to group children into purchasing pools to make the product affordable. The product was sold to families who did not qualify for government aid, but could not afford private health insurance for their children.

Moving the insurance contract from the employer to the school district also enhanced the portability of coverage, especially for families with a child with a pre-existing condition.

A recent evaluation of the program found a 70 percent decrease in emergency room visits per enrollee. In 1995, enrollees had more than 110,000 primary care visits, more than 9,500 children were immunized and 719 children received eyeglasses. Teachers also reported improved attendance in school.

The Florida Healthy Kids model has two goals: create a comprehensive insurance product for school children and facilitate the provision of preventive care for children. The Florida program has the following components:

Eligibility: All children enrolled in school grades K-12 are eligible to participate in the program. Pre-school age siblings may also join.

Benefits: The benefits package emphasizes prevention and is designed specifically for children's medical needs. It features inpatient and outpatient care, including dental, vision, and mental health. There are no pre-existing condition limitations and no medical underwriting. Co-payments are required for some services, such as emergency rooms, eyeglasses, office visits, and prescriptions. In each school district, insurance companies bid to participate in the program. To participate, companies must demonstrate that they have an adequate and accessible network of providers.

Role of the schools: Schools serve as the central institution within communities, fos-

tering relationships between the local project, community leaders, and area business groups. Schools also verify student enrollment, distribute marketing materials and applications, provide parent outreach, enhance health education opportunities, and provide interpreters and translators for program activities and materials.

Financing: Premiums are covered by a combination of state and local/community funds, as well as family contributions based on a sliding scale. In Florida, the state contributes 25 percent, local/community funds comprise 40 percent, and families contribute approximately 35 percent of the premium. The state's initial contribution is higher, allowing communities to implement the program with minimal start-up contributions (approximately five percent). The state portion declines over time as the local match and program enrollment increases.

Administration: In Florida, the Healthy Kids Corporation facilitates the efforts of all the parties in each site. This state-funded, 501(c)(3) corporate entity, manages the contractual arrangements for billing and administration of the product, and manages the bidding process with insurers at each site. A private third party administrator (TPA) helps with initial eligibility determinations, and handles the enrollment functions by processing applications and collecting monthly premiums paid by the families. In addition, the TPA verifies continuing eligibility by checking monthly to see that program participants are not receiving any services through the state Medicaid program.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM
RATHBONE

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Rathbone.

For over 44 years Jim worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in California. For the last 25 years, he has been the Program Director of Rural Housing Service based in Woodland, CA. In this job he has been responsible for the 502 Mutual Self-Help Home Ownership Program for California.

Jim was born and raised in Sonoma County and has a close tie to the north coast. Many of my constituents who have built their houses through the self-help housing effort in California have benefited from his work and labor. Hundreds of lower income families have become homeowners in California thanks to his efforts in making this program work. For many, realizing their dream of home ownership has changed their lives forever.

Jim did not overlook the importance of his position or isolate himself from the daily issues of his work. He has always been available and accessible to those with whom he worked in the rural communities throughout California. He was always responsive to individual situations—willing to listen and constantly trying to make the program work for families who do the work.

His dedication and committed service is best exemplified by his work ethic. I am told that you could find Jim's car outside his office

from sunup past sundown, often working well into the evening.

Those of us concerned about the availability of affordable housing and home ownership for working families owe an enormous debt of gratitude to this man. He has surely helped a large number of families to participate in the self-help program and become homeowners. Jim's life-long work clearly demonstrates the importance of public service to our society. It also is a statement of how one person's work can make such a positive impact on so many others.

Thank you, Jim, for a lifetime of devoted service to the north coast and rural Californians.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD E. VATTER
AND LORETTA SMITH VISION
AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the charitable efforts of Mr. Richard E. Vatter, American Legion children and youth chairman and Loretta Smith, American Legion Auxiliary children and youth chairwoman. Mr. Vatter and Ms. Smith have been awarded the highest honor in the VISION [Volunteers In Service: Investing in Our Nation] program. Mr. Vatter and Ms. Smith are members of the American Legion. This organization was founded in 1919 with the mission to serve veterans and their families, the community, and the nation. In working to fulfill this goal Legion members donate a variety of resources to blood drives, Boys State, youth and adult athletic teams, educational scholarships, needy children, and veteran facilities.

Mr. Vatter and Ms. Smith are members of the American Legion Post 176 which has a 42-year history of good works in the Springfield community. Mr. Vatter and Ms. Smith were recognized for their work with the Spinoza buddy bear project. This project provides children who have chronic, life endangering, organ, mental, and emotional illnesses with a teddy bear that speaks. Mr. Vatter and Ms. Smith worked with the community and were able to procure 30 bears. This exceeded the expectations of the project and brought diverse elements of the Springfield community together to work toward this noteworthy goal.

Congratulations, Mr. Vatter and Ms. Smith. It is my hope that your good works inspire others to focus time and energy on those less fortunate. Best of luck in the future to both of you and may American Legion Post 176 enjoy a long and active life in the Eighth District of Virginia.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN
POLITICAL REFORM ACT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the American Political Reform Act

and am joined in that introduction by nearly 50 of our colleagues from around the nation.

Last night the President challenged Congress to pass campaign finance legislation and we are here to tell you today that we are committed to doing so.

This bill meets the basic principles of true reform:

First, fairness. This bill does not favor one party over the other or one candidate over another.

Second, reduce the influence of special interests. This bill includes PAC limits, limits on large donors and eliminates soft money.

Third, level playing field. This bill makes campaigns competitive by enacting spending limits, giving all candidates a similar footing for financing their races.

Fourth, access to the system by nontraditional candidates. This bill makes it possible for minorities and women to run.

We meet these principles through reasonable and fair changes in the law.

First and foremost, we cap spending.

There will be no sanity in politics until we bring spending under control and a spending cap is the first weapon in the arsenal of campaign finance reform.

Second, we reform the role of PAC money in the system. We reduce the individual PAC contribution and cap aggregate contribution levels.

Third, we reform the role of wealthy donors, including the ability for candidates to use their own money in their campaigns.

Fourth, we reform the role of soft money, essentially eliminating it, but allowing for grassroots operations at the State level among candidates of the same party.

Finally, we try to put the brakes on the massive expenditures of money in the political realm that are now unregulated, undisclosed and outside the law—-independent expenditures.

We do this by requiring new levels of disclosure and by expanding the definition of express advocacy.

The legislation we introduce today is reasonable, achievable, and supported by the White House and the Democratic leadership.

It is the only legislation in the last Congress to get bipartisan votes.

If it could last year, it can again this year. My colleagues and I look forward to moving this legislation forward and meeting the President's challenge of presenting him with campaign finance reform by July 4.

HONORING THE OFFICERS AND CREW OF THE COAST GUARD'S CLEVELAND-BASED TUG "NEAH BAY"

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, members of the U.S. Coast Guard perform extremely valuable services for the American people, keeping our shorelines secure and safe from environmental damage. My district is proud to be associated with the Ninth Coast Guard District,

the guardians of the Great Lakes. I commend to your attention a recent incident that demonstrates the tremendous contribution made by the officers and crew of Coast Guard units in that region.

On January 23, 1997, as windy and bitter cold weather swept across Lake Erie, the Coast Guard's Cleveland-based icebreaking tug *Neah Bay* was escorting a tanker vessel and a tug/barge combination, the *Donald C. Hannah*, from Toledo to Cleveland, OH. A cable connecting the *Donald C. Hannah* to the barge broke while the ships were passing through a heavy ice field. While the *Donald C. Hannah* stopped to make repairs, the tug and her barge became trapped. The tug and barge were at the mercy of high winds and powerful ice, in danger of running aground at a nearby island within 1 hour. The situation presented an extreme environmental threat because the barge contained more than 1 million gallons of heavy aromatic residual fuel oil.

The officers and the crew of the *Neah Bay* took quick action, declaring a search and rescue [SAR] emergency and assuming the role of on-scene-commander. The *Neah Bay* contacted other organizations, including Coast Guard Group Detroit and Air Station Detroit, MI, which dispatched helicopters that provided key information to help the ships. Because of the potential for a major oilspill, the Marine Safety Office of Toledo, OH, was brought in to review contingency plans and prepare for an oil spill. Working in a cooperative effort with the joint United States/Canadian response planning team, action was taken to protect the area, a major spawning ground for aquatic life on Lake Erie.

The *Neah Bay* broke an escape route in the ice and was able to keep the barge off the rocks long enough for the *Donald C. Hannah* to repair the broken cable. After 5 tense hours, the ship was broken free of the ice by the *Neah Bay*. The *Donald C. Hannah* and the oil-carrying barge were safely escorted to their destination by the *Neah Bay* and a sister ship, the *Bristol Bay*, who had been diverted from other escort duties.

Mr. Speaker, this is a story of bravery, cooperation between Government agencies under extreme circumstances, and a job well done. My district is proud to be the home berth of the *Neah Bay*. I take this opportunity to honor the officers and crew of the USCGC *Neah Bay*: Commanding officer, LCDR Frederick J. Sommer; executive officer, LTJG Richard J. Wester; CWO2 Charles Philpot; BMC Jeffrey P. Mallory; EMC Daryl W. Covington; MK1 Timothy J. Clancey; QM1 Jon R. Frederick; FS2 Michael S. Beaver; BM3 Dean M. Grass; EM3 Timothy P. Ostrander; EM3 Ariel Vazquez; MK3 Jefferson D. Clark; SN Kristopher R. Demetros; SN Duke A. Walker; SA Anthony J. Clark; SA Jeremy L. Farmer; FN Jason E. Henderson; and FA Daniel S. Manor.

KIRK JOHNSON HONORED AS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mr. Kirk Johnson who was recently honored as Employee of the Month at Integrated Tax System.

Mr. Johnson, who trains employees on tax codes, was commended by ITS for his excellent teaching skills, professionalism, and extensive knowledge. His trainees have praised him by saying, "The trainer created a relaxed atmosphere conducive to the exchange of information" and "The instructor was very educational and professional."

In addition to teaching, Mr. Johnson is the creator of the ITS Bulletin, which has proved to be very popular among ITS users around the State, and a quick reference card for ITS that is still in heavy demand.

Congratulations, Kirk, for your outstanding accomplishments in your profession and the recognition of that by ITS through the Employee of the Month Award. I am very proud of you, son.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO REUNITE FAMILIES SEPARATED BY THE HOLOCAUST

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last summer I had the honor of being involved in a remarkable reunion between two siblings who were both Holocaust survivors, but who had been separated for over 60 years. Solomon and Rivka Bromberg were separated during the Holocaust, and neither had heard from the other since.

However, thanks to the resourceful work of younger relatives and Israel's Jewish Agency, these two Holocaust survivors were finally reunited in Israel in August after so many years. Solomon Bromberg's oldest son Michael had worked with the Jewish Agency to contact Sharon Feingold, the granddaughter of Rivka Bromberg Feingold. They then orchestrated a phone call between Solomon and Rivka and a formal reunion in person.

I became involved with this emotional saga only when the family began its search, which is still ongoing, for a third sibling, Abraham Bromberg, believed to be in the United States. Nevertheless, I had been very moved by the emotional reunion of Solomon and Rivka.

Today there are thousands of Holocaust survivors in Russia, Eastern Europe, the United States, Israel, and other nations who were separated from their families during the Holocaust and who may not know the fates of their relatives.

For this reason I introduced a concurrent resolution in the last Congress to urge the Secretary of State, foreign nations, especially

Israel, Russia, Poland, and other Eastern European nations, and organizations such as the Red Cross and Israel's Jewish Agency, to coordinate efforts to help reunite family members separated as a result of the Holocaust. Today, I am introducing this resolution.

If my colleagues could have seen the emotional reunion of the Brombergs, they would agree with me that these thousands of families deserve help in finding their own long lost relatives. With some additional effort by the State Department and the cooperation of other agencies and foreign governments, there can be thousands more happy reunions. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

NEW JERSEY'S 11TH DISTRICT—
PRIME RECRUITING GROUND
FOR ACADEMIES

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy peacoats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than any other district in the country. But this is nothing new: Our area has repeatedly sent an above-average proportion of its sons and daughters to the Nation's military academies for decades.

This shouldn't come as a surprise. The educational excellence of our area is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve?

In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of the Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, one further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism that handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Geritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to

continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of nine local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—many are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication to seeing that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as is true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and to thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on this board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upward of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform their Representative of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In mid-December, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

Last year, the board interviewed 32 applicants. Nominations included 10 to the Naval Academy, 17 to the Military Academy, 4 to the Air Force Academy, and 1 to the Merchant Marine Academy—the Coast Guard Academy does not use the congressional nomination process. The Board then forwards their recommendations to the academies by January 31, where recruiters review files and notify applicants and my office of their final decisions on admission.

It is both reassuring and rewarding to know that many of our military officers hail from our hometowns or close by. When we consider the role of these officers in peace or war, we can rest easier knowing that the best and brightest are in command. Wherever they are sent, be that Bosnia, Somalia, Haiti, or Vietnam, many of these officers have academy training.

And while a few people may question the motivations and ambitions of some young people, the academy review process shows that the large majority of our graduates are just as highly motivated as the generation before them. They still seek guidance from loving parents, dedicated teachers and schools, and from trusted clergy and rabbis. Indeed, every time I visit a school, speak at a college, or meet a young academy nominee, I am constantly reminded that we as a nation are blessed with fine young men and women.

Their willingness and desire to serve their country is perhaps the most persuasive evidence of all.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 1996—11TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

Name	Hometown	High School	Academy
Evren Asral	Rockaway	Morris Hills	Military.
Brian Bergen	W. Caldwell	James Caldwell	Military.
Benjamin Blake	Chatham	Chatham	Naval.
Garrett	Randolph	Randolph	Military.
Brougham.			
Ryan Carr	Succasunna	Roxbury	Naval.
Matthew	Succasunna	Roxbury	Military.
DelPreore.			
Charles Emering, Jr.	Butler	Butler	Air Force.
Katherine Falato	Basking Ridge ..	Ridge	Military.
Geoffrey Frick	Lincoln Park	DePaul	Naval.
Kyle Grzymko	Andover	Lenape Valley	Military.
		Regional.	
Michael Henke	Parsippany	Parsippany	Military.
Morgan Hock	Morristown	Morristown	Military.
Janet Howson	Madison	Morris Catholic	Military.
Roger Knight IV	Pompton Plains	Valley Forge	Military.
		Military.	
Charles Larsen	Hopatcong	Hopatcong	Military.
Adam Lusardi	Rockaway	Morris Hills	Military.
Newman Merton	Budd Lake	St. John's Mill	Military.
Christopher Moen	Pompton Plains	DePaul	Air Force.
Edmund Mooney	Kinnelon	Kinnelon	Naval.
Patrick Nelson	Hackettstown	Bridgeton Acad	Naval.
Todd Osborne	Morris Plains	Morristown	Naval.
Mary Paczkowski	Long Valley	West Morris	Naval.
		Central.	
Daniel Powell	Califon	West Morris	Naval.
		Central.	
Nicholas	Whippany	Morris Catholic	Military.
Rafanello.			
Thomas Rogers	Rockaway	Morris Knolls	Air Force.
James Schuess	Flanders	Mt. Olive	Air Force.
Thomas Janis	Oak Ridge	Jefferson	Military.
Andrew Telschow	Succasunna	Roxbury	Merchant Marine.
Scott Trageser	Sparta	Sparta	Naval.
Christopher	Stanhope	Hopatcong	Military.
Wilkins.			
Jacob Williams	Basking Ridge ..	Delbarton School	Naval.
James Zhou	Livingston	Livingston	Military.

TED NUGENT: TALENTED,
COMMITTED, PRINCIPLED

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the power of talent, coupled with impeccable standards of decency, energized by commitment to principle, emblazoned by actions to put feelings into fact, is the best way I can summarize the career of a man who has brought millions to their feet with a piercing beat that just won't let you stand still. That man is Ted Nugent.

Over his career, many have known him for the 28 albums he has produced, with over 30 million of them sold worldwide. His concerts—and he has had nearly 1,000 since 1990—continue to set sales records. His professional success has enabled him to do what he cares most about—provide support for young people through his involvement in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education [DARE], program and the Ted Nugent Kamp for Kids, where boys and girls learn about proper respect for wildlife, conservation, and hunting, as well as respect for one another. He also has consistently promoted his alcohol and drug-free lifestyle as a model for all young people, and has recently donated his time and talents to a statewide safety campaign, urging drivers to “buckle up and live.”

Ted has pursued his devotion for the right of people to hunt through his award winning Ted Nugent Spirit of the Wild PBS video series, his never-ending media interviews on the subject, and his writings in Adventure Outdoors magazine.

For all of his efforts, Ted Nugent has received recognition that he truly deserves. He has received numerous commendations from State police, sheriff departments, the FBI, and other police agencies. In fact, he has been a Michigan County sheriff deputy since 1988. He has been named Man of the Year by the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association. He is a member of the Hundgun Hunters Hall of Fame. He has been inducted into the Native-American Strongheart Society by the Lakota Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho Tribes. He has served as the keynote speaker at numerous events including the Governor's Symposium on North American Hunting Heritage in Wisconsin, and the Native-American Fish & Wildlife Society National Conference in Anchorage, AK. He has served on numerous organizations within Michigan, such as the Michigan Year of the Family Council, the Hunting and Fishing Heritage Task Force, and the Michigan State Parks Foundation, and has been named Archery Commissioner for the Great Lakes State.

Mr. Speaker, if anyone ever asks you what Ted Nugent wants, tell them he wants kids to grow up strong. He's wants hunting and conservation to be recognized for the reasonable and responsible activities that they are. He wants people to keep their constitutional rights. He wants to preserve a way of life that is the best in the world. I urge all of our colleagues to join me in thanking Ted Nugent for all that he does to make America a better place.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID A. LATHERS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David A. Lathers, a dedicated teacher, principal, and community activist on the occasion of his retirement after 45 years of service to the Utica community schools. Since the fall of 1973, and the opening of Henry Ford II High School in Sterling Heights, David Lathers has served as principal.

During his 24 year stewardship of Henry Ford II High School, David Lathers has been an advocate of strong professional standards and high student expectations. His efforts and encouragement have resulted in a number of academic success stories and innovative pilot programs at Ford II. The Far Eastern Institute, a Japanese language, history, and culture course was developed, piloted and resulted in a sister school program with Japan. The first commercial food program and commercial art programs in the district were developed at Ford II. In 1985, Henry Ford II High School was awarded the State Exemplary School Award, the first school in Macomb County to receive this award. And more recently, in 1996, the Ford II marching band was selected to perform in the Rose Bowl Parade.

His commitment to the community has been equally impressive. David Lathers was instrumental in organizing a Kiwanis Club in Sterling Heights, establishing KEY Clubs at Ford II and Eisenhower High Schools and serving as a

board member and vice-president of the West Macomb Y.M.C.A.

In 1993, colleagues from the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals recognized David's tremendous contributions by naming him the outstanding principal of the year.

And so, Mr. Speaker, while we reflect on the passing of an era for Henry Ford II High, we commend David Lathers for his lifetime commitment to the community, school district, and thousands of students upon whose lives he has made an impact. I extend my sincerest wishes for a healthful, rewarding, and productive retirement.

THE PTA: A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO OUR CHILDREN

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize one of the most time-honored and revered organizations in our Nation today. February 17, 1997 will mark the 100th birthday of the Parents and Teachers Association, known more widely as the PTA.

Formed on February 17, 1897, PTA was initially known as the National Congress of Mothers. Credit for the initial concept of this world-renowned organization has been ascribed to Alice McLellan Birney, a mother of three children whose husband practiced law in Washington, DC. Joining Ms. Birney in this historic undertaking was Phoebe Apperson Hearst, widow of the late U.S. Senator George Hearst. Ms. Hearst always reminded her audiences that "there could be no lasting improvement in human welfare other than through education."

Another name synonymous with the early formation of the PTA is that of Selena Sloan Butler. Ms. Butler founded the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers in Atlanta, GA, in 1926. The National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers merged with the National Congress of Parents and Teachers in 1970 and formed what is now our present day PTA. The enormous contribution of Ms. Butler is equally notable this month as we also celebrate Black History Month across our Nation. Mr. Speaker, today we honor an organization that supports and speaks on behalf of our children.

PTA assists parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect our children. It encourages parent and public involvement in the public schools of this Nation.

On February 17, 1997, PTA chapters across this land will celebrate Founders Day, which honors the legacy of PTA.

I therefore ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to rise and salute the PTA, the leading child advocacy organization in our Nation.

COMMENDING THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR MASSNET DAY

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the 4,000 volunteers, including labor union members and tradesmen, and over 100 businesses who donated their time and energy to wire the schools in my district and across Massachusetts to the internet.

On October 26, 1996 the first in a series of MassNet Days was held. I am proud to say that it was an enormous success involving over 400 schools in Massachusetts.

MassNetworks was initiated because, despite a wealth of high-tech companies, Massachusetts ranked 49th among the 50 states in networked classrooms and 45th in modem lines installed.

MassNetworks has a component of which I am especially proud. Teacher training and development has been recognized as being as important as the wiring or hardware. Educating teachers, improving their skills, and showing them how to utilize the internet as part of the curriculum is vital to the success of putting all of our schools on the information highway.

Imagine a history class in Watertown that is able to take a tour of the battlefields of the Civil War, or a science class in Boston seeing photographs of Jupiter. This can help make learning come alive.

The future of our country rests on the shoulders of our youth. If they are well educated and able to continue to learn throughout their lives, then the United States will continue to be the world leader.

Again, I want to thank all the people in Massachusetts who donated time, energy, and materials to make our schools a better place for our kids.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the gentlelady from Texas for organizing this special order and for all her hard work on behalf of the children of our Nation.

HONORING DAVID A. FORD

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I speak today of David Ford, a man I am happy to call a friend and a confidant—a man I am proud to know. He has served his community faithfully and well and it is with no little sorrow that I note his retirement as leader of the Democratic Party of Mount Vernon.

When he came to Mount Vernon the Democratic Party was virtually nonexistent. He is leaving us with a vibrant and dominant party that has elected the first African-American mayor of a New York State city and the first African-American assemblyman from Westchester County. I went to Mount Vernon in 1992 when it was made part of my congressional district and I have never been sorry. It

is rare to find someone who can be such a good friend and still give such wonderful advice.

David is married to the former Eula Gadson and they have four children and four grandchildren. For the past two decades he has served as commissioner of Mount Vernon's board of water supply, a position which does not begin to tell the breadth of his involvement in his city and community. Among his honors are being named YMCA Man of the Year and a life member of the Mount Vernon NAACP. His abilities have attracted people from throughout Westchester County and the State seeking his guidance and counsel.

David has made not only his city better but the time we live in. His wisdom and leadership have made us better than we would have been. Even with his retirement as leader of the Democratic Party, I look forward to sharing in that wisdom of many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Frelinghuysen Township Elementary School in Warren County, NJ, for its innovative and creative techniques of teaching young people about our Nation's history and culture.

On January 25, students at Frelinghuysen Elementary staged an inaugural ball with the theme "Presidents Past and Present." This formal evening of music, dance, and food included fifth- and sixth-grade students dressed as each of our 42 Presidents and their wives. The students presented mini-museums and speeches depicting the lives of the Presidents they portrayed. Period-appropriate dance music ranged from the Minuet for Presidents Washington and Jefferson to the Macarena for President Clinton. Approximately 250 parents, teachers, veterans, students, and VIP's attended.

This event was more than just a one-time affair. It was the culmination of the school's thematic enrichment program—an 80-minute weekly class for the fifth and sixth grades that uses hands-on techniques to make history and culture exciting and students eager to learn.

"The goal of our political enrichment theme this year is to not only provide a strong education in government and politics but to inspire the students to develop an interest and appreciation in our country," school officials said in the invitation to the inaugural ball. "We are developing the educated voters of the future."

The class is run by fifth-grade teacher Sue Hocking and sixth-grade teacher Patricia Meyers under the supervision of Chief School Administrator Eugene Cioffi. About two dozen parents were actively involved in this year's event, organized by volunteer parent coordinator Rene Jensen, mother of a sixth-grader.

The class began 3 years ago with World War II as its theme, prompted by the 50th anniversary of the end of the war. Students worked with the World War II Commemorative

Society of the Department of Defense to put on a Flag Day celebration with local veterans and elected officials. They planted a victory garden, learned dances and music of the era, and ended the class with a USO dance.

Last year, medieval history was the theme as students studied knights and castles. A medieval fair complete with jousting and a banquet marked the end of the class. Students played human chess with children as chess pieces on the school gym floor, redone with huge black and white square to make a chess board. Mr. Cioffi was dubbed "King Eugene III" and his freedom ransomed when kidnaped by an opposing kingdom.

In preparation for this year's inaugural ball, students staged a mock election between President Clinton and former Senator Bob Dole. (Dole won 79-73.) In other preparation and research, local Lincoln expert Joseph Garrera organized a display to help students understand the Civil War President.

For the remainder of this year, the class will study archeology. The school's victory garden has been seeded with objects and will be the site of an archaeological dig in the spring.

The thematic enrichment class is not the only innovative program at Frelinghuysen Elementary.

In the Families Read Every Day Program run by first-grade teacher Linda Banta, students take home a book each night to read with their parents, then receive scrip-like awards in class the next day that can be saved up to buy prizes from a classroom store.

At a Valentine's Day tea, fifth- and sixth-graders will be visited by senior citizens who will discuss their favorite Presidents in an interactive, intergenerational learning process.

The school has begun a Native American Cultural Center by building an authentic teepee in the schoolyard and teaching classes about native American culture inside. A second teepee and a bark lodge are planned for the future.

Frelinghuysen Elementary was one of several schools in Warren County that recently joined together to purchase "Star Lab," an inflatable, portable planetarium that allows students to learn about astronomy at their own school from their own teachers.

A buddy program pairs kindergartners with fifth-graders as mentors and lunch partners.

All of this is even more impressive when you consider that Frelinghuysen is one of the smallest school systems in our State. With 171 students in kindergarten through sixth grade, it is a single-school school district. Beyond sixth grade, students go to North Warren Regional Middle School and North Warren Regional High School. Chief School Administrator Cioffi wears the dual hats of principal and superintendent, guiding a staff of 13 full-time and three part-time students, plus a nurse and librarian.

These accomplishments clearly show that adults who care—teachers and parents alike—count far more than money in delivering a quality education. These teachers and parents are the heroes, mentors, and role models who hold up the historic value of public education in America. They are an excellent example of a community working together to develop and educate our citizens of tomorrow. Citizen in-

volvement has made America the leader in democracy around the world and their work will keep us in the forefront.

DALLAS AREA STUDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate students from my district for their outstanding accomplishments.

Ten students were awarded 4-year scholarships which range from \$4,000 to \$25,000 by Texas A&M University as part of its incoming class. The scholarship winners are Richard D. Weaver, Jr., of Carter High School; Julie A. Contreras of Irving High School; Tatiana Alexander of Kimball High School; Edward N. Brown, Jr., and Crystal D. Caldwell of South Oak Cliff High School; Paul L. Andres, John P. Broadnax, and Elizabeth A. Flotte of Talented and Gifted Magnet High School; Kaushawn P. Hicks of Townview Magnet Center; and Martha R. Wilson of Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

In addition, Leaksha Dunn, a senior at James Madison High School in Dallas, took top honors in the Dallas County Historical Commission's Heritage Education Essay Contest for her treatise on "James Thibodeaux, a Living Legend in South Dallas." Leaksha won \$50 from the commission and \$500 for the high school's history department.

The hard work and dedication of these students is admirable. Congratulations students, and good luck in all your pursuits.

PROVIDING PORTABILITY FOR MEDIGAP ENROLLEES

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, in the last session of Congress, we passed important legislation giving Americans access to portable insurance coverage regardless of their health status. We did it by enacting the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

This new law, however, did not extend these same protections to our senior and disabled constituents who are on Medicare. No senior should be forced to live in fear that unexpected medical bills will deprive them of financial independence.

That is why I am introducing, along with 30 of my colleagues, a portability bill for the millions of senior citizens who supplement their Medicare coverage with private insurance. An estimated 10 million senior citizens, one-third of the total number of seniors on Medicare, rely on medigap coverage to meet important health needs. Medigap insurance typically pays for prescription drugs, skilled nursing care, and out-of-pocket deductibles. Without

medigap, seniors can face tough choices between paying their medical bills and meeting daily critical needs. And that is a choice they should not be asked to make.

My legislation provides four important protections for seniors and the disabled. First, it will protect seniors with Medigap insurance who move out of their plan's service area or whose plan goes out of business. This bill guarantees that those seniors will be able to purchase another plan with comparable coverage even if they have a history of severe illness. This means that seniors who relocate to other States can do so without the fear that they will not be able to secure comparable insurance coverage.

In addition, my bill provides Medicare beneficiaries who choose to enroll in a Medicare HMO the security that they will be able to return to their Medigap plan if they are not satisfied. They can utilize this option anytime within the first year of their enrollment.

Third, my bill will help provide security for seniors who lose their employer-provided retiree health benefits. In this era of high bankruptcies and more and more companies withdrawing or reducing health coverage for retirees, this legislation will guarantee that retirees will always have access to insurance coverage beyond Medicare, even if they have had serious health problems.

Finally, this bill will extend to disabled Medicare beneficiaries equal access to all medigap plans. This is an important assurance considering the high medical bills that people with disabilities face.

We took significant steps last Congress with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Let us not forget those who did not benefit from those vital safeguards. Let us protect the millions of senior citizens who rely on Medigap policies.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO RELINK BLIND TO EARNINGS TEST

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to restore fairness to the Social Security earnings test for blind individuals. Since 1977, the linking of the blind to senior citizens for the purposes of the earnings test has assisted in helping many blind individuals become self-

sufficient, and more productive members of society. This is no longer the case. That important link was broken in 1996. While senior citizens will be afforded greater opportunity to increase their earnings without losing their Social Security benefits, the blind, however, will not have that same chance.

Blindness is often associated with adverse social and economic consequences. It is often difficult for blind individuals to find sustained employment or for that matter employment at all. The blind want to work and take pride in doing so. Our action in 1977 provided a great deal of hope and incentive for the blind popu-

lation in this country. Now is not the time to roll back two decades of success. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation to restore fairness to the Social Security earnings test.

TRIBUTE TO MAX LYON AND KARL MUEGLER

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Max Lyon and Karl Muegler, two constituents of mine who were both tragically killed in an avalanche during a skiing trip to Utah earlier this month.

Max and Karl will be missed by many, especially by their students at the Chadwick School in Palos Verdes. Max served as the school's outdoor education program director since 1990 and was nationally known for his work in teaching youngsters about nature. Karl was an outdoor education instructor since 1991 and worked with Max to keep Chadwick students in touch with our environment.

Max and Karl touched the life of every Chadwick student. Whether it was on one of their kayak trips to Baja California or on one of their rock-climbing adventures in Joshua Tree, Max and Karl taught Chadwick youngsters how important it is to preserve and protect our environment. Max and Karl understood that unless today's children take an active role in environmental protection, future generations will never be able to enjoy our country's outdoor heritage.

In the words of Nathan Reynolds, Chadwick's headmaster, "Max and Karl taught so many of us to better love and appreciate the world. They affected us all. We are the better because they touched our lives."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending heartfelt condolences to the Lyon and Muegler families.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF HON. FRANK TEJEDA, REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to extend my deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of my colleague, Representative FRANK TEJEDA who passed away on January 30, 1997. Although I did not have the privilege of meeting Representative TEJEDA, I would like to join my colleagues in honoring this American hero.

Congressman TEJEDA leaves a legacy of dedication, hard work, and devotion to his community. He will remain a role model for the youth and Hispanics for many years to come.

And as a freshman Member of Congress, I will miss his leadership, and his advice on how to better serve my constituency and the Nation.

He was a dedicated citizen, serving in the Marine Corps and defending our Nation during the Vietnam war. He was a dedicated educator, receiving degrees from St. Mary's University, Berkeley, Harvard, and Yale.

Congressman TEJEDA was also a dedicated public servant, serving 10 years in the Texas State Legislature and 4 years in Congress. I am very proud of his achievements and contributions to our country. His passing is a great loss for our community.

AN AMERICAN DREAM COME TRUE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker. One of the most important organizations I have had the privilege to work with is the American Dream Challenge, a committee of the Citizens Scholarship Foundation of Fall River, MA headed by Dr. Irving Fradkin, which has spread across the Nation and which helps young people go to college. I have been privileged to introduce Dr. Fradkin's work to various officials of the Federal Government, and I have been pleased—although not surprised—when they have responded very favorably when they learned about it. Dr. Fradkin has spent considerable time recently working with elementary schools and the results have been as I expected, extremely gratifying. I ask here that I be allowed to share with my colleagues examples of the response the American Dream Challenge has received from faculty and students in the elementary schools. I think it is useful for people to read the pledge of the American Dream Challenge which children are asked to take, and the responses to this program from two 4th grade teachers from Fall River, and from students in the Fall River schools.

THE PLEDGE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM CHALLENGE

I am very pleased to accept this award, honor, and scholarship.

In accepting this award, I pledge to continue to do the best that I can in school and make the most of this valuable tool offered to me—my education.

I promise to respect my teachers and classmates, giving an effort to learn about and appreciate their religious and ethnic backgrounds.

I further pledge, in accepting this award, that I will not be involved in any way with the use of illegal drugs.

I will not resort to the use of weapons of any kind to resolve differences with others.

I will volunteer to perform service for my community whenever possible.

I will continue to do everything within my power to be a caring and responsible citizen of my school, my community, and my country—proud to be an American.

WM. J. WILEY SCHOOL,
Fall River, MA, January 13, 1997.

DR. IRVING A. FRADKIN,
American Dream Challenge Awards Committee,
Fall River, MA.

DEAR DR. FRADKIN AND MEMBERS: As we enter the new year, I'm extremely anxious to

begin the fourth year of your scholarship program. I am most delighted that your American Dream Challenge has met with so much success. It was an excellent idea to initiate this program at such an early age; I believe that it makes a tremendous impact on the future successes of so many fourth grade students of the Fall River. Let me share with you just how your scholarships have affected the lives of three of my students.

Sharon was my first recipient; one could not find a brighter student. However, she was often consumed by a timidity that limited her abilities. When she learned that she was chosen as the winner, she acquired such pride and confidence that it is still with her today.

In 1995, Natalie was chosen as a finalist and she could not wait to hear the results of your essay contest. She, too, was a bright student and a most imaginative writer. However, she lacked a feeling of belonging because she had only come to America from Ireland one year earlier. When she discovered that she had been chosen as the '95 recipient, she beamed with pride! She was now truly an American with a future that could not be brighter. Her entire family attended the ceremony.

Finally, let me tell you about Meghan. She, too, was a bright girl. However, unlike Shannon and Natalie, she was not a good student. She lacked consistency, focus, and confidence, but I could see a light in her that many could not see. She loved to read and was full of imagination. I stressed with her the importance of this essay, and how it might affect her entire life. She wrote her essay with an intensity that I had not previously seen. When I read her composition, I could tell that she would be my next recipient. She changed that day, and actually started to reach her potential. She was eventually declared the winner, and her attitude changed toward learning.

In summary, I'd have to say that your program does definitely make a difference, and I'm proud to be part of it. One can only dream of the changes this can create in a child. It just might help that child rise above the pressures of drug abuse, sexual promiscuity, or even teenage pregnancy. Thank you for your interest in the youth of Fall River. You are making a positive impact on their lives with a difference that should surely affect the future of Fall River.

Very truly yours,

SUSAN LANYON,
4th Grade Teacher.

THE AMERICAN DREAM CHALLENGE: A BLUEPRINT

The American Dream Challenge Program Committee is a dynamic, dedicated group of individuals who are working for a common good and unified goals. Their exceptional talents, dedication, and commitment are certainly felt within our educational system and our community.

What a Herculean task this is! The American Dream Challenge Group Volunteers countless hours so that positive attitudes, ethics, and enthusiasm can regenerate in this depressed area and can begin with our youngest elementary students.

The concept of encouraging our students to do their very best, take charge of their lives, and stay in school is emphasized so magnificently by the Committee. The American Dream Challenge Group awards scholarships to elementary school children who are urged to put forth their best effort and make a difference in their school, their neighborhood and eventually give to their community.

With the American Dream Challenge we can feel the necessity for our students to

strive for decency, and get back to basics in their lives.

Today we need more programs like the American Dream Challenge with interested, concerned citizens volunteering with our youth and building better citizens and adults for tomorrow.

Thank you Dr. Fradkin and the American Dream Challenge Committee for including me and my students in a worthwhile endeavor.

Congratulations American Dream Challenge Committee and Dr. Irving Fradkin on a mammoth undertaking and a commendable start. The principal at C.V. Carroll School, Mr. Edward Campion, pledges his support for this program and encourages his staff to participate and pledge for future years.

BETSY COREY,
4th Grade Teacher.

WEAVING DREAMS—FOURTH-GRADERS TELL WHY TO STAY IN SCHOOL

Here's a sample of some of the essays written by Fall River fourth grade students who won American Dream Challenge scholarships in this year's program:

EDUCATION FOR ENVIRONMENT

My education can help me make a difference by helping other people. With different education, people can help in different ways: for an example, you can become a doctor, you can help people get well or become a policeman or woman to help your community be safe. These are just a few of the thousand things your education can help you do. You can help the earth by becoming a scientist and study the earth and the sea. By that you can help all the earth, which will help all the animals that will make the earth a better place to live. Or be president and make peace with other countries. The most important thing is to stay in schools. Some kids think it's cool to get out early, but it's not! There's always more to learn. Stay in school. It's cool!—Michelle Prevost, Dominican Academy.

HELPING CHILDREN WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES, OTHERS

In my life I want to help children who need somebody to talk to. I hope I can do this because I want to be known as someone who helps children. I want to prove to myself and others that I can make something of myself. I am very lucky to have a second chance in life, because I am adopted. I will use my education to help children who are not as fortunate as I am. I want to let them know there are people out there who care about them. I can do this with a good college education.

This is my dream. I want to become a children's psychologist or a counselor so I can make a difference in another child's life, and mine.—Anne Bryant, St. Jean Baptiste School.

MAKING FRIENDS WITH ONE ANOTHER

A good education will help me become a better person by making friends. In school we learn to care about one another. I can make friends easy but I have to see if they have a good attitude or bad one. I can just walk up and talk to a lonely friend, tell them a little idea about our country and they can tell a little about their country. I like to make friends. I made a lot of Cambodian friends and American ones too. Some of my friends make me mad and I just walk away, but they will come back and say sorry. Then we become friends again. I like to be friends and have the friendship last a long time. I can share with them, that's an easy thing to do. When I grow up I want to go to

college. I hope I pass college so that I can be a nurse.—Rany Say, Laurel Lake School.

WINNING SPOT IN STATE HOUSE COULD HELP FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE

I think that if I have a good education, that maybe I could work in the state House and help to make up non-violent laws to help a lot of people in the United States. If I do make it to the state House as a representative, I would make strict laws about guns. I would allow them to be sold only to people with the proper license for them. I would not allow pocket knives to be sold to anyone under 20 years of age and they would have an identification card with them. With the help of a really good education and a good job, I would be able to help keep many citizens of the United States safe to walk the streets and safe in their homes because only responsible people would be carrying guns and knives. I would also make more laws such as having many more police officers on the street, and they would be checking for illegal weapons and making sure no one was carrying weapons without a proper reason or identification.

I would also make very strict laws about people who injure people with guns and knives. They would be put in jail for seven years and if they did it again, they would be in jail for double the time. If they killed someone, they would be in jail for the rest of their lives. So if I can get a good education and job in the state House, I could probably make many non-violent laws so that by the time I am 57 the United States will be so peaceful and safe and we might not need prisons or jails. Hopefully I can make a violent-free home for me and my family and friends.—Shauna Williams.

RESPONSE TO GEN. DENNIS J. REIMER'S SUGGESTION THAT SEX-SEGREGATED TRAINING RETURN TO THE MILITARY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we enter the 21st century, it is unacceptable for men to use human nature and sexuality as an excuse for sexual crimes and gender discrimination.

We cannot regress two decades of advancement for women based on the inability of some who cannot control their sexuality. Harsh disciplinary procedures must be enacted in order to ensure that women have a fair and equal opportunity to serve this Nation.

The separation of the sexes is not a solution to the problem. Rather, General Reimer's suggestion is a slap in the face to men because it suggests that men operate solely on animal instinct.

Additionally, General Reimer's suggestion increases the problem because if men are rarely in an environment with women, they will never know how to interact with them. It is time for women to be treated as equal peers of men, and not as sexual objects.

HONORING JOHN C. DOULIN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to our colleagues that a most remarkable American is going to be honored later this week.

The Catholic War Veterans Post No. 386 in Orange County, NY, is paying tribute to John C. Doulin, their oldest living World War I veteran and one of the few remaining World War I veterans in Orange County.

Jack, who is now 97 years young, enlisted in the U.S. Army on April 8, 1918, and was soon thereafter shipped to France with Company "D", 1st Pioneer Infantry. He participated in the Aisne-Marne campaign, and the Oise-Aisne, and Meuse-Argonne offensives.

After the armistice, Jack returned to his hometown of Newburgh, NY, and joined the New York National Guard. In 1921, this unit was transformed into the 132d Ammunition Train. In April 1924, it was again ordered to reorganize into a 75mm-artillery regiment. This new unit was designated the 156th Field Artillery. John Doulin remained in service with these units until July 22, 1931.

When America entered the Second World War, Jack returned to service with the 56th Regiment of the New York Guard, with whom he served until peace in 1945.

In later years, Jack Doulin remained—as he has always been—an outstanding community leader, involved in many causes. As an active member of the Republican Committee, he continued the struggle which he fought on the bloody battlefields of France so many years earlier: the fight for democracy, for good government, and for a free, just society.

Jack had a special interest in getting young people involved in politics. During the 1960's, many of our young people became disenchanted with our system. Jack waged a one-man crusade to counter this dangerous trend. With his tales of his experiences in what he always sardonically called "the war to end all wars," he painted a vivid portrait for our young people of just how much was sacrificed by so many so that we can all be free.

In the 1960's, John Doulin was appointed adult adviser to the Teenage Republicans in his hometown, and in this role displayed compassion, understanding and respect for our young people which unfortunately is often rare, and which was greatly appreciated by our young people who came to love him.

My press secretary, who received his start in politics listening to Jack Doulin's vivid discourses on what has made our Nation great and what responsibilities we all have to keep it great, has often told me that Jack was a major influence on many of his generation who remain activists to this day.

I urge my colleagues to join in congratulating John C. Doulin on the occasion of this long-overdue tribute, and in extending our best wishes to his daughter, Jeanne Doulin Leo, his son, John, Jr., and his grandchildren. It must be gratifying for them to realize that many of us admire the remarkable patriarch of their family.

INTRODUCTION OF WELDON RESOLUTION REAUTHORIZING A CITIZENS' COMMISSION ON CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce a resolution to reform ethics oversight in the House of Representatives.

This measure would establish a 14-member Commission on Congressional Ethics composed of private citizens, while eliminating most responsibilities of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. The resolution would grant the Commission power to investigate Member and staff ethics violations, sit and hold hearings, subpoena as authorized by the House, and report and recommend actions to enforce ethics to Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. Not only will this remove Members' conflict of interest in policing their colleagues, but it will give people a hands on role in shaping all the administrative operations of the House. The best way to reform the People's House is to get more of the people involved.

The American people want change and are demanding reform. It is time for us to act. This measure is not a complete solution to the public confidence crises, nor the last word of reform in this body. But it is a positive step in the right direction.

The recent investigation of the Speaker by the House Ethics Committee demonstrated the conflict of interest and the difficulties that will arise when Members must police each other. I believe this resolution will enable the process to work more effectively.

During the 104th Congress we made great progress in the area of institutional reform. This legislation will enable us to continue that reform and to strengthen America's trust in their elected representatives. I will press for adoption of this proposal in the House. I look forward to the support of all Members in this body.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the University of St. Thomas in Houston, TX, for 50 years of excellence. As an alumnus, I am proud of the many contributions the University of St. Thomas has made to education and to our community.

Fifty years ago, the University of St. Thomas became the first independent, coeducational Catholic Basilian college in the United States. Rev. Vincent J. Guinan presided over a freshman class of only 40 students and a faculty of 8. Since then, the university has grown over fortyfold, with an enrollment of 2,500 students and 200 faculty.

But the University of St. Thomas has not just grown in enrollment, it has grown in importance. It is recognized as one of the top regional universities in the country, offering a curriculum—from accounting and finance, to philosophy and theology—that attracts top students from around the country and around the world. The Cameron School of Business, opened in 1980, leads the way in teaching Houston's future business elite.

Over the past 50 years, the University of St. Thomas has flourished because of its commitment to not only education, but to the community. St. Thomas enriches Houston through a number of free lectures, exhibits, concerts, and seminars—all open to the public. Through these events, the University of St. Thomas has forged bonds to the community that can never be broken.

The University of St. Thomas has also led our community in architectural excellence. The main academic complex built in the 1960's is among the first works by world renowned architect Philip Johnson, who later designed much of the Houston skyline. It is only fitting that as St. Thomas achieves its half century mark that a new Johnson work, the Chapel of St. Basil, will close out the complex.

As a member of the class of 1982, I take great pride in commemorating 50 years of achievement at the University of St. Thomas. The people who have made St. Thomas what it is deserve our praise and our thanks.

The community's pride in the University of St. Thomas is reflected in the following editorial printed in the January 30 Houston Chronicle.

UST—FROM AN ACORN ON MONTROSE TO A SPLENDID UNIVERSITY

Since its humble founding 50 years ago, the University of St. Thomas has contributed much to the Houston community.

Nationally recognized as a top regional institution and one of the best buys in higher education, the University of St. Thomas has been the source of a fine education for thousands of students with its small classes and quality professors.

But it has been more than just a university of Houstonians. It also has given cultural and intellectual enrichment to the community through its numerous public lectures, concerts and exhibits.

Fifty years ago the Basilian Fathers, with the help and hard work of a group of dedicated laymen and laywomen, founded the university on Montrose Boulevard as an independent, coeducational Catholic institution of higher learning. The freshman class numbered 40. There were only eight faculty members. Today the University of St. Thomas has an enrollment of 2,500 students and 200 faculty. It offers 33 fields of study with a core curriculum in philosophy, theology, the humanities, social sciences, mathematics and science. The campus has grown to 22 acres, but the original building, the historic Link-Lee mansion, is still used.

A special dedicatory Mass on Friday marks the beginning of the university's 50th anniversary commemoration.

From a small acorn, a thriving university has grown, nourished through its commitment to instill a love for truth in its students.

Bricks and mortar do not make a university. People do. So as the University of St. Thomas begins commemorating its 50th anniversary, Houstonians should say well done

to all the men and women who have made the university the splendid place and community asset that it is.

IN AN EFFORT TO SETTLE A PARTISAN SCORE, THE HOUSE SETS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

HON. SUE MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I fear that the passage of the resolution reprimanding Speaker GINGRICH has opened a Pandora's Box that may ultimately threaten the very integrity of this noble institution. While I support the report of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and the reprimand, I feel that the monetary reimbursement is excessively severe and sets a dangerous precedent in the name of political expedience. It will mean that only the wealthy will be able to afford to serve in office.

There is a problem that should be of greater concern to all of my colleagues. The ethics process is in dire need of reform. We must all come together and create a swift, efficient, and fair new process. If we fail in this endeavor, the American people will slip even farther into the apathy that has gripped our political system for too long.

ENGLISH MUST BECOME OUR OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, the notion that our Government should address all citizens in English and encourage all citizens to learn the language seems simple common sense. This is the primary reason that when the issue has been voted on in statewide referendums, it has not lost. California, Florida, Colorado, and my own State of Arizona have all chosen to make English their official State language. The bill I am introducing today, the Declaration of Official Language Act, follows State governments and localities in designating English as the official language of our Federal Government. It has the strong support of citizen organizations such as English First and the Veterans of Foreign Wars as evidenced by their letters of endorsement I have included for the RECORD.

Not only do many American people generally agree on the matter, but so do our Nation's immigrants and language minorities. The Latino National Political Survey data released on December 15, 1992, shows Hispanics, even recent immigrants, speak English and want their children to learn English. Hispanics agreed by more than 90 percent that U.S. residents should learn English to take full advantage of the services afforded to them. As these immigrants know, English is the language of opportunity in America.

Unfortunately, our Federal Government encourages official bilingualism. The practice of

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

producing Government documents in multiple languages assumes that being given translations of official Government documents easily helps those who do not speak English. This logic goes against what bilingual individuals know all too well. Providing a word-for-word translation of anything between two languages is often impossible.

One area that this is most evident is in bilingual voting. The Voting Rights Act requires localities with populations over a certain proportion of the population to provide all materials in the language(s) of the affected populations, even if the language does not have a written form. This opens the door to fraud and misrepresentation of issues by interpreters. Inaccurate bilingual voting materials are a costly burden on State and local governments, and is neither effective nor a low cost method of ensuring anyone's right to vote.

Nothing in my legislation prevents a State, locality, political party, or individual from providing multilingual voting assistance. Localities will be free to adopt the approach that serves their constituencies best. Given that bilingual ballots have been both inaccurate and expensive, other approaches might be more helpful.

Multilingual Government services such as these are simply too costly in a nation in which more than 320 languages are spoken. It only makes sense to designate one common language for all official Government business. That is why I am introducing this important legislation.

It is time the Government came to the same conclusion as the rest of the American people: English should be our official language. English has enabled this Nation to be something unique in history, a true Nation of immigrants. English is the language of future opportunity for all our Nation's citizens. Official English is really just common sense.

NAZI SS MEMBERS IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring a very serious and troubling affair to the attention of my colleagues. Several news reports, over the last couple of days, have uncovered an incredible story: The German Government is giving pensions to over 3,000 former members of the Nazi Waffen SS Corps, living in the United States. Not extraordinary in and of itself, because these men receive their pensions as a result of their military service during World War II, yet the question that begs answering is: How many of these individuals might be war criminals? The outrage in this matter, is that the German Government may never have bothered to check.

At this same time, there are many Holocaust survivors—Catholics, Jews, and others living in the United States and elsewhere in the world—who have received very little in the way of compensation, and even scores of surviving victims who do not receive anything from the German Government. After the horrors and suffering they were forced to endure

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during the war, how can we allow this additional measure of indignation?

Apparently, many of these former SS members were able to enter the United States, and eventually gain citizenship, by falsifying their identities and lying about their wartime activities. Many of them, however, have been living in the United States for years now, some boldly with the same names, the same identities, the same blood on their hands.

Mr. Speaker, there is no excuse for that, and it is simply unacceptable. Yesterday, I sent letters to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, President Clinton, and Attorney General Janet Reno, asking that they obtain the names of these Nazi pensioners, and release them to the proper American Government agencies, in order to fully investigate the possibility of war criminals in our midst. There must be a full accounting. Yes, many of them are old, frail men, who have lived peacefully in their respective neighborhoods for decades. Did they show the same respect for the millions in Europe who also were old, frail, and living their lives peacefully? I think we all know the answer to that question.

Thanks to the hard work of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, as well as some other prominent organizations, we are beginning to uncover a trail of Nazi war criminals among us. In fact, the OSI is finding and prosecuting Nazis at the rate of one per month. It is imperative therefore, that we have all the necessary information at our disposal, so that we can continue to bring these murderers to justice. They have eluded the authorities, and the moral outrage of their deeds, for over 50 years now, but we will no longer allow that to continue. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in this endeavor, so that we may finally honor the memories of the Nazis' victims. Everyday, more and more Holocaust survivors leave this Earth, while their former tormentors continue to live on, having never been held accountable for the horrible deeds of the past. It's simply time to act now. Therefore, I call on the Government of Germany to work with us in addressing and resolving this issue once and for all—for the survivors, for the victims, and for the future. They need to do the right thing.

CURTIS W. MEADOWS, JR., RE-CEIVES JONSSON ETHICS AWARD

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the first recipient of the J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award, Mr. Curtis W. Meadows, Jr.

On October 22, 1996, Southern Methodist University's Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility presented Mr. Meadows this award for his commitment to philanthropy and to serving the needs of the Dallas community. Mr. Meadows was president and director of Dallas' Meadows Foundation, one of the largest community foundations in the United States, for 18 years between 1978 and 1996. The Foundation, created by Mr. Meadows' uncle Algur H. Meadows nearly 50 years

ago, has made over \$300 million in charitable contributions to benefit health, education, arts and culture, civic and public affairs, and human services programs throughout Texas.

Mr. Meadows has served on the boards of the National Council of Foundations, the Conference of Southwest Foundations, the Dallas Bar Foundations and on the advisory boards of more than 40 nonprofit organizations including the Dallas Citizens Council, Habitat for Humanity, and the Suicide and Crisis Center. He has served on the building committees for the Dallas Museum of Art and the Museum of African-American Life and Culture, and has participated in the Mayors Task Force on Homelessness.

To be the first recipient of an award named for Mr. J. Erik Jonsson is a great honor indeed. Mr. Jonsson was a mayor of Dallas from 1964 to 1971, and under his leadership, a number of public buildings including the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, city hall, and the Dallas Public Library were constructed and improvements to the city's public schools were made. Both Mr. Jonsson and Mr. Meadows have demonstrated the public virtue that this Ethics Award represents. Congratulations, Mr. Meadows, and thank you for all that you have done for Texas.

HONORING SAM NUNN

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would designate the Atlanta Federal Center as the Sam Nunn Federal Center, in honor of the former Senator from Georgia.

I believe we all recognize the tremendous accomplishments of Sam Nunn during his service in the U.S. Senate. Senator Nunn is one of the true statesmen of that body and is a source of pride to Georgia. Since my election to Congress in 1986, I have had many opportunities to work with Senator Nunn on several issues and often benefited from his experience and support during the time that we served together.

Since his election to the Senate in 1972, Senator Nunn has served the State of Georgia with honor and dedication. Senator Nunn worked to become the Senate's foremost expert on national security and international affairs. Senator Nunn served 8 years as the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and retired as the ranking Democrat on both the Armed Service Committee and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

I have dedicated much time and effort in support of the Atlanta Federal Center. When Georgia Gov. Zell Miller approached me and asked my support for naming the Federal Center after Senator Nunn, I thought the dedication a fitting tribute to Senator Nunn. For these reasons, I will work to see that the Federal Center soon bears the name of our former Senator, Senator Sam Nunn.

GIVE FANS A CHANCE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. BLUMENAUER. On Sunday, January 26, the Packers won the Superbowl. When they returned home to Green Bay, their fans stood in freezing temperatures for hours to catch a glimpse of their heroes.

The Packers aren't an ordinary football team. Their fans aren't ordinary fans. And their community isn't an ordinary community—because 1,915 residents of Green Bay and other "Packer Backers" own their football team. The Packers are a vital part of the glue that holds the Green Bay community together.

Together, these fans saved the team from bankruptcy. They have plowed profits from 175 consecutive sellouts directly back into the Packers. They cheered their team to 11 consecutive championships—and this year's Superbowl.

The Green Bay Packers are unique, because NFL rules prohibit any more public ownership of teams.

Other communities should be able to invest in their own livability—to define what the community wants of, and for, itself. Other communities should be able to own the local sports team.

That's why we should give fans a chance to own their teams by: Eliminating league rules against public ownership of teams; requiring teams to listen to their fans and the community before moving—a requirement which is found in existing league rules, but seems to receive little real attention; and tying the leagues' broadcast antitrust exemption to the requirements in this bill. This congressionally granted benefit allows teams to collaborate on the purchase of national broadcast time. The NFL earned \$1.2 billion on broadcast rights last year.

This bill doesn't do anything new or radical: It will allow more ownership structures like the Packers, the Boston Celtics, and the Florida Panthers. It will ensure that the leagues follow their own rules when it comes to making decisions about team relocations, and it will ensure that the sports leagues do not squander the benefits they have gained under the sports broadcasting anti-trust exemption.

Community ownership strongly encourages fan loyalty, financial stability, and strong TV audiences at a time when fan loyalty is being tested by franchise moves. It is in the long-term, best interest of any professional league. More importantly, it is in the long-term interest of the communities who support them.

I urge my colleagues to give fans a chance by supporting this legislation.

SUMMARY: GIVE FANS A CHANCE ACT

Sec. 1: This Act is called the "Give Fans a Chance Act". Its purpose is to give communities the tools to invest in their own livability by allowing them to purchase their home sports team.

Sec. 2: Allow Public Ownership of Teams
Purpose: To allow more communities the opportunities Green Bay, WI, has to own their professional sports team. In addition, to help the leagues by stemming the tide of loyal fans who are no longer glued to their

TV sets or stadium seats to watch their favorite teams. Football fan loyalty is being tested by franchise moves and a proliferation of sports on specialty cable channels. If those fans had a chance to own their own teams, they would invest more time and money into their future.

Description: No professional sports league (football, hockey, or basketball) may have a rule, policy, or agreement that forbids any public ownership of teams, either by the general public or by any governmental entity.

Penalty: If the League ignores this provision, it will lose its sports broadcast antitrust exemption. The antitrust exemption allows teams to collaborate to sell broadcast rights, thus increasing their value dramatically.

Expected Impact: The NFL is the only league that has specific rules forbidding public ownership of sports teams (NFL Ownership Policies para. 2). The NFL earned \$1.2 billion as a result of the sport broadcast anti-trust exemption in the 1995-1996 season.

Sec 3: Relocation of Teams

Purpose: To require teams to consider the needs and interests of their communities in making relocation decisions.

Description: Requires a professional sports league, in considering whether to approve or disapprove the relocation of a member team, to take into consideration several criteria: Fan loyalty; the degree to which the team has engaged in good faith negotiations concerning terms and conditions under which the teams would continue to play its games in the home territory; the degree to which ownership of management of the team has contributed to a need to relocate; the extent to which the team benefits from public financing, either federal, state or local; the adequacy of the stadium in which the team played its home games in the previous season and the willingness of the community to make changes; the current financial standing of the team; whether there is another team in either the home community or the community to which the team will seek to locate; whether the community is opposed to the relocation; and whether there is a bona fide investor offering fair market value to purchase the team and keep it in the home community.

Expected Impact: All of the sports leagues will be expected to use these criteria in evaluating the movement of member teams. These criteria closely track current NFL policies under Section 4.3 of the Constitution and By-Laws (adopted in 1984). Case law since the adoption of these policies suggest that these criteria help bolster the NFL's ability to evaluate franchise moves without running afoul of antitrust law.

Sec. 4. Opportunities for Communities to Purchase Team

Purpose: To give communities a real opportunity to purchase their team.

Description: This section requires that a team proposing to relocate give the affected home territory 180 days notice of the proposed move. During the 180 days notice period, a local government, stadium, arena authority, person, or any combination may present a proposal to retain the team in the home territory. The local community may also develop a proposal to induce the team to stay without actually purchasing the team. As noted under section 3, both the team and the league are required to carefully consider any proposals, and, if an ownership bid is successful, the league may not oppose membership in the league based on the new ownership structure. The team owner must provide a written response to the offer, stating

in detail any reasons why the offer was refused.

Penalty: If the team and/or the league refuse to abide by these provisions, they will lose the antitrust exemption under the Sports Broadcasting Act.

Expected Impact: All Sports Leagues will be required to give communities an opportunity to purchase a home team in the case of proposed relocations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS ACT OF 1997

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1997, comprehensive legislation that guarantees coverage for inpatient hospital care following a mastectomy, lumpectomy, or lymph node dissection—based on a doctor's judgment, requires coverage for breast reconstructive procedure, including symmetrical reconstruction, ensures a second opinion for any cancer diagnosis, and offers significant physical protections from inducement or retribution.

I want to first thank my colleagues in both the House and Senate that have worked so diligently on this legislation. Senators D'AMATO, SNOWE, and FEINSTEIN, as well as Representatives SUSAN MOLINARI and FRANK LOBIONDO, are all part of this effort to restore the ability of doctors to practice sound medicine and to restore compassion and dignity to the treatment of breast cancer patients.

So why introduce this bill? I'll tell you why. Tragically, some women who must undergo mastectomies, lumpectomies or lymph node dissections for the treatment of breast cancer are rushed through their recovery from these procedures on an outpatient basis at the insistence of their health plan or insurance company in order to cut cost. Other insurance companies cut cost by denying coverage for reconstructive surgery because they have deemed such procedures cosmetic. Ironically, they do not deny reconstructive surgery for an ear lost to cancer. We must understand that self-image is at stake at a time when optimism and inner strength can be the difference between life and death.

Furthermore, this bill requires coverage of second opinions when any cancer tests come back either negative or positive, giving all patients the benefit of a second opinion. This important provision will not only help ensure that false negatives are detected, but also give men and women greater peace of mind.

Now, to be clear, all insurance companies are not so insensitive as to not provide these benefits and, therefore, all will not be affected by this legislation. But we have a responsibility to protect the doctor-patient relationship, ensuring that the medical needs of patients are fully addressed.

Everyone has heard that one in nine women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in their lifetime. Well, one of those women is my sister. So I know a little something about the horror that accompanies this

disease and the personal anxiety of living with the disease.

My sister and her experiences have made me realize that we should have no greater priority than empowering those with breast cancer the right and ability to play an active role in the management of their treatment. It is our obligation as leaders to ensure them that their medical treatment is in the hands of physicians, not insurance companies. It is a profound injustice when health care forgets about the patient, yet with regard to mastectomy recovery and breast reconstruction following a mastectomy, that is just what has been done.

Let's put the reality of this disease in perspective. When a woman is told that she has breast cancer, the feeling that immediately follows the initial denial is lack of control. Our bill is a patient's bill aimed at providing patients, in consultation with their physicians, a greater degree of autonomy when deciding appropriate medical care and, therefore, taking back control of their lives.

More than 2½ million women in America today are living with breast cancer. These women are our sisters, mothers, daughters, wives, and friends. This dreadful disease now strikes over 180,000 women per year and that figure does not even include the additional 20 percent a year who have preinvasive cancers. Devastatingly to the families involved, it is estimated that more than 44,000 women will die of breast cancer this year.

But all the news is not grim. Overall breast cancer mortality declined 5 percent between 1989 and 1993 due to increased mammography screening and improved treatments such as mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissections.

There is no doubt that we have the medical know-how to fight breast cancer. The question is do we have the commitment it takes.

As long as we send a woman home 12 hours after losing a part of herself with no compassion and no support, then the answer is no.

As long as breast reconstruction is deemed cosmetic, then the answer is no.

As long as false negatives are acceptable and we, therefore, abandon a patient unknowingly in need, then the answer is no.

As long as we fail to come to the defense of doctors who are persecuted for practicing sound medicine, then the answer is no.

Passage of the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act would demonstrate what we are lacking—the commitment to fight breast cancer and stand up for those who are suffering.

In closing, I am pleased that President Clinton emphasized the importance of this legislation in his State of the Union Address last night. It is nice to have the administration behind this critical legislation.

TRIBUTE TO YVONNE MARIE
TAYLOR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the untimely death of Yvonne

Marie Taylor, who passed from this life much too quickly. She was the late wife of LeBaron Taylor.

Yvonne Taylor was born May 1, 1943 in Detroit, MI to her loving parents, Charles and Eldora Ridley. She was reared in a strong Christian environment and her faith guided her every action. A graduate of Northwestern High School in Detroit, she subsequently attended Central State University.

After returning to her native Detroit, she met and married LeBaron Taylor. During their 29-year marriage she was a faithful and loyal spouse. Yvonne was the consummate mother, unceasingly dedicated to her two children, Eric and Tiffani.

Talent and a commitment to hard work were the hallmark of Yvonne who worked as the administrative director of the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association. Her community and civic affiliations included membership in the South Jersey Chapter of Links, Inc., and For Women Only.

A member of Bethel AME Church in Moorestown, NJ, Yvonne Taylor maintained strength and faith even during her most trying days. May the memory of her bright spirit sustain her family and friends.

KEEPING FOREIGN MONEY OUT OF AMERICAN CAMPAIGNS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, news stories about fundraising during the 1996 Presidential campaign focused increasing national attention on the overwhelming need for campaign finance reform, and particularly the role of foreign money in U.S. campaigns.

The problem indeed is money. During the 1996 election, candidates for all Federal offices spent approximately \$1.6 billion. That's "B," as in billion. The pressure to raise huge sums of money is so intense that some candidates from both parties, apparently have started looking abroad for new sources of campaign contributions.

Since 1990, no matter which party controlled Congress, I have sponsored legislation that would ban foreign contributions to candidates for Federal office. Today, I'm reintroducing the Ethics in Foreign Lobbying Act of 1997.

My bill has three major points:

First, only U.S. citizens could contribute to Federal campaigns.

Federal law already purports to prohibit direct or indirect contributions by foreign nationals in U.S. elections. In fact, section 441e of the Federal Election Campaign Act [FECA] states:

It shall be unlawful for a foreign national directly or through any other person to make any contributions of money or any other thing of value, or to promise expressly or impliedly to make any such contribution, in connection with an election to any political office or in connection with any primary election, convention or caucus held to select candidates for any political office; or for any person to solicit, accept, or receive any such contribution from a foreign national.

This provision was enacted in response to longstanding congressional concern over foreign influence in American elections. Though this language appears to be locktight, many loopholes permit foreign influence on U.S. elections, many foreign entities are not covered by the statute, and there is a lack of enforcement of the law. Congress must strengthen and make sure the law is fully enforced.

Second, foreign-controlled companies would be prohibited from contributing to Federal elections through the PAC's of their U.S. subsidiaries.

My bill would prohibit contributions from PAC's sponsored by corporations that are more than 50-percent foreign owned, as well as contributions from PAC's sponsored by trade associations that derive 50 percent or more of their operating funds from foreign corporations.

Foreign citizens are already prohibited from contributing to U.S. political campaigns. Yet, every year foreign interests spend millions of dollars to influence the American political process. This money often comes in the form of political action committee contributions from foreign-controlled corporations or their trade associations. Just as foreign individuals are prohibited from contributing to U.S. campaigns, so should be PAC's that are controlled by foreign corporations and trade associations, for, in fact, under U.S. law, corporations are considered persons.

Due to a loophole in the FECA, American subsidiaries of foreign-owned companies may operate PAC's—the only restriction being that the PAC cannot solicit funds from foreign nationals or permit them to be involved in the policymaking decisions of the PAC. Consequently, many of the world's largest foreign multinational corporations and financial institutions contribute to U.S. campaigns through their U.S.-based subsidiaries. Through the creation of these foreign-sponsored PAC's, foreign companies can thus assert their influence on the U.S. election process—and on U.S. policy.

Consequently, administration of the FECA law has created a confusing system whereby it is illegal for individual foreign nationals to make political contributions, yet legal for foreign-controlled or foreign-owned corporations, subsidiaries, and trade associations to contribute, expend funds, and influence U.S. elections. The Federal Election Commission [FEC] through its advisory opinions has twice voted to exempt PAC's representing U.S. subsidiaries of foreign-owned or controlled corporations, as long as the PAC's are funded and operated by Americans. The FEC has asked Congress to enact legislation clarifying this issue, but Congress, to date, has refused to do so.

Third, contributors would be required to disclose the percentage of foreign ownership.

The data collection and clearinghouse responsibilities section of my bill is one of its most important aspects, because of the current difficulty in identifying the activities of foreign nationals and corporations. The FEC has no coherent system for tracking the millions of dollars spent by foreign interests and their PAC's on lobbying the U.S. Government. The current, disjointed data collection system provides a veil of secrecy over how and where foreign interests spend their money.

My bill would make this mysterious and inadequate process both more transparent and more accountable—without requiring new reporting. My bill would merely add an extra line to the statement of organization that is currently required by the FEC. PAC's controlled by corporations would be required to state the percentage that the corporations are foreign-owned, and PAC's sponsored by trade associations would be required to state the percentage of their operating fund that is derived from foreign-owned corporations. In addition, it would require that all data collected by Federal agencies on foreign campaign contributions and foreign agents, as well as any testimony before the Congress regarding the interests of a foreign principal, be sent to the FEC.

Most important, my bill would make the disclosure of related expenditures available and visible at a central source by creating a clearinghouse for data that is currently collected, but is scattered among various Government agencies, including the FEC and the Department of Justice.

In establishing a clearinghouse, we would create a greatly needed central point for collecting information. Most of the information is already available, but it is housed in a myriad of Federal agencies and offices. Bringing the information together under one roof will provide the Government, the Congress, and the public with improved access to the data. The timing requirement for reporting conforms with the quarterly reports required in the 1946 Foreign Lobbying Act. The reporting requirements place the burden of reporting the percent of foreign ownership on the PAC's themselves, with penalties for noncompliance.

The United States is one of very few countries that allows foreign interests to contribute to its campaigns. Most of our major trading competitors—for example, China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, and Mexico—all strictly forbid foreign campaign contributions. There is no reason why the United States should be any different.

In the interest of protecting our sovereignty and maintaining a political system that reflects the will of the American people, the United States since 1938 has attempted to restrain the ability of foreign governments, individuals, organizations, and corporate entities to influence our domestic political system. By amendment, first to the FARA and later to the Federal Election Campaign Act [FECA], the United States has sought to prevent campaign contributions and expenditures by foreign interests.

There is no reason to allow foreign money to influence our elections or permit foreign interests to buy access to our elected lawmakers and thereby put their imprint on public policy in this country.

Mr. Speaker, clearly the time for campaign finance reform has come. Our system needs to be fixed. We must eliminate foreign money from our political system once and for all and regain sovereignty in our election system, which is the cornerstone of our democracy.

This time Congress must act and must get it right.

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the National Mental Health Improvement Act of 1997. This bill will provide parity in insurance coverage of mental illness and improve mental health services available to Medicare beneficiaries. It represents an urgently needed change in coverage to end discrimination against those with mental illness and to reflect the contemporary methods of providing mental health care and preventing unnecessary hospitalizations.

My bill prohibits health plans from improving treatment limitations or financial requirements on coverage of mental illness, if similar limitations or requirements are not imposed on coverage of services for other health conditions. The bill also expands Medicare part A and part B mental health and substance abuse benefits to include a wider array of settings in which services may be delivered. It eliminates the current bias in the law toward delivering services in general hospitals by permitting services to be delivered in a variety of residential and community-based settings. Through use of residential and community-based services, costly inpatient hospitalizations can be avoided. Services can instead be delivered in settings which are most appropriate to an individual's needs.

In 1993, as a nation, we spent approximately \$67 billion for the treatment of mental illness and another \$21 billion for substance abuse disorders. Medicare expenditures in these areas for 1993 were estimated at \$3.6 billion or 2.7 percent of Medicare's total spending. Over 80 percent of that cost was for inpatient hospitalization.

In addition to the direct medical costs associated with the treatment of mental illness, there are significant social costs resulting from these disorders. Treatable mental and addictive disorders exact enormous human, social, and economic costs—individual suffering, breakup of families, suicide, crime, violence, homelessness, impaired performance at work, and partial or total disability. It is estimated that mental and addictive disorders cost the economy well over \$300 billion annually. This includes productivity losses of \$150 billion, health care costs of \$70 billion, and other costs, e.g. criminal justice, of \$80 billion.

Two to three percent of the population experience severe mental illness disorders. Many more suffer from milder forms of mental illness. Roughly 1 out of 10 Americans suffer from alcoholism or alcohol abuse and 1 out of 30, from drug abuse. This population is very diverse. With appropriate treatment, the mental health problems of some people can be resolved. Others have chronic problems that can persist for decades. Indeed, there are those who battle mental illness their entire lives. Mental illness and substance abuse disorders come in many forms and include many different diagnoses as well as ranges in levels and duration of disability. Still, these disorders do not have full parity in coverage by insurance plans.

In the last congressional session, parity in the treatment of mental illness was a widely and hotly debated issue. The final version of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 included Title VII—Parity in the Application of Certain Limits to Mental Health Benefits. This represents a start in creating solutions to address a problem that has been ignored far too long. But it's not enough. The act essentially states that if a health insurance plan or coverage does not include an aggregate lifetime limit on substantially all medical and surgical benefits, the plan or coverage may not impose any aggregate annual or lifetime limit on mental health benefits. Additionally, in the act, "mental health benefits" refers to benefits with respect to mental health services, as defined under the terms of the plan or coverage, but does not include benefits with respect to treatment of substance abuse or chemical dependency.

Furthermore, the Act included exemptions in coverage requirements for small employers. If an employer has at least 2 but not more than 50 employees, they can be exempt from the new coverage requirement. Finally, if a group health plan experiences an increase in costs of at least 1 percent, they can be exempted in subsequent years. The inclusion of title VII into the VA—HUD bill is important because it represents a starting place. But now we must do more.

My bill today addresses two fundamental problems in both public, as well as private, health care coverage of mental illness today. First, despite the prevalence and cost of untreated mental illness, we still lack full parity for treatment. The availability of treatment, as well as the limits imposed, are now linked to coverage for all medical and surgical benefits. Whatever limitations exist for those benefits will also apply to mental health benefits.

Let's not forget the small employers either. If a company qualifies for the small employer exemption, the insurance companies will be able to set different, lower limits on the scope and duration of care for mental illness compared to other illness. This means that people suffering from depression may get less care and coverage than those suffering a heart attack. Yet, both illnesses are real.

Additionally, access problems to mental health benefits can result from these restrictions. In general, about 50 percent of all health plans limit mental illness coverage in some form. Approximately 88 percent limit hospitalization to 30 to 60 days. Outpatient benefits are limited by visit or dollar amounts in 85.5 percent of medium to large plans and 70 percent of small plans. About 80 percent of all plans limit inpatient care in some form and 99 percent of plans limit outpatient coverage.

Access to equitable mental health treatment is essential. It can be done at a reasonable price. The increased costs in insurance premiums in the private sector is in the range of 3.2 to 4.0 percent. It is estimated that about \$2.50 per month is the cost of fully offsetting the premium increase by an increase in the deductible. Two dollars and fifty cents is a small price to pay for ending health care discrimination.

Second, the diagnoses and treatment of mental illness and substance abuse has

changed dramatically since the Medicare benefit was designed. Treatment options are no longer limited to large public psychiatric hospitals. The great majority of people can be treated on an outpatient basis, recover quickly, and return to productive lives. Even those who once would have been banished to the back wards of large institutions can now live successfully in the community. But the Medicare benefit package of today does not reflect the many changes that have occurred in mental health care.

This bill would permit Medicare to pay for a number of intensive community-based services. In addition to outpatient psychotherapy and partial hospitalization that are already covered, beneficiaries would also have access to psychiatric rehabilitation, ambulatory detoxification, in-home services, day treatment for substance abuse, and day treatment for children under age 19. In these programs, people can remain in their own homes while receiving services. These programs provide the structure and assistance that people need to function on a daily basis and return to productive lives.

They do so at a cost that is much less than inpatient hospitalization. For example, the National Institute of Mental Health in 1993 estimated that the cost of inpatient treatment for schizophrenia can run as high as \$700 per day, including medication. The average daily cost of partial hospitalization in a community mental health center is only about \$90 per day. When community-based services are provided, inpatient hospitalizations will be less frequent and stays will be shorter. In many cases, hospitalizations will be prevented altogether.

This bill will also make case management available for those with severe mental illness or substance abuse disorders. People with severe disorders often need help managing many aspects of their lives. Case management assists people with severe disorders by making referrals to appropriate providers and monitoring the services received to make sure they are coordinated and meeting the beneficiaries' needs. Case managers can also help beneficiaries in areas such as obtaining a job, housing, or legal assistance. When services are coordinated through a case manager, the chances of successful treatment are improved.

For those who cannot be treated while living in their own homes, this bill will make several residential treatment alternatives available. These alternatives include residential detoxification centers, crisis residential programs, therapeutic family or group treatment homes, and residential centers for substance abuse. Clinicians will no longer be limited to sending their patients to inpatient hospitals. Treatment can be provided in the specialized setting best suited to addressing the person's specific problem.

Right now in psychiatric hospitals, benefits may be paid for 190 days in a person's lifetime. This limit was originally established primarily in order to contain Federal costs. In fact, CBO estimates that under modern treatment methods, only about 1.6 percent of Medicare enrollees hospitalized for mental disorders or substance abuse used more than 190 days of service over a 5-year period.

Under the provisions of this bill, beneficiaries who need inpatient hospitalization can

be admitted to the type of hospital that can best provide treatment for his or her needs. Inpatient hospitalization would be covered for up to 60 days per year. The average length of hospital stay for mental illness in 1995 for all populations was 11.5 days. Adolescents averaged 12.2 days; 14.6 for children; 16.6 days for older adolescents; 8.6 days for the aged and disabled; 9.9 days for adults. A stay of 30 days or fewer is found in 93.5 percent of the cases. The 60-day limit, therefore, would adequately cover inpatient hospitalization for the vast majority of Medicare beneficiaries, while still providing some modest cost containment. Restructuring the benefit in this manner will level the playing field for psychiatric and general hospitals.

The bill I am introducing today is an important step toward providing comprehensive coverage for mental health. Further leveling the health care coverage playing field to include mental illness and timely treatment in appropriate settings will lessen health care costs in the long run. These provisions will also lessen the social costs of crime, welfare, and lost productivity to society. This bill will assure that the mental health needs of all Americans are no longer ignored. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

A summary of the bill follows:

TITLE I PROVISIONS

The bill prohibits health plans from imposing treatment limitations or financial requirements on coverage of mental illness if similar limitations or requirements are not imposed on coverage of services for other conditions.

The bill amends the tax code to impose a tax equal to 25 percent of the health plan's premiums if health plans do not comply. The tax applies only to those plans who are willfully negligent.

TITLE II PROVISIONS

The bill permits benefits to be paid for 60 days per year for inpatient hospital services furnished primarily for the diagnosis or treatment of mental illness or substance abuse. The benefit is the same in both psychiatric and general hospitals.

The following "intensive residential services" are covered for up to 120 days per year: residential detoxification centers; crisis residential or mental illness treatment programs; therapeutic family or group treatment home; and residential centers for substance abuse.

Additional days to complete treatment in an intensive residential setting may be used from inpatient hospital days, as long as 15 days are retained for inpatient hospitalization. The cost of providing the additional days of service, however, could not exceed the actuarial value of days of inpatient services.

A facility must be legally authorized under State law to provide intensive residential services or be accredited by an accreditation organization approved by the Secretary in consultation with the State.

A facility must meet other requirements the Secretary may impose to assure quality of services.

Services must be furnished in accordance with standards established by the Secretary for management of the services. Inpatient hospitalization and intensive residential services would be subject to the same deductibles and copayment as inpatient hospital services for physical disorders.

PART B PROVISIONS

Outpatient psychotherapy for children and the initial 5 outpatient visits for treatment of mental illness or substance abuse of an individual over age 18 have a 20% copayment. Subsequent therapy for adults would remain subject to the 50% copayment.

The following intensive community-based services are available for 90 days per year with a 20% copayment (except as noted below): partial hospitalization; psychiatric rehabilitation; day treatment for substance abuse; day treatment under age 19; in home services; case management; and ambulatory detoxification.

Case management would be available with no copayment and for unlimited duration for "an adult with serious mental illness, a child with a serious emotional disturbance, or an adult or child with a serious substance abuse disorder (as determined in accordance with criteria established by the Secretary)."

Day treatment for children under age 19 would be available for up to 180 days per year.

Additional days of service to complete treatment can be used from intensive residential days. The cost of providing the additional days of service, however, could not exceed the actuarial value of days of intensive residential services.

A non-physician mental health or substance abuse professional is permitted to supervise the individualized plan of treatment to the extent permitted under State law. A physician remains responsible for the establishment and periodic review of the plan of treatment.

Any program furnishing these services (whether facility-based or freestanding) must be legally authorized under State law or accredited by an accreditation organization approved by the Secretary in consultation with the State. They must meet standards established by the Secretary for the management of such services.

SALUTE TO ORVENE S.
CARPENTER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to salute Orvene S. Carpenter for many years of outstanding service to his community on the occasion of his retirement.

Orvene Carpenter began his public service over 50 years ago in the city of Port Hueneme when he was appointed postal clerk. He was later elected to the city council and served for 30 years, becoming the longest tenured councilmember in the history of the city of Port Hueneme. He was elected mayor in 1990.

I have had the great pleasure of working with Mr. Carpenter for many years. During that time he has been responsible for numerous accomplishments and outstanding progress in the city of Port Hueneme. He will be missed greatly in both the government and civic arenas in which he was so active.

His innumerable contributions will serve as a legacy to his years of dedication. I want to congratulate him and wish him the very best in his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO ALLOW PENALTY-FREE WITH-
DRAWALS FROM CERTAIN RE-
TIREMENT PLANS DURING PERI-
ODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would allow people to receive penalty-free withdrawals of funds from certain retirement plans during long periods of unemployment. I am pleased that Representatives CHARLES RANGEL, ROBERT MATSUI, JOHN LEWIS, RONALD DELLUMS, ESTEBAN TORRES, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, ROBERT RUSH, MAURICE HINCHEY, VIC FAZIO, ZOE LOFGREN, EVA CLAYTON, and CHARLES CANADY have joined me as original cosponsors of this legislation.

This legislation would allow penalty-free withdrawals from individual retirement accounts [IRA's] and qualified retirement plans—401(k) and 403(b)—if the taxpayer has received unemployment compensation for 12 weeks under State or Federal law. Under the legislation, the distribution of funds would have to be made within 1 year of the date of unemployment.

Under current law, when a taxpayer withdraws money from an IRA or a qualified retirement plan before age 59½, he or she is forced to pay an additional 10 percent tax on the amount withdrawn. This additional tax is intended to recapture at least a portion of the tax deferral benefits of these plans. This tax is in addition to regular income taxes the taxpayer must pay as the funds are included in the taxpayer's income. The early-withdrawal tax also serves as a deterrent against using the money in those accounts for nonretirement purposes.

The vetoed Balanced Budget Act of 1995 includes a provision which is the same as this legislation with respect to withdrawals from IRA's. This provision recognizes that when an individual or family is faced with long periods of unemployment, they may have no other choice but to draw upon these funds to meet their everyday living expenses. During this financially stressful time, an additional 10 percent tax for early withdrawal is unfair and only serves to make the family's financial situation worse. This legislation would accomplish the goals of that provision by allowing penalty-free withdrawals during long periods of unemployment from IRA's as well as qualified retirement plan—401(k) and 403(b)—accounts.

Many small businesses offer participation in 401(k) plans, thus, this amendment would help unemployed people who at the time of separation from employment chose to leave their 401(k) funds with their former employer. Then, because of unanticipated long periods of unemployment, need access to those funds. Accordingly, many small businesses would benefit from this amendment. In addition, employees who are laid off from their former employment may need access to those funds in order to start up their own small business. State and local government employees who are displaced through downsizing, also may need ac-

cess to the funds in their 403(b) plans for similar purposes.

The benefit this legislation would offer the long-term unemployed is the right thing to do in this period of economic uncertainty. You can plan for many things in your life financially, but the impact of long, unanticipated periods of unemployment can create financial havoc on any individual or family, including those that thought they had adequate savings to get them through such a situation. Long periods of unemployment are similar to major illnesses that can result in catastrophic medical expenses. Under current law, taxpayers are allowed penalty-free early withdrawals from qualified retirement plans to meet catastrophic medical expenses, therefore, it makes sense to extend this benefit in cases of long periods of unemployment.

Passage of this legislation would allow unemployed taxpayers a chance to get back on their feet without having to pay an unnecessary financial penalty when they can least afford it.

LEGISLATION TO CHANGE BUDGET
SCOREKEEPING RULES

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to change the current budget scorekeeping rules as they relate to Federal real estate transactions. The bill is identical to legislation I introduced in the 103d and 104th Congresses. I originally introduced the bill in response to hearings I held during the 103d Congress, when I served as chairman of the Public Works and Transportation Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds. The hearings focused on the way in which the Office of Management and Budget scores Federal real estate transactions. The hearings underscored previous findings by the General Accounting Office that the Federal Government is wasting hundreds of millions of dollars a year in unnecessary long-term leases. The waste is due primarily to the fact that current budget scorekeeping rules prevent the General Services Administration from pursuing a full range of financing options to meet the Federal Government's office space needs. These practices continue to this day.

My legislation has received strong bipartisan support in the past two Congresses. The bill changes Federal budget accounting rules to allow GSA to utilize a full range of financing mechanisms in meeting Federal office space needs. Under current Federal budget scorekeeping rules, which were established in the 1990 Budget Act, the entire cost of a Federal construction project or building purchase, must be scored in the first year of the project, rather than amortized over the actual construction period, or over the expected life of a purchased building. For leases, the rules require that only the annual rent costs be scored. The end result is that operating leases have become the most attractive vehicle for GSA, the Federal Government's real estate arm, to meet the housing needs of Federal

agencies—even though in the long term it is the most costly.

Specifically, the bill amends the Public Buildings Act of 1959 to treat Federal real estate transactions in the same manner they were treated prior to the implementation of the 1990 Budget Act. The bill would allow GSA to utilize alternative financing mechanisms, such as lease-purchases or time financing.

In 1975 GSA's leasing budget was \$388 million. In 1996 GSA spent more than \$2.5 billion on Federal leases. A December 1989 report issued by GAO analyzed 43 projects that GSA might have undertaken if capital financing were available to replace space that GSA would otherwise lease. GAO estimated that, over a 30-year period, constructing the 43 projects instead of leasing, would have saved taxpayers \$12 billion.

Financing by lease purchase is inappropriately being compared by OMB to direct Federal construction, when the correct comparison should be with the cost of long-term leasing. My goal is to ensure that GSA has all the financing tools available to the private sector. Currently GSA does not have the ability to get the best possible deal for the taxpayer—because of the scoring rules. GAS should be able to, on a project by project basis, determine the most cost effective and efficient way to finance a particular Federal real estate transaction. My bill will give GSA this ability. In the long term, this legislation will save the taxpayer hundreds of millions of dollars. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the balanced budget amendment is the only foolproof way to guarantee the deficit continues on a permanently downward path to zero. But more than that, a balanced budget amendment is good for America's families. It means reduced interest rates and a lower cost of living for all Americans. A home, a car, and a college education will become more affordable than ever. In my district, a family with the median-priced home would save about \$3,600 each year, based on a 30-year mortgage. Families could keep an extra \$2,200 on a student loan and \$900 on an average-priced car loan. These extra dollars can be spent on your future and that of your children.

The balanced budget amendment will also safeguard Social Security and Medicare while protecting future generations from crushing debt. The President has said that balancing the budget is his top priority. However, by stating that a balanced budget amendment could lead to reductions in Social Security benefits, he has been using scare tactics to avoid committing to a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, I know that Clinton's assertion is not true. In fact, our skyrocketing debt is the real threat to Social Security. The further we go into debt, the harder it will be for the Federal Government to meet its Social Security

commitment to today's and tomorrow's seniors. The best way to protect Social Security for future generations is by passing a balanced budget amendment. I find it unfortunate that the President has chosen to oppose our bipartisan effort to improve the American people's quality of life by standing in our way once again. American families can balance their budgets, State and local governments balance their budgets, and so must the Federal Government.

RESPONSIBLE REPEAL OF THE ETHANOL TAX

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to eliminate the ethanol subsidy. This legislation is good fiscal policy, good agriculture policy, good environmental policy, and good energy policy, and I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors.

The ethanol subsidy was established to help address the Nation's energy needs during the oil crisis of the 1970's. Unfortunately it is a program that has proven to be woefully inadequate. According to the Treasury Department, the ethanol subsidy cost the American taxpayers over \$5.3 billion from 1983-94. The ethanol tax subsidy costs the Federal highway trust fund \$850 million each year—and the revenue drain is increasing. Ethanol receives a 54 cents per gallon Federal tax subsidy on some 1.6 billion gallons of ethanol produced per year—with an additional 10 cents per gallon for small producers and from 10 to 80 cents per gallon more from various States. But we have seen few benefits for this huge expense. In fact, a close examination of the ethanol subsidy shows that it not only has failed to live up to its billing, it has several negative consequences:

Ethanol yields significantly less energy than gasoline. Per gallon, ethanol yields about 76,000 Btu, while gasoline yields between 109,000 to 119,000 Btu. This means that ethanol provides only about two-thirds to three-quarters as much energy and mileage as conventional gasoline.

Ethanol tax subsidies harm beef and dairy industries. Ethanol production competes with traditional feed grain customers for corn, driving the price of feedstocks up for the cattle industry and raising consumer prices for meat and dairy products.

While ethanol does help reduce carbon monoxide emissions, it can increase ground level ozone, especially in hot summer weather. This is because ethanol makes gasoline evaporate more easily.

Corn-based ethanol has had dubious results as an alternative fuel additive, and it is now time to let this program stand without taxpayer support.

Proponents of energy subsidies and mandates say that they are needed to improve the environment, enhance energy security, spur economic development, and replace dwindling supplies of oil. However, this subsidy has proven to be both expensive and ineffective.

Eliminating the ethanol subsidy is a positive beginning to balancing the budget and is a responsible choice for the taxpayers of this country. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

NATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS DAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1997

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the growing numbers of girls and women in sports whose achievements will be celebrated across the Nation on February 6, 1997, the 11th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day [NGWSD]. In Washington, DC, there will be a 2-mile fitness walk on the Mall followed by a luncheon on Capitol Hill where athletes will be recognized by Members of Congress.

Track and field star Lillian Green-Chamberlain is among the athletes participating in the celebration in Washington, DC. Dr. Greene-Chamberlain holds a number of firsts. She was the first national champion in 800 meters, long before it became an Olympic event, and she was the first African-American to represent the United States in international middle distance running. She was the first and only woman and American to serve as the director of the Physical Education and Sports Program for the 161 member nations of the Paris-headquartered U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization [UNESCO]. In addition, Dr. Green-Chamberlain has been a leader in developing health, education, physical fitness, recreation, and sports programs nationally and internationally for more than 28 years. I am proud that this All-American woman is from Silver Spring, MD.

Also participating in the activities in Washington, DC is award-winning canoeist Jennifer Hearn. This outstanding athlete was the 1993 U.S. Olympic Festival Champion in whitewater slalom kayaking and the 1995 Olympic Festival slalom team champion. She placed fifth in the 1993 U.S. National Championships, and won a silver for the women's slalom kayak team event in the 1990 Pre-Worlds. In 1994 and 1995, she was sixth on the U.S. National Team, and has also finished among the top 30 in two World Cups. Again, I am proud to report that Jennifer Hearn is from Bethesda, MD.

The next time I hear someone say, "You run or throw like a girl," I'm going to ask, "Which girl?" Maybe they mean the women's world record holder in the 440-yard dash in 1961, Lillian Greene-Chamberlain. Or do they mean the young woman, also from Silver Spring, who, during the 1996 Summer Olympics, helped the U.S. women win their first team gold in gymnastics, and won an individual bronze medal, Dominique Dawes? Perhaps they mean the young woman who is considered the best girl high school basketball player in the United States, senior guard-forward from Frederick, MD, Nikki Teasley.

On the 25th anniversary of title IX, we pause to reflect on what we have accomplished in the past, and the work that we must

do for the future. There is no doubt in my mind that title IX has been successful in expanding opportunities for women in athletics. We have made great strides toward increasing the numbers of women and girls in competitive athletics at the high school and college levels. Before title IX, women represented only 2 percent of the Nation's college varsity athletes. Twenty-five years later, women represent 35 percent of college athletes nationwide. The door to athletic opportunities, however, has only partially opened for women. Title IX's goal of bringing equal opportunity in sports to women and girls has yet to be realized. At schools that belong to the National Collegiate Athletic Association [NCAA], women account for 53 percent of the college students, but only 36 percent of the college athletes.

I applaud the distinguished athletes who have gathered in Washington, DC, to celebrate National Women and Girls in Sports Day, for they all are long distance runners for equality and social justice that has afforded women and girls the benefits of competitive sports.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS
DAYS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 15 million girls and women who will be participating in the 11th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day. National Girls and Women in Sports Day will be celebrated throughout the United States on February 6, 1997.

Sponsored by Girls Inc., Girl Scouts of the USA, National Association of Girls & Women in Sports, Women's Sports Foundation, and YWCA of the USA, National Girls and Women in Sports Day celebrates the participation of women in sports and honors the memory of Olympic volleyball silver medalist Flo Hyman, who died suddenly during a match in Japan. In her honor, the Women's Sports Foundation honors a female athlete on National Girls and Women in Sports Day who exemplifies the commitment, integrity, and superior athletic ability of Flo Hyman. This year the award will go to legend Billie Jean King for her commitment to women's rights and her renown as an international tennis champion.

As a cosponsor of this congressionally established event, I would like to give special recognition to seven women who have helped to make this event possible, and who have made such a difference in the lives of young women all over the United States. They are: Regina Montoya, president, board of directors of Girls Inc.; Elinor J. Ferdon, national president, Girl Scouts of the USA; Dr. Sue Durrant, president, National Association for Girls & Women in Sports; Donna Lopiano, executive director, Women's Sports Foundation; Dr. Alpha Alexander, director, Health in Sports Advocacy YWCA of the USA; Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis, executive director, YWCA of the USA and Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, director,

Women's Sports Foundation. Every day they make it possible for young women to improve their health, self esteem, leadership skills and academics.

As the 25th anniversary of the passage of title IX, this National Girls and Women in Sports Day marks a particularly significant event in the history of women in sports. Since title IX, the law prohibiting sex discrimination in federally-funded institutions, was enacted, women's participation in school athletic programs has greatly increased. This increase has benefitted young women. Young women who play sports are more likely to graduate from high school, and less likely to use drugs or have an unintended pregnancy. They reap multiple health benefits from athletic participation, including a 40-60 percent decrease in their risk of breast cancer. In addition, athletic participation helps improve self-esteem and discipline.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these women, and all women who participate in National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN
SPORTS DAY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will recognize the achievements of women and girls in an important area that has been traditionally dominated by men: sports. As part of the 11th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day, many women, athletes and members of Congress will be celebrating the athletic accomplishments of women.

As cochair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I am proud to have the opportunity to spotlight women's activity in an area where they have often been overlooked. The majority of media coverage focusing on sports coverage goes to men's sports. While a recent study found that 94 percent of local television news sports coverage goes to men's sports, women's sports get 5 percent of the coverage.

Unfortunately, one of the results of this low level of media coverage is insufficient financial support of women's sports in universities across the United States. Less than 24 percent of college sport operating budgets and less than 18 percent of athletic recruiting dollars are allocated to women's sports. This is despite the fact that women are as athletic and as talented in sports as men, and that women and girls involved in sports have greater self-esteem and do better in school than those who do not participate in sports.

By participating in sports, women and girls learn how to work as a team and to strive to achieve a desired goal, skills vital to succeeding in any career. Many women also choose sports as a career, including returning to high school or universities to coach young athletes. Yet even here women are not equal to men. According to a recent survey of head coaches of Division I basketball teams, head coaches of women basketball teams average

only 59 percent of the base salary of head coaches of men's basketball.

This disparity in women's pay in many fields is the reason I introduced the Fair Pay Act that would prohibit discrimination in the payment of wages on account of sex, race or national origin. While this law will help prevent discrimination in the pay of the women working in sports, it will not get them the recognition women athletes deserve. As an accomplished women's basketball coach has said in a recent interview, "It is really frustrating to have a championship team and get two-inch stories in the paper while some average men's team gets pages written about them." This is slowly—too slowly—changing. It is my hope that tomorrow's events commemorating National Girls and Women in Sports Day will, by its own recognition, help women gain equality in sports.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL GIRLS
AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in commemorating February 6, 1997, as National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

Mr. Speaker, who can forget the thrill of seeing the U.S. women's Olympic gymnastics team win the gold medal in Atlanta last year? There is also much enthusiasm about the establishment of not one but two women's professional basketball leagues. What ties together these accomplishments are how they inspire young women across America to become involved in sports activities, to get in the game.

That's the motto behind the 1997 National Girls and Women in Sports Day. I'm proud to be an honorary cosponsor of this 11th annual event. A bipartisan group of Members of Congress and Senators support an early morning walk on the Washington Mall to highlight the achievements of women athletes and draw attention to the importance of sports and fitness activities for all girls and women.

National Girls and Women in Sports Day [NGWSD] is celebrated in New Hampshire and all across the country during the first Thursday of every February. It is organized by Girl Scouts of the USA, Girls Inc., the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport, the Women's Sports Foundation, and the YWCA of the USA.

The First NGWSD was organized to honor Flo Hyman, the Olympic volleyball champion who brought women's volleyball in the United States to the forefront in 1984. That's when she helped lead the American team to a silver medal at the Los Angeles Olympics. Flo Hyman died suddenly while playing volleyball in Japan in 1986. She was found to have had Marfan syndrome, a connective tissue disorder that led to a faulty aorta. Annually, the Women's Sports Foundation's Flo Hyman Award is presented to a female athlete who exemplifies dignity, spirit, and commitment to excellence in women's athletics.

Indeed, women's athletics are one of the most effective avenues available for women of the United States to develop self-discipline, initiative, confidence, and leadership skills. While in the past there has been little national recognition of the significance of women's athletic achievements, we are starting to see the opposite occur. Routinely, you will find larger crowds as women's college basketball games and the new women's professional basketball games will be carried on nationwide television. These occurrences can only serve to encourage young girls to become involved in sports at early age. This type of involvement in athletics, however, has less to do with recognition than with promoting lifelong habits of physical fitness.

I am very proud of the many fine women athletes at our schools in New Hampshire. We all read about their accomplishments in the newspapers every week. National Girls and Women in Sports Day serves to remind us that we should encourage athletic participation and competition for women of all ages, especially in the formative years. It is my hope that we see more girls and young women get in the game this year. After all, our children, girls and boys, need strong bodies as well as strong minds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the 11th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 11th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day, Thursday, February 6, 1997. This day has been set aside to show the Nation's commitment to promoting the physical well-being and mental health of women and girls through physical activity.

National Girls and Women in Sports Day is instrumental in encouraging females of all ages to participate in sports. Regular exercise increases physical condition by lowering levels of blood sugar, cholesterol, and blood pressure. In addition, sports has been shown to help women feel greater confidence, self-esteem and pride.

As the celebration of Black History month begins, it is my hope that this day will open the eyes of many African-American women who are twice as likely to be overweight as white women and 20 percent less likely to exercise regularly. Compared to white Americans, African-Americans under the age of 64 are 10 percent more likely to get heart disease, 30 percent more likely to have diabetes, and over 50 percent more likely to suffer from hypertension.

Mr. Speaker, I would like for my participation in today's events to serve as a model of the dedication to physical fitness that should be exhibited by other women, particularly African-American women. Finally, I would like to applaud the organizations whose combined ef-

forts made this day possible: Girl Scouts, Girls Inc., the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport, the Women Sports Foundation, and the YWCA.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 1997, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 7

9:30 a.m.
Joint Economic
To hold hearings to examine the employment-unemployment situation for January and the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
1334 Longworth Building

10:00 a.m.
Budget
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 1998.
SD-608

FEBRUARY 10

2:00 p.m.
Budget
To resume hearings on the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 1998.
SD-608

Joint Economic
To hold hearings on the 1997 Economic Report of the President.
2359 Rayburn Building

FEBRUARY 11

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings on proposals to reform the Commodity Exchange Act.
SR-332

9:30 a.m.
Labor and Human Resources
To hold oversight hearings on the implementation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (P.L. 104-191).
SD-430

Rules and Administration
Business meeting, to mark up proposed legislation authorizing biennial expenditures by standing, select, and special committees of the Senate, and to consider other pending legislative and administrative business.
SR-301

Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
345 Cannon Building

10 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings on the final report of the Advisory Commission to Study the Consumer Price Index.
SD-215

FEBRUARY 12

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.
SD-366

Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings on the ozone and particulate matter standards proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency.
SD-406

Governmental Affairs
International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the future of nuclear deterrence.
SD-342

Labor and Human Resources
To hold hearings on the implementation of the Teamwork for Employees and Managers Act (TEAM).
SD-430

Small Business
To hold hearings on the President's budget request for fiscal year 1998 for the Small Business Administration.
SR-428A

10:00 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings on the Administration's budget and revenue proposals for fiscal year 1998.
SD-215

FEBRUARY 13

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To resume hearings on proposals to reform the Commodity Exchange Act.
SR-332

9:30 a.m.
Labor and Human Resources
Employment and Training Subcommittee
To resume hearings to examine proposals to reform the Fair Labor Standards Act, focusing on S. 4, to provide to private sector employees the same opportunities for time-and-a-half compensatory time off, biweekly work programs, and flexible credit hour programs as Federal employees currently enjoy to help balance the demands and needs of work and family, to clarify the provisions relating to exemptions of certain professionals from the minimum wage and overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.
SD-430

Small Business
To hold hearings on the nomination of Aida Alvarez, of New York, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.
SR-428A

10:00 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings on the Administration's budget for fiscal year 1998, focusing on

Medicare, Medicaid and welfare proposals. SD-215

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings on the nomination of Pete Peterson, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. SD-419

2:00 p.m.
Environment and Public Works
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the implementation of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and transportation trends, infrastructure funding requirements, and transportation's impact on the economy. SD-406

FEBRUARY 25

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the impact of estate taxes on farmers. SR-332

FEBRUARY 26

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the impact of capital gains taxes on farmers. SR-332

9:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. SD-406

Labor and Human Resources
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business. SD-430

FEBRUARY 27

9:30 a.m.
Labor and Human Resources
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Higher Education Act. SD-430

10:00 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings concerning the Department of Defense actions pertaining to Persian Gulf illnesses. SD-106

MARCH 5

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Agriculture's business plan and reorganization management proposals. SR-332

MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Jewish War Veterans, the Retired Officers Association, the Association of the U.S. Army, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Blinded Veterans Association. 345 Cannon Building

MARCH 11

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for agricultural research. SR-332

MARCH 13

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for agricultural research. SR-332

MARCH 18

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for agricultural research. SR-332

MARCH 19

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the Disabled American Veterans. 345 Cannon Building

MARCH 20

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for agricultural research. SR-332

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Veterans of World War I, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. 345 Cannon Building

CANCELLATIONS

FEBRUARY 6

2:30 p.m.
Select on Intelligence
Closed business meeting, on intelligence matters. SH-219