

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE CRIME PREVENTION AND PROTECTION ACT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, did you know that anyone with access to a computer and a modem could buy or sell firearms and explosives over the Internet with little or no federal regulation? And, did you know that, as a result of this loophole, children and career criminals are illegally purchasing firearms and explosives right now? Unfortunately, obtaining the instruments of violence over the Internet is as easy as "point, click, ship."

For far too long, gunfire in our homes, our communities, and in our schools has continued to steal young lives and destroy families. As scenes like Columbine High School and the North Valley Jewish Community Center killing spree continue to haunt America, we must step-up our efforts to protect children from gun violence.

One important step in the process of protecting our children from gun violence is closing the dangerous loophole that allows guns to be purchased from unlicensed dealers over the Internet. To accomplish this, I am introducing the "Electronic Commerce Crime Prevention and Protection Act." This much-needed legislation would ban all sales of firearms, ammunition and explosives over the Internet.

I would like to thank Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, Congressman ROBERT BRADY, Congressman JAMES MORAN, Congressman JOHN LARSON, Congressman MARTIN MEEHAN, Congressman RICHARD NEAL, Congressman ROBERT MENENDEZ, Congressman NANCY PELOSI, and Congressman JOSEPH HOFFEL for joining me as original cosponsors of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor my legislation to ensure that the Internet remains a wonderful mechanism for commerce, communication and learning, and not a means for obtaining the tools of violence.

INDIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS ISSUE NEW REPORT ON EN- FORCED DISAPPEARANCES, AR- BITRARY EXECUTIONS, AND SE- CRET CREMATIONS IN INDIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the Committee for Coordination on Disappearances in Punjab recently issued a new report on enforced disappearances, arbitrary executions, and secret cremations of Sikhs in Punjab. It documents the names and addresses of 838 victims of this tyrannical policy. The report is both shocking and distressing.

The Committee is an umbrella organization of 18 human rights organizations under the leadership of Hindu human rights activist Ram Narayan Kumar. The report discusses "illegal abductions and secret cremations of dead bodies." In fact, the Indian Supreme Court has itself described this policy as "worse than a genocide."

The report includes direct testimony from members of the victims' families, other witnesses, and details of these brutal cases. The human rights community has stated that over 50,000 Sikhs have "disappeared" at the hands of the Indian government in the early nineties. How can any country, especially one that claims to be the "world's largest democracy," get away with so many killings, abductions and other atrocities? Will the Indian government prosecute the officials of its security forces who are responsible for these acts? Will the Indian government compensate the victims and their families?

If America can compensate the Japanese victims of the internment camps during World War II, why can't India compensate the families whose husbands, sons, wives, or daughters have been murdered? Murder is a lot more serious than internment, and these acts are much more recent.

The Council of Kahlistan recently issued a press release on the Committees's report. I am placing that release in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

NEW REPORT EXPOSES ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES, ARBITRARY EXECUTIONS, SECRET CREMATIONS OF SIKHS BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT IDENTIFIES VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE BY NAME

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 15, 1999—The Committee for Coordination on Disappearances in Punjab, led by Hindu human-rights activist Ram Narayan Kumar, has issued an interim report entitled "Enforced Disappearances, Arbitrary Executions, and Secret Cremations" which exposes secret mass cremations of Sikhs by the Indian government.

The report contains a 21-page list of 838 victims who were identified by name and address. This is a very preliminary report. Three of India's most respected human rights group issued a joint letter in 1997 stating that between 1992 and 1994, 50,000 Sikhs were made to disappear by Indian forces. They were arrested, tortured, and murdered by police, then their bodies were declared "unidentified" and cremated. The Indian Supreme Court described the situation as "worse than a genocide."

More than 250,000 Sikhs have been killed since 1984. Over 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947 and over 65,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988. Thousands more languish in prisons without charge or trial, according to Amnesty International. Last month, 29 Members of the U.S. Congress wrote to the Prime Minister of India demanding the release of these political prisoners.

The report makes reference to the police kidnapping and murder of human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira in 1995. Khaira "released some official documents which established that the security agencies in Punjab had been secretly cremating thousands of

dead bodies labelled as unidentified," the report noted. "Khaira suggested the most of these cremations were of people who had earlier been picked up in the state on suspicion of separatist sympathies," according to the report.

"In September 1995, it was Khaira's turn to disappear; he was kidnapped from his Armistar home by officers of the Punjab police." In October 1995, the police murdered Mr. Khaira. Despite an order of the Supreme Court, none of the police officers involved has been brought to justice. The report also cited an official inquiry's findings of "flagrant violation of human rights on a mass scale."

"This report shows that for Sikhs there are no human rights in India," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "The genocide by the Indian Government shows Sikhs that there is no religious tolerance in India and India will never allow Sikhs or other religious minorities to exercise their religious or political rights," he said.

"If India is the democracy it claims to be, then why not simply hold a plebiscite on independence in Punjab, Khalistan? Dr. Aulakh asked. "Instead of doing the democratic thing and allowing the people of Punjab, Khalistan, of Kashmir, of Christian Nagaland to vote on their political status, as America has repeatedly allowed Puerto Rico to do and Canada has allowed Quebec to do, the Indians try to crush the freedom movements by killing massive numbers of people in these minority nations," he said. "Democracies don't commit genocide."

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1906, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOP- MENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMIN- ISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 1, 1999

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture I fully expect the Secretary, in conjunction with the International Arid Lands Consortium, to expand efforts in the area of arid lands research, specifically in the areas of water, grazing and drought mitigation programs applicable to arid and semi-arid regions. Not only will an expansion of these efforts prove valuable to America's farmers and ranchers, the employment of the existing scientific/political relationship between the Department, the International Arid Lands Consortium, Israel and Jordan could prove highly beneficial to the Middle East peace process as well.

• 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.

U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN DISCUSSES THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S SELF INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBAL VALUES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, standing at the dawn of the new millennium, we have an incredible opportunity to create a more peaceful, more humane, and more orderly world. We are entering a new era in which previously ignored social issues must be addressed. In today's increasingly globalized world, we have seen remarkable advances in trade and technology. The time has come, however, when the new global economy must embrace social responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, the Secretary General of the United Nations, my dear friend Kofi Annan, addressed a number of these issues in an important message last month. He discussed the fundamental partnership between business and human rights and the importance of having international values and principles to guide our global economy. The United Nations is an extremely important element of our nation's foreign policy and it plays a fundamental role in enhancing respect for the rights of women and men around the globe as well as enhancing the value of human life.

The Secretary General addressed these issues in a message to the Workshop "Today and Tomorrow: Outlook for Corporate Strategies" which was organized by the Ambrosetti firm and was held this September in Cernobbio, Italy, under the leadership of my friend Alfredo Ambrosetti.

Mr. Speaker, the message of the Secretary General to the conference is most appropriate to consider as we face the new millennium. I offer the message of Secretary General Kofi Annan to be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give it serious and thoughtful attention.

[Message of Secretary General Kofi Annan to the Workshop]

TODAY AND TOMORROW: OUTLOOK FOR CORPORATE STRATEGIES

It gives me great pleasure to convey my greetings to all who have gathered for the Villa d'Este workshop, which this year celebrates its 25th anniversary. Congratulations on this milestone.

You have gathered to examine a global predicament that is deeply ambivalent. Peace spreads in one region while violence rages in another. Unprecedented wealth coexists with terrible deprivation, as a quarter of the world's people remain mired in poverty. Through it all we can see the contours of a new global fabric taking shape. The globalization of markets, technology, finance and information is defining new realities, re-shaping our notions of sovereignty and challenging us to reconsider many of the assumptions that have guided policy-making until now.

As you know globalization is under intense pressure. And the multilateral trading system is in the line of fire. The problem is not with trade or transnational companies or market per se; the trading system is one of the great success stories of the past half century. Rather the problem seems to be that

while so much has been done to make the trading system the success it is, other urgent issues—such as safeguarding the environment, protecting human rights and ensuring labour standards—have failed to attract similar attention.

The result is a serious imbalance on the international agenda. We have a global trading system with potentially strong governance and a strong institution—the World Trade Organization. Strong, if universal and if the most powerful countries comply with the rules. Strong, also, if we avoid saddling the trade regime with a load it cannot bear conditionalities—and instead build bridges between trade and environment, between trade and labour, between trade and human rights. We need to strengthen the pillars of global governance in these areas. After all, a bridge cannot rest on only one pillar.

It was with this in mind that I proposed, earlier this year at the World Economic Forum in Davos, a "Global Compact" between the United Nations and the world business community. The Compact asks the international business community to advocate for a stronger United Nations. It asks individual businesses to protect human rights within their sphere of influence, support the abolition of child labour, adopt a precautionary approach to environmental challenges and take other such steps which, of course, also make good business sense. The Compact offers a practical way forward to reconciling one of the key questions in the debate on globalization: how to sustain open markets while meeting the socio-economic needs of societies. It envisages business doing what it does best—creating jobs and wealth—while rooting the global market in universal values and giving the global market more of a human face.

It may not seem fair that business should be called upon to undertake such initiatives, but in today's globalizing world, economic power and social responsibility cannot be separated. This issue—and in particular the risk of protectionism and other unwelcome interventions—will not go away unless business is committed, and seen to be committed, to global corporate citizenship. Just as national markets reflect the values, laws and rules of a given society, so must the new global economy be guided by an international consensus on values and principles.

I have been speaking of "business" as if it were some monolithic presence in the world economy. In the end we are talking to individual businessmen and businesswomen with the power to influence the world for the better. Let us remember that the global markets and the multilateral trading system we have today did not come about by accident. They are the result of enlightened policy choices. If we want to maintain them in the new century, all of us—governments, corporations, nongovernmental organizations, international organizations—have to make the right choices now. We have an opportunity to usher in an age of global prosperity comparable to that enjoyed by the industrialized countries in the decades after the Second World War. We will tip the scales to the positive only if we work together and, in particular, only if the leaders amongst us step forward and do their part. In that hopeful spirit, please accept my best wishes for a successful workshop.

CONCERNING PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization. While I have strong feelings on the issue of Taiwan's status in the world, I know there are some who disagree with me. On the issue of the health of the Taiwanese people, I don't think there can be any disagreement. Taiwan should have full participation in the World Health Organization.

As this legislation states: "Good health is a basic right for every citizen of the world and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to help guarantee this right." Health risks do not recognize political boundaries. Unfortunately, politics has kept Taiwan from participating in WHO activities and other international organizations and the effects of this policy have had serious repercussions.

The World Health Organization was unable to help Taiwan with a viral outbreak which killed scores of Taiwanese children and infected more than 1,000 Taiwanese children in 1998.

More recently, Taiwan was struck by an earthquake which did substantial damage to the island. The latest estimates are that just over 2,000 people have been killed and about 100,000 are homeless. In the wake of this disaster, I was shocked to read news reports about the United Nations' response. According to one report, instead of immediately harnessing its resources and heading to Taiwan to help with the relief effort, the United Nations instead sought approval from China before sending United Nations relief workers to the scene of the disaster. If this is true, lives were again needlessly put at risk.

Ensuring the health of the people of Taiwan is a commendable goal and it is time that we put their health above politics. I commend the sponsor of the legislation, Mr. BROWN, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLACK COWBOYS PARADE IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Black Cowboys Parade held every year in Oakland, California since 1974. The parade commemorates the contributions made by African Americans and other ethnic groups to the development of the American West.

African Americans, primarily from Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas, poured into California to build ships during World War II. These states were all "horse country" where African Americans had raised and trained horses. Northern California could therefore easily support the

concept of a Black Cowboys parade. Some of the original organizers and riders were Lonnie Scoggins, Booker Emery, and Mr. Wright (now in his nineties). Other cities in Oklahoma and Texas have parades celebrating Black horsemen and horsewomen, but the City of Oakland has hosted the longest continuously staged celebration.

Blacks were cowboys before they were freed from slavery. Before California even became a state, they worked on cattle ranches in southern California. At the height of the cattle driving days, it is estimated that a fourth of all cowboys were black. The Buffalo Soldiers were proud and capable men who got the toughest and longest assignments while serving on the frontier. Although they have since been criticized for fighting Indians, these largely illiterate men were recruited starting in 1866 immediately after the end of the Civil War. By 1898, they were a disciplined fighting force who saved Theodore Roosevelt on San Juan Hill in Cuba during the Spanish American War.

This parade rights the portrayal of African Americans from history and media presentations by restoring the pride of black manhood. Northern California and Bay Area horsemen and horsewomen show that blacks can ride today as well and that this history is alive. This is also important to Mexican Americans, Chinese Americans and Native American as children of every background can reclaim their history and have pride in their special contribution to the settlement of the West.

This 25 year tradition of the Black Cowboys Parade is one of the ongoing and visible efforts to restore pride in young blacks and other youngsters. We salute the work of organizations such as the Northern California Black Horsemen Association, the Black Cowboys Association and Wildcat Canyon Ranch Youth Program for their ongoing programs to educate and honor the legacy of the black cowboy today.

TRIBUTE TO RODNEY HERO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and congratulate one of my constituents, Rodney Hero. Mr. Hero is a Professor at the University of Colorado, who was recently presented with the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award for his book, 'Faces of Inequality: Social Diversity in American Politics'.

This distinguished annual award honors the author of the premier book published in the United States regarding government, politics or international affairs. Presented by the American Political Science Association, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award is one of the most prestigious awards in political science scholarship.

In his award-winning book, Professor Hero offers a unique social diversity theory regarding race and ethnicity in American politics. He argues that race and ethnicity significantly affect politics in all the states, not just the states with a high minority population. Professor Hero's social diversity theory challenges a 35-year-old theory regarding politics in our states.

Mr. Speaker, later this week, I will be visiting with Professor Hero and his introduction

to American Politics class. I look forward to the opportunity to join the Professor and his class for a spirited discussion on the issues facing our nation. I would like to thank Rodney Hero for the contribution he has made to the world of academia. His contribution truly exemplifies the academic commitment of Colorado's universities and colleges.

ALEXANDRIA, VA—250 YEARS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record two resolutions in recognition of the 250th Anniversary of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

As Alexandria's former mayor, I am now proud to represent the city as part of the Commonwealth's 8th Congressional District. This historic seaport city, an early and continuing center of political, business and social life, has drawn from its rich cultural heritage up until the present day, and in so doing has become one of the most frequently visited tourist destinations in the nation today with 1.2 million visitors annually.

To mark this special anniversary year, Alexandria has hosted hundreds of additional cultural events, concerts, symposia, tours and exhibitions, and residents and visitors alike have benefited from the valuable history lessons this great city is able to provide.

I'm sure my colleagues here today will join me in congratulating Alexandria on its long and distinguished history.

May the next 250 years be as remarkable for this very fine American city.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the site of Alexandria was occupied for several thousand years by Native Americans; and

Whereas, Captain John Smith and a party of explorers from Jamestown first visited the site of Alexandria in 1608; and

Whereas, a tobacco warehouse was established in 1730 at the foot of Oronoco Street in what is now Alexandria, and a settlement informally called Hunting Creek Warehouse grew up around the warehouse; and

Whereas, a group of Scottish merchants tried to name the area Belhaven, after Scottish patriot John Hamilton, Baron Belhaven, in 1749; and

Whereas, the Virginia House of Burgesses and Council, upon petition of other local residents, voted in May 1749 to establish a new town called Alexandria, named after the Alexander family on whose land the town was to be built; and

Whereas, Governor Gooch convened the House of Burgesses and Council in the Council Chamber on May 11, 1749, and gave his assent to the bill establishing the new town.

Now, therefore, I, Kerry J. Donley, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim May 11, 1999 to be the 250th anniversary of the creation of Alexandria, Virginia.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 11th day of May 1999.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Capt. John Smith and a party of explorers from Jamestown first visited the

site that was to become Alexandria in 1608; and

WHEREAS, a tobacco warehouse was established at the foot of Oronoco Street in what is now Alexandria in 1730, and a settlement informally called Hunting Creek Warehouse grew up around the warehouse; and

WHEREAS, a group of Scottish merchants tried to name the area Belhaven in 1749; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Assembly, upon petition of other local residents, voted on May 11, 1749, to establish a new town called Alexandria, named after the Alexander family on whose land the town was to be built; and

WHEREAS, the town was created by local landowners and Scottish merchants, with the first auction of town lots occurring on July 13-14, 1749; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria was the site of the adoption of the Fairfax Resolves in July of 1774 and the home town of Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and first President of the United States George Washington, and of author of the Virginia Bill of Rights and father of the U.S. Bill of Rights George Mason; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria has been the home town of many people prominent in our nation's history, including Gens. Light Horse Harry Lee and Robert E. Lee, former President Gerald R. Ford, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, General Harold Spaatz, John L. Lewis, several Lords Fairfax, composer Richard Bales, musicians Jim Morrison and Mama Cass, and many Cabinet officers over the last 250 years; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria was ceded to the United States to form part of the District of Columbia in 1791 and at the wish of its citizens retroceded to Virginia in 1846; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria was the site in 1939 of a sit-in demonstration at the Alexandria Public Library, in which the participants demanded equal rights of use for black and white customers; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria is the site of the Alexandria Academy, which had among its three schools the Free School, established by George Washington's contribution of 50 annually to educate 20 boys and girls whose parents could not pay tuition, and which was the site of a school for children of freedmen from 1812 to 1823; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria is the home of institutions of higher learning including a branch of Virginia Tech and the Northern Virginia Community College; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria has many noteworthy museums, historic sites, and tourist attractions, including the internationally-renowned Torpedo Factory Arts Center, one of the highest concentrations of 18th and early 19th century buildings in the nation, and a rich and active cultural life; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria retains the prominent role it has had since 1749 as a transportation center, by sea, road, and rail; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria will mark its 250th anniversary throughout 1999 with a year-long series of diverse programs, activities, and public events; and

WHEREAS, all residents of Alexandria can look back with pride on their city's rich history and forward with anticipation to an exciting and challenging future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend the City of Alexandria on the occasion of its 250th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Hon. Kerry J. Donley, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and best wishes for a glorious anniversary celebration.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GHENT BAND**HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ghent Band on their 100th Anniversary in entertaining the communities of Columbia County, located in the heart of the 22nd Congressional District, which I proudly represent.

Founded in 1899 by 15 members, the Ghent Band continues to make history while other bands in New York have become history. Inspired by nationally touring bands like John Philip Sousa, the original 15 members gathered old, second hand instruments and began rehearsing weekly at the Old Ghent School House. To this day, the band plays on, serving as Columbia County's only full-fledged village band.

Mr. Speaker, for a full century the Ghent Band's music has filled the hearts of the young and old, creating lasting memories at the many parades and concerts at which they play. The Ghent Band holds a special place in my own heart as they were present at the inauguration celebrating my swearing in to the House of Representatives.

Given the diversity of age and background of the band's members, as well as their strong ties to the local community, I have no doubt that the Ghent Band will continue on for an additional 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Ghent Band is America at its best, representing all that is good in this nation. I wish its members and their families the best as they celebrate 100 years of serving and entertaining the Village of Ghent.

FAIR CARE FOUNDATION CALLS
ATTENTION TO DANGERS OF
HMO TAKEOVERS**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as the conglomeration and monopolization of American health care continues, State Insurance regulators must do a better job of questioning the quality of plans entering their states.

I thought the following article from the September 18, 1999 issue of the Delaware News Journal by former utilization review nurse Mary Ellen Gaspard and A.G. Newmyer, head of the Fair Care Foundation (an HMO watchdog group), made some excellent points about the "quality danger" facing Delaware.

[From the News Journal, Sept. 18, 1999]

BLUE CROSS TAKEOVER NEEDS SKEPTIC'S EYE
(By Mary Ellen Gaspard and A.B. Newmyer
III)

Few Americans can name their state insurance regulator. The majority of regulators are appointed and remain largely invisible. By reputation, they care more about the health of insurers than the health of the public.

Delaware may be different. We've never met Insurance Commissioner Donna Lee Williams. But like the minority of regulators

who are elected rather than appointed, she has a reputation for caring about consumers rather than for genuflecting before insurance executives. Now she has a real opportunity.

Hearings begin Tuesday on the plan by CareFirst—a Blue Cross plan based in Maryland—to take over the Delaware plan. The commissioner must determine, among other things, whether the deal would hurt Delaware policyholders.

In our view, CareFirst has redefined predatory behavior by health insurers. Perhaps the company's claims handlers were trained to echo the mantra, "Just say no." Cases handled by volunteers at the Fair Care Foundation, in helping patients in CareFirst's market, suggest that the delays and denials don't even pass the laugh test. Sadly, there is a mean-spiritedness evident in the treatment of the sick and their families that CareFirst management has taken to new heights.

We can't imagine why Donna Lee Williams would want to put Delaware's 200,000 Blues subscribers under CareFirst's heel. Like their claims handlers, she should just say no.

CareFirst, of course, disagrees. With a sensible regulatory structure in CareFirst's back yard, the facts would be apparent to Delaware regulators. But Steve Larsen, the appointed insurance commissioner in Maryland, has a reputation among consumer groups as being affable and ineffective. When CareFirst took over the Blue Cross plan in Washington, questions arose concerning whether Larsen had evaluated the Maryland plan's treatment of policyholders. His so-called market conduct study was reduced to one sentence.

That's one more sentence of oversight than the D.C. regulator could muster. At hearings on the proposed merger, it became clear that the Washington insurance commissioner had never conducted a market study of the Blues during all the years that his office had jurisdiction.

Delaware should just say no pending an investigation that is truly independent and thorough. We've seen no indication that Maryland or Washington regulators are capable of either. Their pre-merger hearings were a pro-forma joke. After consumers sued an appeals court ruled that the Blues had cozied up to the regulator in illegal ex-parte sessions, where they re-wrote conditions of the merger.

The proposed Blues merger in Delaware is complicated. CareFirst has to call the merger an "affiliation" because under the law, a merger would be a "conversion" of the non-profit assets of the Delaware plan. That would require that the Delaware assets be set aside for health care of residents in the state. But CareFirst wants the money. So the architecture of the deal is intentionally opaque. Delaware will effectively lose all local control of its Blue Cross plan. We suspect the results won't be pretty.

Donna Lee Williams has a vital opportunity. If the state chooses to wink at the predatory practices of CareFirst, then our hearts go out to the 200,000 Blue Cross subscribers in Delaware.

TECHIES DAY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, as Congress continues to debate next year's budget, America continues to face two mounting problems: a growing information technology worker

shortage, and a persisting "digital divide" between the information rich and the information poor.

Reports estimate that there are approximately 350,000 unfilled technology jobs available in America, a shortage that threatens the future growth of the sector that is responsible for driving America's unprecedented economic success. Clearly, the demand for highly-skilled information technology workers vastly outweighs the supply.

Further confirmation of this problem came in the Department of Commerce's July report entitled, "Falling Through the Net," which highlighted a persisting "digital divide" characterized by a disparity of race, gender, wealth, and geography.

It is, thus, with the intention of focusing public attention on these two problems, that I lend my support today to the first national "Techies Day" being held today. Its goal is to reverse these trends by inspiring more of America's youth to enter science and technology fields.

To mark this day, the Association for Competitive Technology, an alliance of Information Technology businesses, will bring technology professionals to the Kids Computer Workshop in Washington, D.C., an after-school technology program that works with underserved kids in the District. By showing youth that technology careers are within their reach, these "techies" will bridge the gap for kids who find themselves on the wrong side of the "digital divide" and begin to reduce America's information technology workforce deficit.

Mr. Speaker, if the private sector is recognizing its role in bridging the gap between the information "haves" and the "have-nots," I believe Congress should recognize its role too. It is my hope that through efforts such as Techies Day, Congress will realize that it can, and should, make a difference.

REST OF THE TRUTH IN
TELEPHONE BILLING ACT OF 1999**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the "Rest of the Truth in Telephone Billing Act of 1999." The title of the bill reflects the fact that some of the "truth in telephone billing" has already been proposed in a bill by two of my esteemed Commerce Committee colleagues, Chairman BLILEY and Telecommunications Subcommittee TAUZIN. I offer the "rest of the truth" to point out that a listing of fees and taxes only provides half the story. The other half of the story is the subsidies in the telecommunications marketplace, which I believe need to be made just as explicit on a consumer's bill as the fees and taxes in order to fully inform consumers of what they do and do not pay for when they subscribe to telecommunications services.

Mr. Speaker, the telecommunications marketplace is rife with such subsidies. Many of these subsidies are quite noble in intention and help to pay for affordable telecommunications service for the poor and for rural consumers. Yet many of these subsidies reflect a historic monopoly marketplace and should be revisited as the marketplace changes. For instance, some of these subsidies may still be

needed and there are some which ought to be adjusted (or even eliminated) to reflect a more competitive marketplace.

The "truth," Mr. Speaker, is that many consumers in America today pay too much to support a bloated subsidy system that was designed to support inefficient monopoly-provided service. As efficiencies arrive in the marketplace due to technological changes and the competitive entry of new providers, I believe that many subsidized services could be provided at lower cost, and therefore less subsidy, than previously provided.

Providing subsidies sufficient to keep costs low in rural America and for the inner city poor, or to hook up schools and libraries, ought to be done in a manner that reflects the actual costs of providing the service. In order to ensure that we give consumers the rest of the truth in telephone billing, I suggest in the legislative proposal I am offering today, that we insist that both the fees and taxes AND the subsidies be made explicit for consumers and listed on their bills.

I suggest that we give consumers the full story. Consumers should know when they're paying \$8 in fees or \$18 in taxes. They should also know whether they're simultaneously receiving (or paying) a hitherto implicit subsidy to the tune of \$2 or \$200. I look forward to working with Chairman BLILEY and Chairman TAUZIN on their legislative proposal and to discussions with our other colleagues—both urban and rural—on how we can better ascertain the true costs, true taxes, true fees, and the true subsidies embedded in the telecommunications bills that consumers pay monthly.

THE NETIZENS PROTECTION ACT
OF 1999

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Netizens Protection Act of 1999. This legislation is carefully tailored to protect consumers and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) from the costs and inconvenience of unsolicited e-mail.

My bill allows Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to take legal action against someone who uses their equipment or facilities—without their permission—to initiate the bulk transmission of unsolicited electronic messages. Equally important, it would also permit consumers to take action against someone who sent them unsolicited e-mail, so-called spam.

The bill is based on a simple principle of fairness: consumers should not have to pay for unwanted messages and neither should their ISP. Spam is not just a nuisance that can be cured by the judicious use of the delete key. Spam literally forces you to pay for the costs of some other person's advertisement—it is like getting a piece of junk mail and then having to pay for the cost of the stamp. Spam exposes you to dangerous viruses that can damage files or harm computer hardware. Spam often consists of illegal pyramid schemes and frequently contains illegal child pornography.

Moreover, even if an Internet user is not paying for the additional time online to retrieve

unwanted mail, they are still being charged a higher rate by their ISP for filter services and larger band-widths to combat "junk e-mail." Unwanted e-mail is costly to both the provider and consumer. The problem is that unlike regular junk mail, where the sender pays for the costs, spam shifts the costs from the sender to the recipient.

My legislation would require anyone sending an unsolicited electronic message to provide a name, a physical mailing address, and the electronic mail address of the person who initiated the message, along with a method by which the recipient of the message could contact the transmitter of the electronic mail to request that no further messages be sent. If someone was sent unsolicited e-mail from someone they contacted to request no further mail be sent, they could pursue legal action to recover treble damages.

Along with empowering the consumer to take action against spam, my bill also allows ISP's to seek legal remedies if someone violates their policies against unsolicited electronic mail messaging. Additionally, ISP's would be required to explain their unsolicited e-mail policies in simple terms so spammers could be forewarned and users could make an informed decision about what ISP to use, as well as whether they wanted unsolicited e-mail blocked. Consumers would and should be able to decide whether they want to receive unsolicited e-mail. My bill does that. Furthermore, the consumer would be able to take legal action if a spammer did not respect their wishes under the Netizens Protection Act.

The Netizens Protection Act is directed at the big spammers who tie-up networks with thousands upon thousands of messages. It would not go after someone who just sent a few messages either inadvertently or even intentionally. Language in my bill would allow someone to send up to 50 identical or substantially similar messages to recipients within a seven day period.

My legislation would also not interfere with or affect direct e-mail advertising or marketing. All avenues of legitimate direct marketing would remain. If any previous business relationship existed between the e-mailer and the e-mail recipient, my legislation would not affect the e-mail transaction. For example, if someone made a purchase at a retail store, a business relationship would exist, so that retailer could send e-mail updates to that customer and still maintain compliance with the Netizens Protection Act. Indeed, I believe that unless legislation is enacted to protect consumers from spam, it will discourage the expansion of Internet business and commerce.

HONORING JANICE JAMES

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago I had the honor to meet with Janice James, the Kentucky Teacher of the Year. In light of constant stories about the crisis in our nation's schools, it is important to recognize the dedication and outstanding achievements of our teachers. Ms. James serves as the perfect example. It is my honor to pay tribute to someone who has made such a difference to so many children.

Janice James has had a distinguished career as a primary teacher at Price Elementary School in Louisville, Kentucky for 27 years. As part of her teaching philosophy she provides her students with numerous hands-on activities to keep them fully engaged. Ms. James also encourages her students to explore the process of learning by thinking out loud and by pushing them to find multiple solutions to problems. I was particularly impressed by her creative way to encourage students to think more broadly: she hands them a pair of rose-colored glasses every time she wants them to think in a different way.

Janice James has also instilled a sense of leadership in her students through their participation in the Price Leaders of Today program. Students are addressed by key leaders in the Louisville community and are inspired to become leaders and thinkers themselves. Janice James is a teacher who knows how to get the job done. She knows it takes hard work, it takes flexibility, and it takes a commitment to each child. I was proud to hear that Janice James supports what this Congress is trying to do—give schools and teachers the ability to make the choices which best reflect their students' needs. We are all in agreement that such changes will help improve education—for Janice James and her students.

Ms. James' remarkable contribution to the field of education deserves our respect and our gratitude. Again, I offer my congratulations to Janice James for this outstanding achievement.

DISTRICT JUSTICE PIERANTONI
HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Fred Pierantoni, III, the Justice of Magisterial District 11-104 in my Congressional District and a good friend of mine. Justice Pierantoni will be honored as "Person of the Year" at the 22nd annual Columbus Day Banquet of the Italian American Association of Luzerne County. I am pleased and proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

District Justice Pierantoni, the son of Fred and Betty Pierantoni of Dupont, is a graduate of Pittston Area High School, Wilkes University, and Temple University School of Law. He served as an Assistant District Attorney for Luzerne County and was the senior trial assistant and chief juvenile prosecutor for that office.

First elected District Justice in 1991, Justice Pierantoni is active in many professional and community activities. He is a member of both the Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations. He chairs the prestigious Pennsylvania Supreme Court committee that is charged with amending and formulating rules to be followed by District Justices statewide. Justice Pierantoni is the former Chair of the Publications Committee of the Pennsylvania Special Court Judges Association. He is a member of the Luzerne County District Justice Executive Commission, the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association Executive Committee, and the Luzerne County Domestic Violence Task

Force. He is legal advisor to many non-profit volunteer and youth groups throughout the area.

District Justice Pierantoni is active in the community as well, having held a seat on the Pittston Chamber Board of Directors, and several cabinet posts in the Hughestown Lions organizations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Holy Mother of Sorrows Church in Dupont. Justice Pierantoni is Parliamentarian of the Italian American Association of Luzerne County and a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Polish American Citizens Club, and St. John's Lodge. He lectures for Marywood College, Luzerne County Community College, and the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office.

Mr. Speaker, Fred Pierantoni is a dedicated professional, committed to his community and the justice system in Luzerne County. I applaud the Italian-American Association's choice of this year's honoree and am pleased to join with them in honoring this fine Pennsylvanian. I extend my sincere best wishes to Justice Pierantoni as he accepts this prestigious award.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE WILLIAM
"CHUCK" EVERS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in memory of my friend, Mr. William "Chuck" Evers, who was born June 13, 1945 in Alton, Illinois, and died Sunday, September 12, 1999.

Chuck practiced law in Collinsville, Illinois for twenty years. He was active in our community and generous in sharing his knowledge of the law. Those who agreed and disagreed with him almost always re-evaluated their positions after speaking with him. This role was very healthy for all levels of government as it greatly enriched the public debate.

Chuck Evers touched many lives as an active citizen of Collinsville. He is survived by his wife, Lynda nee Vandewater, daughter, Caren Evers, son, W. Clark Evers, and mother, Dorothy Mae nee Gericke Evers.

Collinsville and I will remember Mr. Evers for his great contributions to the community. He will be forever cherished for his commitment; first to his family and faith, and then to his country and to his work.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOOD RIVER TOWNSHIP HOSPITAL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Wood River Township Hospital.

As we near the end of the millennium, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the history of the small towns and cities which have made a commitment to better health care in their own communities. This past sum-

mer my district celebrated the 50th anniversary of Wood River Township Hospital, with reflection on its vital role in our region.

The Wood River Township Hospital opened its doors to the public on August 1, 1949 with great fanfare. A referendum to build a public hospital had passed three years earlier in a landslide margin of 4,049 votes for to just 270 against. Once passed, plans for the community hospital quickly commenced with the architectural designs of Jamieson & Spearl, built in a year by Brunson Construction Co.

The town's enthusiasm for their new hospital was enhanced by the respect accorded to the patients of wood river township Hospital. The hospital staff today still proudly recall their first doctor, Harry S. Mendelsohn, M.D., first patient, Anna Westbrook, and first baby, Randall Charles Harmon. Today, more than 14,000 babies have been born there.

Remarkably, the Wood River Township Hospital, is well known throughout the state of Illinois for being the site of other significant "firsts" in the world of health care. It was the first hospital in the state of Illinois to be built under a 1945 state law, which authorized townships to levy taxes for the construction, operation and maintenance of hospitals. Additionally, it was the first hospital in Illinois to give chiropractic physicians privileges, as well as the first to have paramedic-staffed ambulances.

Every community is marked by the institutions that serve them, and Wood River is no different. The Wood River Township Hospital's devotion to patients and commitment to community allows us to see the town as a leader in progressive ideas built on a foundation of mutual respect.

As the 20th Century ends and the beginning of the new millennium approaches, Wood River Township Hospital reminds us of our nation's heritage. As they did, 50 years ago, Wood River officials plan to bury a time capsule to honor the community's values and achievements. In this they will show that while the advances in technology made each day continue to fortify our nation's capabilities, it is the principal of caring in which our future generations may find inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Wood River Township Hospital in commemoration of its 50th Anniversary.

CARMEN COSENTINO WINS FLORICULTURE HALL OF FAME AWARD

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker: Today I am proud to commend one of my constituents and a very good personal friend, Mr. Carmen Cosentino. Last week the Society of American Florists recognized the achievements of outstanding individuals in the floral industry and gave its highest honor, induction into the Floriculture Hall of Fame, to Carm Cosentino.

The purpose of the Floriculture Hall of Fame is to honor men and women who have made outstanding and lasting contributions to the advancement of floriculture as an integral part of the American way of life.

Carm, who owns Cosentino's Florist in Auburn, New York, is a well-known industry

spokesperson who has touched many in the floral industry through his talks, magazine articles and educational seminars. In his 43 years in the floral industry, Carm's passion has redefined how potent a grassroots effort can be. He has dedicated his life to teaching others in his industry about proper care and handling in order to prolong enjoyment and appreciation of the beauty of flowers.

Carm has spoken at hundreds of industry gatherings, instructed and acted as a spokesperson for major wire services, and has even translated his witty personal style onto paper as a contributor to many publications. His dedication to the floral industry is evidenced by his service as director of the SAF Board of Directors, vice president and president of the New York State Florists Association, and as director of the Seeley Conference.

It is a true accomplishment that Carm also owns and operates his own retail flower shop and wholesale business. Throughout his life in the floral industry, he has demonstrated the highest regard for improving the lives of everyone through flowers.

I am proud to call Carm Cosentino my good friend, and I join his lovely wife Anne Marie and his family today in recognizing this professional achievement.

PROTECTING THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) SPECTRUM

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the fiscal year 2000 defense authorization bill contains a number of provisions critical to protecting military access to the radio spectrum. We all know how important spectrum is to information technologies, such as the Global Positioning System (GPS), which are critical to a wide range of military and civilian applications.

The importance of ensuring the continuous availability of critical information was demonstrated recently, when the Air Force successfully managed the so-called roll-over of the GPS clock—an event similar to the Y2K transition that we have heard so much about.

By successfully managing the GPS roll-over, the Air Force has ensured the continued stable reception of GPS signals by tens of millions of global users who depend on GPS for everything from air navigation and farming to guiding the war fighter on the battlefield and managing the Internet.

The concerns leading up to the Y2K-like rollover of GPS highlighted the potential global impact from any disruption to GPS services. To its credit, the Air Force, in close cooperation with industry, engaged in rigorous testing and analysis to ensure GPS signals would continue to be received through last month's transition. This effort upheld national policy, as expressed in both Presidential directives and Congressional legislation, that GPS signals will be continuously available and receivable at all times, everywhere in the world.

I and many of my colleagues believe it is in our national interest for the government and industry to continue to cooperate in ensuring that GPS spectrum is protected from disruption and interference. The GPS spectrum band

is coveted by commercial interests because of increasing demand for limited international spectrum. The American public has invested well over \$14 billion to date to have the GPS services we enjoy today and we need to guard this investment from any harm. I urge the Department to continue its efforts to ensure GPS signals are continuously available in support of national policy, and applaud the continued strong congressional support for initiatives that will help us achieve that goal.

DEDICATION OF THE NAVAJO
GENERATING STATION SCRUBBERS

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an important construction project in my home State and District that has set a precedent for balancing economic values with the delicate needs of the environment. I am referring to the recent completion of a \$420 million air-emissions project at the Navajo Generating Station, or NGS, located near Page, Arizona, some 12 miles from the eastern boundary of the Grand Canyon National Park.

NGS was built in the early 1970's by the Salt River Project, or SRP, the nation's third largest public power provider, and a consortium of other utilities, to serve the needs to nearly three million customers in Arizona, Nevada and California. With a 2,250-megawatt capacity, the power plant is the second largest in Arizona and remains, to this day, one of the largest coal-fired power plants in North America. NGS participants include the Salt River Project, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Arizona Public Service Company, Nevada Power Company and Tucson Electric Power Company. A sixth participant, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, sells its share of NGS electricity for power pumps of the Central Arizona Project, a 336-mile canal system critical to sustaining agriculture, industry and development in the greater Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas.

At the time of its construction, NGS was recognized for its advanced environmental controls and strict compliance with the Clean Air Act of 1971. Amendments to the Clean Air Act in 1977, however, put the plant on a collision course with new laws aimed at protecting clear vistas at our nation's national parks. Studies completed by the National Park Service indicated that the plant may be contributing to haze over the Grand Canyon National Park. Environmental groups subsequently filed a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency demanding action to mitigate NGS emissions. Costly and protracted litigation, which would incur high costs to both taxpayers and customers of NGS, appeared inevitable.

Rather than litigate, SRP took the commendable route of seeking an environmentally and economically responsible solution to the plant's sulfur-dioxide output. With financing from NGS participants, independent and thorough scientific studies were conducted. While it was discovered that much of the haze in the Grand Canyon region derived from urban smog, dust, forest fires and visitor traffic at the Grand Canyon itself, it was also discovered

that the NGS did contribute to Canyon haze under limited conditions.

In response to the results of the study, SRP and its NGS partners took the lead in reaching a balanced agreement to outfit the plant with additional emissions equipment. On September 8, 1991, I accompanied President George Bush and then-Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan and others to the south rim of the Grand Canyon to witness the signing of the NGS Visibility Agreement, the first such compact under the Clean Air Act. In accordance with that agreement, NGS is now outfitted with three wet-limestone scrubbers capable of removing more than 95 percent of the plant's sulfur-dioxide emissions. The last unit was put on line this summer.

In addition, during the scrubber construction process, SRP was able to save \$100 million. The savings will be passed on to NGS customers at a time when the utility industry is being opened to retail competition.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, October 14, 1999, a ceremony will be conducted at the plant to commemorate the fulfillment of a promise made eight years ago. The Grand Canyon is one of the crown-jewels of our National Park System, with more than four million visitors a year. The Navajo Generating Station can no longer be credited with contributing to the haze at this national treasure.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication this month of the NGS Scrubbers exemplifies a true balance between economic and environmental values. This effort deserves wide recognition.

CELEBRATING PFIZER'S 150TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pfizer, Inc. on its 150th anniversary. As one of the global leaders in the important pharmaceutical industry, Pfizer has helped to improve the health of men and women around the world for the last century and a half.

Pfizer's long history is full of adventure, daring risk-taking, and intrepid decision making. Founded by German immigrant cousins Charles Pfizer and Charles Erhart in 1849, Pfizer has grown from a small chemical firm in Brooklyn, NY to a multinational corporation which employs close to 50,000 people, including 219 men and women in its tradition of developing innovative drugs to combat a variety of illnesses. In 1944, Pfizer was the first company to successfully mass-produce penicillin, a breakthrough that led to the company's emergence as a global leader in its industry. Since then, Pfizer has marketed dozens of effective medicines designed to fight conditions like arthritis, diabetes, infections, and heart disease in humans, and infections, parasites, and heartworm in animals.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Pfizer has made innumerable contributions to our nation and our world, and I applaud Pfizer's accomplishments as it celebrates its 150th anniversary.

BOLIVIA'S SUCCESSFUL COUNTER-
NARCOTICS PROGRAM

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee I wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues an often overlooked story in the debate over the war on drugs in the Western Hemisphere—that being the surprising success story of Bolivia. Even today, as we consider providing additional counter narcotics aid to Colombia to fight the terrible scourge of the drug trade which has so completely engulfed that nation, there is hardly any mention of the success achieved in Bolivia and Peru nor of the importance of providing additional assistance to those nations. It would be critically important that as the Administration considers a new aid package for the anti-drug fight in Colombia that some additional money be included for Peru and Bolivia so that they can continue their progress and ensure that as the Colombians become more successful in their efforts, the drug trade does not return to these other nations.

Bolivia is a success story which many of my colleagues need to know more about. When the current government of Hugo Banzer took office in 1997, the President proclaimed a goal of ridding Bolivia of all illegal coca and cocaine by the Year 2002. Many people familiar with Bolivia's situation proclaimed their skepticism and said that the drug trade was too lucrative for the farmers and peasants of Bolivia to give up, at least not willingly, that there was too much corruption, that given the condition of Bolivia's economy at the time, the Government could not sustain any type of alternative crop development program to win the coca farmers over.

Now, just a little over two years later, Bolivia has successfully eradicated over 50 percent of the illegal coca crop and reduced re-planting to a historically low level. This story has not been easy, nor without problems but with the firm commitment of President Banzer to succeed and under the strong leadership and direction of Vice President Jorge Quiroga and the Dignity Plan, Bolivia is well on its way to meeting its goals. According to the Bolivian government, between August 1997 and October 1999, over 27,000 hectares of coca have been eradicated. 121,000 square meters of coca seedbeds have been destroyed and 225 tons of cocaine bound for the United States or Europe have been interdicted.

Through a combination of domestic political leadership and international support, mostly from the United States, Bolivia has been able to develop a successful strategy which balances interdiction, eradication and alternative development. It is the alternative development program which has been the real success story and one which could become a model for even Colombia if the guerrilla war in that country is ever brought under control.

Mr. Speaker, the integration of illegal coca farmers into the legal economy of Bolivia has been the most urgent priority of the government and has thus far been highly effective. But it is also the most fragile element of the strategy in that unless the alternative crops can be produced and gotten to market in a

timely fashion and can bring a financial return equal to coca, the farmers could very easily return to illegal drug cultivation returning Bolivia to the status of a major coca producing nation as in the past.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker is that Bolivia has done a remarkable job in reversing the drug trade in that region and for that, they should be recognized and congratulated. But more than that, we should be rewarding their success with additional funds which they need and have requested in order to continue the successful effort and ensure that the gains are not reversed. It makes no sense to recognize Bolivia's successful efforts, thank them for all they are doing to help protect American citizens from drugs and then not continue to help them finish the job they set out to do. I hope that our Administration understands this and that if and when they send a request for additional counter narcotics assistance to the Congress they consider including some level of additional assistance for Bolivia.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1906,
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 1, 1999

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the members of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee for a job well done on the fiscal year 2000 Agriculture Appropriations Act which contained \$1.2 billion for disaster assistance.

As you know, this summer's drought has placed a heavy burden on the agricultural industry in several parts of the country. Not only have crops been devastated, but the drought has also caused corresponding economic loss to livestock and dairy producers. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture has recently estimated the natural disaster losses for all affected states to total \$3.56 billion. The State of Ohio alone has suffered losses nearing \$600 million, almost 15 percent of Ohio's largest industry. In my district, Pickaway County's estimated crop value for this year's harvest is \$39 million below average. When this disaster is compounded with the existing low commodity prices, it puts our farmers in the most dire economic situation in recent memory.

Last week, I communicated with both the leadership and committee members to ensure that the final aid package would be augmented to provide adequate funding for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster assistance programs such as the Crop Loss Disaster Assistance Program, the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, the Livestock Assistance Program, and the Emergency Conservation Programs. Thankfully, the Republican Congress was able to pass an Agriculture Appropriations bill that included \$1.2 billion in much-needed disaster assistance for our farmers.

To close, Mr. Speaker, I would again like to commend this Congress and especially those

who have been instrumental in passing meaningful economic assistance to the farming community that serves as the foundation of this great Nation.

HONORING LINDA DOOLIN WARD,
CENTRAL EXCHANGE 1999 WOMAN
OF THE YEAR

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional leader and friend to our Kansas City community. Today Linda Doolin Ward will be honored as the 1999 Woman of the Year by the Central Exchange. Linda Doolin Ward has an extensive history with Kansas City and has shown outstanding leadership in her career and contributions to our metropolitan area. This prestigious award recognizes her commitment to gender concerns and her desire for equality in the workplace and society.

She is currently President of the Women's Foundation, a local organization dedicated to funding programs and services which assist women. I am especially impressed with her work at the Women's Foundation to establish grants to help meet the health care, employment, and educational needs of women. This year the Foundation will announce \$125,000 worth of grants addressing domestic violence, parenting, and professional development skills.

Serving on numerous boards, Mrs. Doolin Ward has demonstrated her significant presence as a catalyst for change. She was the first woman to be Board President and Chairperson of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City and served as the Executive Director of the Central Exchange. She is the Co-Chair of the FOCUS strategic planning project, was recently appointed to the Port Authority of Kansas City, and serves as a Committee Chairwoman for the Partnership for Children.

Linda Doolin Ward's career is just as impressive as her record of volunteerism. For 15 years she worked as an executive with Payless Cashways, Inc., and is now Vice President of Investor Relations and Corporate Communications with the American Italian Pasta Company. In addition to these achievements, she is married to her high school sweetheart, Terry Ward, and a devoted mother to her son, Jason. As a role model for women across the nation, Linda Doolin Ward has shown us how to balance family life with work and still make room to contribute to the people in our community.

I am honored to acknowledge Linda Doolin Ward for her successful efforts to promote equity and opportunity for women and her commitment to making our community a better place. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Central Exchange 1999 Woman of the Year, Linda Doolin Ward.

LAND TRANSFER TO THE
GREATER YUMA PORT AUTHORITY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, commercial growth along the southwest border increased at such a rate as to render current infrastructure resources obsolete in dealing with the volume of commercial traffic comfortably, economically and efficiently. Between 1990 and 1995, the border town of San Luis, Arizona witnessed a population increase of more than ninety percent, from 4,212 to 8,026. The combined population of San Luis and its sister city in San Luis, Sonora, Mexico is 350,000.

Since 1924, San Luis has served as a port of entry between the U.S. and Mexico. In 1998, the port experienced average daily crossings of 360 commercial vehicles, 7,500 private vehicles, and 5,865 pedestrian crossings. The average delay experienced by a commercial vehicle is nearly 2 hours. Delays for private vehicles can be of similar length depending on the time of day. Current port facilities are unable to expedite the current volume of traffic, and the increasing volume will only make a bad situation worse, unless efforts are made to reroute commercial traffic.

Today I am introducing legislation that authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to transfer lands to the Greater Yuma Port Authority as a first in a series of steps toward building a new port of entry to clear commercial traffic through San Luis, Arizona.

This legislative measure has the support of the parties that make up the Grater Yuma Port Authority such as Yuma County, the cities of San Luis and Somerton, and the Cocopah Indian Tribe. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PEDRO JOSÉ
GREER, JR.

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true humanitarian, an outstanding Cuban-American physician, a genuine hero, Dr. Pedro José Greer Jr., whose love for mankind, especially for the poor and homeless, is an admirable example for contemporary American society.

My uncle and aunt, Alfredo and Isabel Caballero, recently sent me a book authored by Dr. Greer with the cooperation of another admirable Cuban-American: Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Liz Balmaseda. The book is titled, "Waking Up In America", and I highly recommend it to you, Mr. Speaker, and to all my colleagues.

Dr. Greer courageously denounces how society neglects millions of Americans who lack adequate health care. Dr. Greer is the medical director and one of the founders in South Florida of the Camilus Health Concern, a free clinic for the poor, and the San Juan Bosco Clinic for the poor. He has won a MacArthur Fellowship "Genius Grant" and was recognized by Time Magazine as one of Fifty Top Young

Leaders Under 40 in 1994. Dr. Greer has also been honored by two U.S. Presidents.

Dr. Pedro José Greer Jr. was brought up in a family with a tradition of love and service for our fellow man, formed by his father Dr. Pedro Greer, a prestigious Cuban gastroenterologist, and his mother, Mrs. Maria Teresa Medina Greer. Dr. Greer's great-grandfather fought for Cuba's freedom in 1898.

I would like to express my gratitude and congratulations to Dr. Pedro José Greer Jr. for his love and work for America and also extend this congratulatory message to his proud parents, his wife Janus Munley Greer, his children Alana and Joey and his sister and brother in law, Sally and Brian Belt.

HONORING SCHOOL FOODSERVICE
DIRECTOR HELEN RANKIN

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to National School Lunch Week which we will celebrate next week. Having grown up in the restaurant business, I feel a special camaraderie with school food service professionals. Every day, professional across the country ensure that our students have at least one hot, nutritious meal to help them grow and learn.

Maine is blessed with many extraordinary school food service professionals. But one in particular stands out—Helen Rankin, foodservice director for Maine School Administrative District 55, based in Hiram, Maine. Hiram is not what anybody would describe as a metropolitan area. It is a small, rural area much like most of Maine.

Helen has brought a degree of professionalism to her operation that belies the small size of the school system. Her commitment to quality and top performance by herself and her staff has made her a leader in Maine and across the nation.

Earlier this year, Helen was featured in the national publication *School Foodservice & Nutrition*. The article just scratches the surface of Helen's activities on behalf of her clients—school children in the Hiram area and beyond. She recognizes that school food services are a crucial building block in a child's education. We all know that hungry children cannot learn and that their bodies cannot grow and develop as they should.

Helen Rankin is a dynamic, dedicated professional. Maine students have benefitted tremendously from her leadership. I am proud to have the opportunity today to pay tribute to her, and to all of Maine's school foodservice professionals. I hope that next week, during National School Lunch Week, all of my colleagues will take the opportunity to recognize these hardworking individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I insert the *School Foodservice & Nutrition* article about Helen Rankin to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this point.

HELEN RANKIN

BRINGING BIG-TIME PROFESSIONALISM TO A
SMALL-TOWN DISTRICT

(By Mark Ward, Sr.)

Try to find Hiram, Maine, on a road atlas and it might take you a while. But while the

town may be off the main highway, it's squarely on the map of leading school foodservice operations.

"We don't have the facilities of a larger district, but we're still on the cutting edge. And even if we don't have a lot of students, we do a lot for them," reports Helen Rankin, foodservice director for Maine School Administrative District No. 55, based in Hiram and serving five rural communities in the southwest corner of the state.

What puts Hiram on the school foodservice map is a simple maxim: "I insist on professionalism," declares Rankin of her school nutrition team. For example, though the district's six schools serve just 800 lunches a day, each member of Rankin's staff is an ASFSA member, has taken a sanitation course and is a ServSafe certified food service handler. And despite an annual budget of just \$400,000 (which includes a district appropriation of just \$11,000), the department pays the expenses for its employees to attend state association conferences.

That commitment to professionalism and continuing education starts with Rankin herself. After 40 years in school foodservice, including 30 years in her present post, she's not resting on her laurels. At the state level, she has helped to transform what was a small association into a professional organization that now boasts 700 members and conducts a statewide peer review program. And, as a former Maine School Food Service Association (MSFSA) president, Rankin enjoys respect and clout with state and local policymakers.

And though Hiram may be a small dot on the roadmap, Rankin sees no limit to her own professional horizons. She has spoken at conferences across the country, been nominated twice for ASFSA national office and served as Northeast Regional Director on the National Association's Executive Board. Throughout the 1990s, Rankin's influence has been felt on the ASFSA Public Policy and Legislative Committee and, more recently, its Political Action Committee (PAC).

"By making a commitment to get involved with my profession," Rankin reflects, "I've had opportunities that a person from a small rural town, who started out with only a 9th-grade education, might only have dreamed of."

FROM PTA TO PROFESSIONAL

Forty years ago, the notion that a school cafeteria worker could be a "school foodservice professional" was rarely encouraged—or even understood. Back then, Rankin says, she first became involved with school meals "because the PTA, which I was president of, was responsible for the hot lunch program." When the group hired a new cook who quit after just one day, it was up to Rankin to fill the gap. "We had 75 students at that school and, after volunteering at first, I ultimately got paid \$15 a week to cook the meals and clean the kitchen," she recalls.

Over time, Rankin received her own high school equivalency certificate and went on to earn a bachelor's degree. Then in her ninth year as de facto school foodservice manager, the school was incorporated into a newly formed district. In turn, that brought the hiring of a district foodservice director. Like the cook a decade earlier, the person who filled this position resigned after a brief stint, which paved the way for Rankin to assume the post.

"In those days we had no free lunch program, and I can remember kids who would bring in a jar of water and a piece of bread to eat," Rankin continues. Now, 30 years later, "We have reimbursable meals, a breakfast program, a la carte service—plus marketing and promotion, and the expectation

that we have to be financially self-supporting. Times certainly have changed," she adds.

It also was 30 years ago that Rankin was introduced to ASFSA and the concept that school foodservice could be a professional pursuit. "MSFSA's conference were small," she recalls, "So I went to my first state meeting in Connecticut. That got me fired up and, along with some other foodservice directors from Maine, we decided to start building up our own state association and making it more active."

Professional involvements "are hard work" Rankin admits. And many times her volunteer commitments require extra hours at work because, lacking funds to hire a full central office staff, Rankin first must handle all the business affairs of the district office. "Yet you learn so much by going to meetings and participating in your profession," she remarks. "Every time I go to a conference or event, I find out what's going on in the industry and the profession. Best of all is the exchange of ideas you get, because you can talk with other professionals one-on-one."

PRESERVATION AND PROGRESS

And while Rankin is a firm believer in the need for school foodservice professionals to meet with and learn from one another, she also emphasizes the need for the profession to build relationships with government, industry—and the public.

That realization came to Rankin—and many other school foodservice operators—in a big way, five years ago, when a push was made in Congress to eliminate the National School Lunch Program. As a result, child nutrition advocates from both large urban districts and small rural schools joined with politicians, industry partners and others to make their case for the need for school nutrition programs to remain a federal program.

Today, ending the National School Lunch Program is no longer an issue. The visibility and respect that the school food-service profession earned on Capitol Hill during the debate remains in force.

To preserve these gains and secure more victories, Rankin reports that the goal of the ASFSA PAC is to "ensure that supporters of child nutrition are re-elected to public office."

Like school foodservice directors across the country, Rankin also has focused attention on building bridges at the state level. Back home in Maine, she has helped the profession establish a presence in the state legislature, governor's mansion and in city and county councils statewide. Currently, school food-service directors in Maine are pressing for increased support of nutrition education programs.

In a career that already has spanned 40 years, Rankin has set a personal goal she hopes to achieve before retirement. "School foodservice should be respected enough to be recognized as an integral part of the education process, and therefore included in school planning," she asserts. "For example, determining how much time is allotted for lunch should have the same weight as planning for class periods, rather than just giving lunch whatever time is left over."

Because Rankin is employed in a small district, she enjoys—in a way not available to directors in many large districts—personal and daily contact with school officials. Therefore, she's enthused about the prospects of realizing her goals and seeing her district become a national model for integrating nutrition and education planning.

"Whether your district is large or small, the basic challenges are the same," Rankin concludes. "For example, I may not have the

same computer system that a large district has. But that's okay, because the real issue is that, with kids, you always need the human touch. Whatever your district's size, whether it's large or small, city or country, the most important thing we serve our students is a smile."

NATIONAL AMUSEMENT PARK
RIDE SAFETY ACT OF 1999

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by ten of my colleagues in introducing "The National Amusement Park Ride Safety Act of 1999." They include Representatives MILLER (CA), HOFFEL (PA), WEXLER (FL), KUCINICH (OH), LIPINSKI (IL), MALONEY (NY), WEINER (NY), DELAUNO (NY), NEAL (MA) and WAXMAN (CA). This bill will restore the ability of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to investigate serious accidents in amusement parks that offer rides, such as roller coasters, which are permanently fixed to the site. While the CPSC has the authority to investigate accidents that occur on rides that move from site to site, rides that are permanently fixed in theme parks are off limits. This bill would correct this anomaly by closing the "roller coaster loophole."

Roller coasters are, in general, quite safe. But in the course of just 6 days at the end of August, an unusual number of tragedies on amusement park rides highlighted the fact that when something goes wrong on these rides, the consequences can be catastrophic. Today's rides are huge metal machines capable of hurling the human body through space at forces that exceed the Space Shuttle and at speeds that exceed 100 miles per hour. They are complex industrial-size mechanisms whose design, maintenance and operation can push the limits of physical tolerance even for patrons in peak condition, let alone members of the broad spectrum of the public who are invited to ride each day.

The fatalities at the end of August, which U.S. News & World Report termed "one of the most calamitous weeks in the history of America's amusement parks," included:

August 22—a 12-year-old boy fell to his death after slipping through a harness on the Drop Zone ride at Paramount's Great America Theme Park in Santa Clara, California;

August 23—a 20-year-old man died on the Shockwave roller coaster at Paramount King's Dominion theme park near Richmond, Virginia;

August 28—a 39-year-old woman and her 8-year-old daughter were killed when their car slid backward down a 30-foot ascent and crashed into another car, injuring two others on the Wild Wonder roller coaster at Gillian's Wonderland Pier in Ocean City, New Jersey.

The Consumer Product Safety Act charges the CPSC with the responsibility to protect the public against unreasonable risks of injuries and deaths associated with consumer products. However, rides in "fixed locations" such as theme parks are currently entirely exempt from safety regulation by the CPSC. State oversight is good in some places, bad in others, and in some states, the state has also exempted "fixed locations" so that there is no federal or state regulatory body overseeing

ride safety. The number of serious injuries on "fixed location" rides has risen dramatically from 1994 through 1998.

Why do we bar the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) from investigating accidents on roller coasters and from sharing that information with the rest of the country? It makes no sense.

When a child is killed or injured on an amusement park ride, should the decision to investigate depend on whether the amusement park ride is "fixed" versus "mobile"?

Emergency-room injuries more than doubled in the last five years, yet the CPSC is prohibited from investigating any—not one—of those accidents, even when it involves a ride that may be in heavy use by mobile carnivals or fairs.

According to the CPSC Chair, Ann Brown, "The current regulatory structure as it applies to fixed-site amusement park rides is not sufficient to protect against unreasonable risks of injuries or deaths caused by these rides."

She is right.

The accident statistics highlight the folly of granting an exemption from federal safety regulation to amusement park rides. Injuries are rising rapidly on the one category of amusement park rides that the CPSC is barred from overseeing. The manufacturer or owner of every other consumer product in America is required by law to inform the CPSC whenever it becomes aware that the product may pose a substantial risk of harm—but not the owners or operators of "fixed-site" rides in amusement parks.

Some in the industry argue that this legislation is unnecessary because the states or the industry itself can provide sufficient protection. This argument fails on two counts.

First, many states have simply failed to step in where the federal safety agency has been excluded. The CPSC reports that there is still no state-level inspection program in Alabama, Arizona, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Vermont. In addition, Florida exempts the big theme parks from state inspection, Virginia relies on private inspections, and New York exempts New York City (which includes Coney Island.) California had no state program until last month.

Second, states are not equipped and not inclined to act as a national clearinghouse of safety problems associated with particular rides or with operator or patron errors. That is a federal function. Yet the federal agency charged with the protection of the public against unreasonable risk of injury or death is currently, by law, forbidden from carrying out this important task.

I urge my colleagues to support this measured effort to close the loopholes and to ensure patrons of amusement parks that the level of protection afforded by law will no longer hinge on the question of whether the ride itself is "mobile" or "fixed."

PROFILES OF SUCCESS HONORS
MRS. HILDA ORTEGA-ROSALES

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. I rise before you and my colleagues today to ask you to join me in paying

tribute to a woman who is described by friends as "La Super Chicana," Mrs. Hilda Ortega-Rosales.

Hilda recently received an Exemplary Leadership Award at Valley del Sol's Annual Profiles of Success Leadership Awards in Phoenix. Valley's award ceremony is the premiere Latino recognition event in Arizona each year that acknowledges Arizona's leaders and their contributions.

Raised in a south Phoenix barrio, Hilda was the third child of eight children. As she grew up, Hilda cared for her brothers and sister, put in long days to attend school, helped with household chores and worked in a vegetable packing house to earn money. Even today, she has not shortened those long days and always finds a way to fit in numerous volunteer hours in addition to her job as Customer Service Director for American Express Merchant Services.

Currently, Hilda sits on the city of Glendale Planning and Zoning Commission. Other volunteer posts have included Commissioner for Glendale Parks and Recreation Department, District Chair for the Arizona State University (ASU) Legislative Network Committee and Board Chair for Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc., in Phoenix.

From presidential to school board elections, Hilda has tirelessly given countless hours of her personal time to political campaigns. Other organizations which have benefitted from her community involvement include Los Diablos, the Hispanic Alumni Association for ASU; Mujer, Inc.; United Way; Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and ASU's Hispanic Mother/Daughter Program.

Taught by her parents to give back to her community, Hilda's volunteerism and dedication also is compelled by her desire to promote social justice, political power and economic development for Latinos. She is an exemplary role model for our country and someone who has personally made a significant impact on the Latino community.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Hilda's community service has been immense. She has instilled the importance of community responsibility in family members and many individuals who look up to her. Therefore, I am pleased to pay tribute to Hilda Ortega-Rosales and I know my colleagues will join me in thanking her and wishing her continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MOST REV.
BISHOP ALFRED L. ABRAMOWICZ

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a distinguished Bishop in my district, the most Rev. Alfred L. Abramowicz Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Chicago and Pastor Emeritus of the Five Holy Martyrs Parish, who recently passed away.

Born on January 19, 1919, he completed his secondary education at Quigley Preparatory Seminary and college at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary of Mundelein. Graduate studies were completed at Gregorian University, Rome, 1949–51 with a Licentiate of Canon

Law Degree. He served with the Archdiocese Metropolitan Tribunal for twenty years and for two years as a judicial vicar. Bishop Abramowicz's first appointment was associate pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in South Chicago from June 19th, 1943 to July 7th, 1948. He was named Auxiliary Bishop on May 2nd, 1968 and appointed pastor of Five Holy Martyrs Parish on July 14, 1968 and served until January of 1990.

Bishop Abramowicz's involvement in the community was far-reaching. In 1969 he served as national chairman for the U.S. visit of His Eminence Karol Cardinal Wojtyla of Krakow, Poland and was fundamental in planning the second visit of that same friend, Pope John Paul II to Chicago in 1979.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Abramowicz's strong dedication to the Catholic church and to his community as a whole will be sorely missed. I am certain that his legacy will live on in the community for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JOSE AGUIAR

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young and successful entrepreneur from my congressional district, Mr. Jose Aguiar. Through his dedication, discipline, and success in small business, Mr. Aguiar can serve as a role model for millions of youngsters in the United States who dream of succeeding, like him, in the world of business.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute and wishing continued success to Mr. Jose Aguiar.

The following article, which appeared in the October 4, New York Daily News, describes Mr. Aguiar's career in more detail.

DRY CLEANER'S KEEN TO EXPAND

Dry cleaning is Jose Aguiar's business, but cleaning up is his goal.

The 37-year-old president of Kleener King, a chain of dry cleaning stores in the metro area, is poised to expand by opening a central facility that will handle all the cleaning from his growing number of stores.

"I'm at the cusp," the Bronx businessman said, adding that he will use a \$6.1 million loan from the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp., and the Empire State Development Corp. to help spur his company's growth.

Growing from a small outfit to a chain of 20 in his native Bronx and in upper Manhattan didn't happen overnight.

In 1982, Aguiar dropped out after two years at Columbia University—where he was majoring in economics—to run his parents' business with his mother, Carmen, after his father, Jose Sr., became ill.

He held on to his parents' original location, Joe's Cleaners on Creston Avenue in the South Bronx, but soon sold the branch on University Avenue about a mile away.

"I didn't know how to manage one store, let alone two," he recalled.

After several years of working as a spotter—the person who pretreats all the stains—he started getting scared about his career prospects.

"I felt I had no future," he said, especially since some of his former Columbia classmates were moving on to plum positions in the business world.

A turning point came in the mid-1980s, when Aguiar went to an industry trade show.

"It opened his eyes and created a big appetite," said David Lewin, the owner of Ipso of New York, a dry cleaning equipment company. Over time, Lewin became a mentor as well as an investor in Aguiar's business.

"It all starts with one store," Aguiar recalled thinking.

He prepared a business plan and set about securing loans to fund an expansion, but scores of sources turned him down.

"They said, 'Grow it to a \$10 million company first' or 'Dry cleaning is not interesting,'" he said. "But I don't give up that easily."

After rounds of talks, he secured millions in a combined loan from several economic development groups in Manhattan and the Bronx for the centerpiece of his strategy—a \$2.5 million centralized cleaning plant, which he persuaded the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and city economic development agencies to jointly sponsor because he promised to create jobs.

The plant, in the Bathgate Industrial Park, will employ more than 100 Kleener King workers at peak operation.

As his company grows, Aguiar credits his parents for his perseverance. The couple moved to New York from Puerto Rico in the early 1950s, and opened Joe's Cleaners in 1956 with \$5,000 in seed money.

His father insisted he work every Saturday starting at 6 a.m. and after school, except when he played for softball and football teams.

Aguiar said some of his earliest memories were in the store. "I was a dry cleaning baby," he said, recalling photos of him sitting on a dryer or atop a clothes bin.

Thirty-five years after his parents' start, Aguiar was crafting his plans for Kleener King.

In the early days, the company was pulling in about \$250,000 in revenues. This year, that jumped to about \$2 million, and he hopes it could grow to about \$10 million in four years.

Working seven days a week at the business has been his routine since his mother died in 1993. Unmarried and without much family in New York, he works well into the evening before trekking home to Bayside, Queens.

"Kleener King is my life," said Aguiar, who for the past three years has been a guest speaker at Columbia University on entrepreneurship and who vows to attend business school one day.

In hopes of pursuing that dream, he's trying to get credit for his professional experiences to help achieve the equivalent of an undergraduate degree.

"I've learned a lot on my own," Aguiar said.

HONORING BEN DIGREGORIO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Ben DiGregorio is that rare individual, someone who has devoted his life to the service of his country, his city and his community. He came to the Bronx when he was a year old and has lived here

ever since. He joined the Navy as a young man and when he was discharged, joined the New York City Police Department. He has a marvelous 34 year career and was named the first commanding officer of the 49th Precinct when it opened in 1985. He retired three years later but was not finished.

Captain DiGregorio was elected to Community School Board 11 and he has served in that capacity for 11 years. But he not only served on the Board but would go to schools to give career counseling and read to the students. He was honored by the Forum of Italian American Educators with their Community Service Award for his work on the School Board.

Ben and his wife Virginia have a daughter, Donna, and two sons, Steven and David. He is retiring from Community School Board and I want to join his friends and colleagues in wishing him and his family all the good that life has to offer. He has certainly earned it.

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure today that I rise to join my colleagues in supporting National Co-op Month. Across Kansas and across the country, cooperatives form the economic backbone of many communities. Co-ops provide power, purchase the agriculture products, add value to the farmer and rancher, and allow individuals to join together in their local communities.

Across the country, over 70 million people belong to some type of cooperative. Since Ben Franklin formed the first co-op in 1752, co-ops have operated with three basic principles: user ownership, user control, and user benefits. It is with those three principles that individuals can work together to add value and compete in a world where mergers and concentration are often the stories of the day.

In Kansas, farmers and ranchers have joined in innovative cooperative projects aimed at moving them from being producers, to being processors and providers of wholesome food products in the grocery store. Kansas' 21st Century Alliance has taken risks to move farmers into grain processing, beef processing, high-volume dairying, and even dry-edible bean processing. All of these ventures have been cooperatives, allowing producers ownership, control, and, hopefully, the benefits.

The challenge for Congress is to support and encourage more opportunities for farmers and ranchers to add value and gain a greater portion of the food dollar. Cooperatives provide that opportunity, and I look forward to pursuing new ways to assist cooperatives as they grow and advance on behalf of their member-owners.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in congratulating cooperatives on their first century and a half, and wish cooperatives success in these and other ventures for the next century.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND
ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 764) to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes:

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 764, the Child Abuse and Protection Act of 1999—the CAPE Act.

As a cosponsor of H.R. 764, I would like to extend my gratitude to Congresswoman DEBORAH PRYCE for her hard work on this important measure.

Today at least 500,000 children in the United States are enrolled into foster care or institutions because living situations are so bad, they must be removed from their homes.

In 1997 alone, there were 3 million reported cases of child abuse and neglect.

The challenge for this Congress was to craft legislation which would alleviate this suffering by our children while giving states and localities the resources combined with the flexibility to deal with the child abuse problems in their own communities.

The CAPE Act meets this challenge beautifully.

H.R. 764:

(1) Allows state and local officials to use existing law enforcement grants for child abuse prevention.

(2) Allows state and local officials to use existing Identification Technology Act grants to provide child protection agencies access to criminal history records.

(3) And what I like best about this bill, is that it increases direct funding for child abuse related services in the Crime Victims Fund—all of which comes from forfeited assets, bail bonds, and fines paid to the government by criminals—Not the Taxpayers!

The CAPE Act is an effective piece of legislation that gives those who know how to help abused children the resources they need to do their job, as they see fit.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed piece of legislation.

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two significant events in the cultural life of my home city of Jacksonville, Florida: the 50th Anniversary of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and the much-anticipated arrival of the Symphony's new Music Director, Fabio Mechetti.

Mr. Speaker, either of these things would be something to celebrate under any circumstance. Coming together as they do, however, they represent a unique milestone for

the Symphony and for the people of Northeast Florida.

Founded in 1949, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra has developed from what was essentially a pick-up group doing seven or eight concerts a year into a full-fledged professional orchestra with a nine-month season and a budget of nearly \$7 million. In the process, it has become one of the finest and most respected orchestras in its class in the United States and gained a new home in Jacoby Hall—the only dedicated symphony hall in the state of Florida and one of the few in the nation.

This season, the Symphony will reach more people than ever before, with the advent of innovative new education and outreach programs, and with performances throughout the state and in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. In addition to the stellar array of programs and guest artists including cellist Lynn Harrell, pianist Leon Fleisher, and guest conductors like Philippe Entremont and Joseph Silverstein, the orchestra will also highlight its own by featuring a number of orchestra musicians as soloists, including concertmaster Philip Pan, principal trombonist Richard Stout, and the redoubtable Charlotte Mabrey, one of the world's few female principal percussionists. In a milestone 50th Anniversary Festival, orchestra patrons will be treated this year to a look at the Symphony's past and a taste of its future, including the sponsorship of the first-ever Florida Composers Competition.

The icing on top of this anniversary cake of great music and great community service is the arrival of the Symphony's new Music Director, distinguished conductor Fabio Mechetti. Born in Brazil, Maestro Mechetti is one of the most respected young conductors in the U.S. today, garnering consistent praise from critics and colleagues for his artistry and knowledge of the repertoire. Chosen as Music Director in 1999 after an intensive, two-year search process, he comes to Florida's First Coast from the West Coast, where he has been Music Director for the Spokane Symphony for 6 years.

Maestro Mechetti, who just finished a 10-year tenure as Music Director of the Syracuse Symphony and was recently appointed as Music Director of the Rio de Janeiro Opera, has also served as Resident Conductor of the San Diego Symphony and Associate Conductor of the National Symphony in Washington, D.C., where his children's programs won the National Endowment for the Arts Award for Best Educational Programming in the United States in 1985. He has appeared as guest conductor with many of our nation's outstanding symphony orchestras, as well as with orchestras in Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, Denmark and Japan, and is gaining acclaim in the opera world as well.

Mechetti and his wife, Aida Ribeiro—a brilliant concert pianist—will be making their home in Jacksonville in the near future, deepening the ties between the Symphony and its new leader. The advent of the new creative partnership between Fabio Mechetti and the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra marks yet another giant step forward for the orchestra and for the cultural life of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Maestro Fabio Mechetti and the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra on a momentous 50th Anniversary Season and the beginning of a new millennium of great music.

IN HONOR OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS, OHIO DIVISION, IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

On May 18, 1949, the Ohio division of The Polish American Congress was founded. The Polish American Congress is composed of individuals of Polish ancestry as well as Polish organizations. The group serves as a unifying force for both Polish Americans and Polish citizens living in America. Taking a positive stand on issues concerning the people of Poland, the group strives to attain a free market economy within the frame work of a democratic society.

The goal of the Polish American Congress is to make Americans of Polish heritage more effective U.S. citizens by encouraging them to assume the responsibilities of citizenship. In addition, the group supports fraternal, professional, religious, and civic associations dedicated to the improvement of the status of Polish Americans.

It is evident that The Polish American Congress has played a crucial role in the Polish Community, and in its many years of service has been an invaluable contribution to the Cleveland Community.

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE
ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had title consideration the bill (H.R. 2436) to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice to protect unborn children from assault and murder, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I wish to express my opposition to H.R. 2436. Since the landmark *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision, Congress has slowly passed legislation that has eroded women's reproductive choices. This is a personal and private decision that should be made by a woman, her family, her physician, and her beliefs, not subjected to increasing levels of government interference.

Rather than being merely a good faith effort to protect pregnant mothers from violence, the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act" is actually a back door attempt to interject government into individuals' private lives. Harsh penalties already exist in thirty-eight states for crimes against pregnant women that result in the injury or death of her fetus.

The overwhelming majority of crimes against pregnant women that cause injury to her fetus occur in cases of domestic abuse or drunk driving accidents, instances that are

prosecutable under currently existing state laws. H.R. 2436 would do nothing to add to the existing protections against these serious and prevalent crimes. Nearly one in every three adult women experience at least one physical assault by their partner during adulthood and drunk driving accidents continue to result in substantial loss of life in every city across the nation. Instead of focusing on purely political measures aimed at the erosion of a women's reproductive freedom, we should be enacting more appropriate penalties, passing measures to promote protection from violence, and increasing assistance to women in life threatening domestic situations.

If the sponsors of this bill truly cared about addressing violence against women, particularly pregnant women, they would have voted in support of the Lofgren Amendment that enacts strict punishments for crimes that result in the injury or death of the fetus without the inclusion of constitutionally questionable language. Or we would be considering the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act that has proven to help victims of domestic violence. Clearly H.R. 2436 is more about politics and less about the protection of a woman or her fetus.

REGARDING THE DEATH OF WILLIAM SALETIC

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, the State of Washington and the Northwest seafood industry lost a valuable friend with the death of William G. Saletic on September 9, 1999. Bill had been a very important part of my state's commercial fishing industry since 1960 when he first represented the Purse Sein Vessel Owners Association. Over the next forty years he became both a leader in the industry and an important advisor to many Presidential Administrations and to all who served in the Washington Congressional delegation during that time.

At the time of his death, Bill had just recently retired from his position as President of Peter Pan Seafoods, one of the premier commercial seafood processing companies in the United States, and one of the largest in the Northwest. While at Peter Pan he found time to not only build the company into a marketing powerhouse, but he also remained involved in fishery politics through his membership on numerous boards, commissions, advisory panels and trade associations. Among these were the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, the Committee for Fisheries of the Law of the Sea, the International Pacific Salmon Fishing Commission, the Board of Directors of the National Fisheries Institute, the Board of Directors of the National Food Processors Association, the Board of Directors of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, Chairman of the Pacific Seafood Processors Association, and member of the Board of the Independent Colleges of Washington.

Bill's involvement in the fisheries of the Northwest and Alaska predates all those who are currently in the Congressional delegations of either Washington or Alaska. He had the chance to assist Senators Magnuson and Jackson in crafting legislation which helped to

protect our domestic salmon industry. In the 1960's and 1970's he worked with the Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter Administrations in negotiating international fishery agreements to balance access to the resource against the need to limit harvests to a sustainable level. He worked with Senators Magnuson and Stevens and Congressman DON YOUNG in the 1970's developing the legislation which extended American fishing jurisdiction out to 200 miles. And he remained active during the 1980's and 1990's as we successfully developed a whole range of commercially valuable species in the North Pacific, species which now provide employment to thousands of Washington residents.

Bill was very proud of his long involvement with the commercial fishing industry, but he was perhaps even more proud of the years of hard work that he put in working toward both a degree in Business Administration and a Masters in History from Seattle University, an institution for which he had a special fondness.

Education was always an issue of great importance to Bill, and he conveyed this value to his six children who were a great joy to him during his lifetime. He will be greatly missed by them by his wife Dolores who, sadly, had only been able to enjoy one year of retired life with Bill prior to his sudden and tragic death.

I feel that I have lost both a close advisor and a friend with the passing of Bill Saletic. He will be missed by me and by all those who had the opportunity to know him.

IN RECOGNITION OF SEAN STEPHENSON'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable constituent and former intern with my office, Sean Stephenson. Sean Stephenson has a remarkable outlook on life, nutrition, and fitness. The following is an article on Sean Stephenson that was printed this summer in *The Suburban LIFE Citizen*, a local paper in my district. I encourage my colleagues to read the article and join me in applauding Sean Stephenson for his accomplishments. I wish Mr. Stephenson continued success in the future.

MAKING A CHANGE—STEPHENSON ADOPTS NEW FITNESS, HEALTH REGIMEN

(By Wendy Foster)

He calls himself Mr. Tiny Universe . . . a fitness buff with a whole new look.

He is tiny . . . measuring in at 2 feet, 10 inches tall. But diminutive stature aside, La Grange resident Sean Stephenson's indomitable spirit combined with his enormous strength of character make him in fact, larger than life.

The 20-year-old was born with Osteogenesis Imperfecta, a genetic connective tissue and bone disorder. Stephenson has a serious form of the condition, which is characterized by bones that break easily from little if any apparent cause.

Never one to let his physical limitations affect his academic, social, or business achievements Stephenson has now set about improving his fitness and health through

what he calls a dramatic change in his lifestyle.

Late last year Stephenson had several experiences that he said changed his life drastically. This started, he recalled, with a December trip to Florida with his family to attend a Tony Robbins seminar.

Robbins is a world-renowned inspirational speaker and the author of popular self-improving books.

Calling Robbins "the world's greatest motivator," Stephenson who has launched his own inspirational speaking business explained, "He's been my hero when it comes to inspirational speaking."

A featured event scheduled toward the end of the seminar was a fire walk. During this, seminar attendees were encouraged to walk across hot coals. Stephenson went in his wheelchair over to where Robbins was helping to supervise the fire walk.

Unable to walk, Stephenson was carried over the hot coals in Robbins' arms. Stephenson recalled, "It was the most incredible experience . . . They were the most intense seconds of my life . . . It felt like an angel was carrying me up to heaven."

Stephenson and his family later had the opportunity to visit with Robbins in his hotel room. Robbins questioned Stephenson about his disability, and then put him in touch with a physician friend of his in Utah.

Several days prior to Christmas, Stephenson went to Utah to see Dr. Robert Young, a hematologist with a speciality in holistic medicine.

Explaining his visit Stephenson said, "He has a different view on medicine. He tested my blood and showed me all of the horrible garbage in my blood from eating wrong. He told me that in order to get healthy and strengthen my bones, I would need to change my eating habits."

He continued, "Every doctor, every surgeon, everyone I have ever gone to has been about taking a pill, a shot, or having more surgery. None of them have made me feel the way that a new nutritional program would . . . I didn't think anything could change with my body through nutrition. I lived on macaroni and cheese everyday. If it was green, I didn't eat it."

After his consultation with Young, Stephenson did a 180-degree turn in terms of his eating habits, becoming an avid vegan. A vegan, he explained, is someone who does not eat any animal by-product.

He has also drastically cut down on his consumption of sugar, salt and foods made with yeast. Stephenson eats tofu, rice, legumes, and water content foods, which he said are vegetables high in water content.

The one-time junk food eater now starts out his morning with steamed broccoli and olive oil on a whole wheat tortilla. Stephenson explained, "It's packed with Vitamin C and calcium and will keep me going strong till noon or later."

Stephenson drinks water laced with a product that Young calls super greens. Admitting that the concoction tastes like "fresh cut grass," Stephenson said it neutralizes acid in the body.

Describing his new eating habits Stephenson stressed, "This is not a diet. This is how I'm eating for life."

In addition to drastically changing his nutritional program, Stephenson embarked upon a strenuous exercise regime, working out for one and a half hours, five or six days each week.

He reported, "It's the best thing that's ever happened to me. I have basically gained muscle mass in massive amounts in a small time."

Stephenson developed his own exercise program on his computer. He now works out with weights, does stomach crunches and

push-ups, jogs in place while laying down, and works out with a speed chair, the kind of wheel chair used in racing competitions.

Stating that most people quit exercising because of boredom with their routines, Stephenson makes certain to alternate his workout regularly.

Stephenson reported that since he started his new nutrition program and exercise regime. "I believe that I'm a lot stronger. When I'm reaching for something, I don't feel like a bone is about to break. I feel more confident. I can now lift my own body so I know I'm stronger."

For the first time in his life, Stephenson said, he has been able to go down the stairs in his home un-aided. He observed, "It's amazing what I have been able to do." Stephenson said, "I was never told with my disorder to work out. I have had hundreds of broken bones. If I had been told to do things to strengthen my muscles in order to reduce my risk of broken bones, I would have done this years ago."

While his ongoing goal is to increase his bone density, Stephenson's long-term goal is to strengthen his muscles enough to enable him to live independently.

In what he admitted is a "wild theory" Stephenson also hopes to decrease the chances of passing on his disorder to his future children. He explained that he feels he can do this if his "body is in the best possible shape."

Stephenson now plans to use his personal experiences leading up to his lifestyle change in his inspirational speaking. He said, "If I can work out, and I have a billion and one reasons not to, then a healthy person definitely should."

Stephenson continued, "Exercising is not just for Arnold Schwarzenegger, it's for everyone. I could always say I break really easily or it's not as if I will look any stronger. I could rattle off a million of excuses and people would say I'm probably right. But I have to put myself at the same standard of health or even above if I want to be judged with everyone else."

Stephenson stated, "I look completely different than the average fitness buff. People look at me and think 'If a guy in a wheel chair can do it I need to get off my duff and do it.' I think it motivates them more than when they hear it from someone who has giant muscles. They look at me and see that even though I have things going against me, I'm willing to get out there and make the best of my own body."

Stephenson concluded, "Look at me, I'm 2'10 and I am in a wheelchair and I have every reason in the world not to work out. But I do. Why? Because I believe you need to use what you were given in life."

HONORING EMILY SANCHEZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, certainly one of the most important things we can do for our children is to pass on our knowledge to them. Emily Sanchez is someone who has done that. She has been a member of Community School Board 11 for 16 years, twice in that time serving as president of the Board. She also served as Board Secretary and chair of the budget, finance, curriculum and continuing education, personnel and zoning committees.

She hit the ground running at the School Board by leading the fight in her first term to

keep I.S. 180 open when the Central School Board wanted to close it.

She did not limit her activities to the School Board. She is also a member of Community Advisory Boards of the Jacobi Medical Center and chair of the AIDS and Support Services Committees, a member of Montefiore Medical Center as well as a member of the Co-op City Democratic Club and the Hispanic Society of Co-op City.

She did not run for re-election to the School Board and this is a loss we will feel for a long time. I want to wish her, her husband and their two sons the very best in the future and say that I and the community will dearly miss her ability and her leadership.

IN HONOR OF UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE PORT OF CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bicentennial Celebration of the United States Customs Service Port of Cleveland.

The United States Customs Service Port of Cleveland has worked hard for two centuries to make the Port of Cleveland a respected and renowned international port. Due to their extraordinary efforts in making the Port of Cleveland a success, the City of Cleveland has flourished and become a distinguished international trade center for the new millennium.

Following in the tradition of the United States Customs Mission Statement, the employees at the Port of Cleveland truly are the guardians of Cleveland's borders, the Nation's borders and America's frontline. For the past two hundred years, the Port of Cleveland has indeed served and protected the American Public with integrity, innovation, and pride. Furthermore, the Port of Cleveland has achieved the purpose of enforcing the laws of the United States, safeguarding revenue, and fostering lawful international trade and travel.

Not only has the Port of Cleveland fulfilled their goals outlined in their mission statement, but they have recently won the Hammer Award for their leadership in bringing national attention to the Express Consignment Industry. Placing the U.S. Customs Port of Cleveland at the forefront of trade processing, the Port of Cleveland is sure to serve as a model to be exemplified by other U.S. Customs Service Ports of Entry. Congratulations to the United States Customs Service Port of Cleveland for two hundred years of hard work, service, and dedication.

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring the Bicentennial Celebration of the United States Customs Service Port of Cleveland.

PROFILES OF SUCCESS HONORS MR. SILVESTRE HERRERA

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. I rise before you today to pay tribute to a man who has been a lifelong ex-

ample of the courage and patriotism of the Latino soldier, Mr. Silvestre Herrera. Mr. Herrera is one of the few Mexican-Americans to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor. In Arizona, Mr. Herrera recently received the Hall of Fame Award at the Valle del Sol's Annual Profiles of Success Leadership Awards. Valle's award ceremony is the premiere Latino recognition event in Arizona each year that acknowledges Arizona's leaders and their contributions.

Silvestre's courageous actions in World War II display acts of great personal and physical sacrifice to support his fellow soldiers during combat in France. Then PFC Silvestre S. Herrera, Company E, 142nd Infantry Regiment, 36th Division, attacked two enemy strong points and captured eight enemy soldiers. He paid a high price for his bravery. He stepped on a land mine and had both feet severed. But despite intense pain and unchecked loss of blood, he pinned down the enemy with accurate rifle fire while a friendly squadron captured the enemy gun by skirting the minefield and rushing in from the flank.

In addition to being a two-time winner of a Profiles of Success award—he first won in the Special Recognition category—Silvestre has used his position as a recipient of one of the nation's highest honors for heroism to promote the Latino community in everything he does. From speaking to schoolchildren to representing veterans in military parades, he continues to give selflessly to the community of his time and wisdom.

Although he has been honored numerous times for his magnificent courage, extraordinary heroism and self-sacrifice, I ask you to again join me in paying tribute to a man who is a symbol of the courage shown by Mexican-Americans during our nation's wars. Please join me in thanking him and wishing him continued success.

TRIBUTE TO UNIVISION COMMUNICATION'S WXTV/CHANNEL 41

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Univision Communication's WXTV/Channel 41 for its continuing service to the Latino community in New York. In addition to its popular news program, "Noticias 41", today the station will launch New York's first early morning Spanish-language newscast, from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute and wishing continued success to Univision Communication's WXTV/Channel 41.

The following article, which appeared in the October 4 New York Daily News, discusses Univision and Channel 41 in more detail.

NEW YORK UNIVISION AFFILIATE LAUNCHES MORNING SPANISH-LANGUAGE NEWSCAST

At the Spanish-speaking Otero home in midtown Manhattan, David Otero doesn't have to think twice when asked about the family's favorite TV station.

"Channel 41—it's out of sight," said the bilingual 27-year-old. "My mother likes the novelas and I like the comedies."

So do tens of thousands of Hispanic New Yorkers who have made Univision Communication's WXTV/Channel 41 the metro area's

No. 1 Spanish-language station, drawing in about 122,625 households—more than four times that of its main rival, Telemundo's WNUJ/Channel 47.

Today, the Univision station will try to grab even more of the TV viewing audience when it launches New York's first early morning Spanish-language newscast, a 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. version of its popular news program, "Noticias 41."

Hosted by Spanish broadcasting veterans Adhemar Montagne and Arly Alfaro, the show is aimed at drawing away Spanish speakers who now get their wake-up calls from English-language stations WCBS/Channel 2, WNBC/Channel 4, WNYW/Channel 5 and WABC/Channel 7.

The expansion of Univision's local news—which recently won two Emmy awards, a first for Spanish-language TV—comes in the middle of a hot streak at Channel 41, founded 31 years ago.

In an additional sign of its growing prominence, the station has several times in the past week surpassed WWOR/Channel 9, with programs like "Noticias 41" hosted by veteran Rafael Pineda outdrawing sitcom "Sister, Sister," and novelas "Soadoras" overtaking "In the House."

Even Channel 2 took a recent beating from Univision when network newscast "Noticiero Univision"—from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.—overtook "The CBS Evening News with Dan Rather."

Channel 41's strides mirror the rise of New York's Latino community. The fastest-growing minority group in the region, which includes the city and its surrounding suburbs, Hispanics account for about 18 percent of the population, numbering 3.4 million.

"New York continues to be the historic point of entry," said Carey Davis, general manager of Hispanic radio stations WSKQ/97.9 FM and WPAT/93.1 FM.

As Channel 41 has stolen market share, its Los Angeles-based parent has prospered as well. Under Chairman Jerry Perenchio—a former Hollywood talent agent who represented Marlon Brando and Elizabeth Taylor before joining the network in 1992—the company's ratings growth has made it the nation's fastest-growing TV network.

A tough-minded manager, Perenchio refuses to allow any Univision executives to speak to the press, once even fining an employee who defied him. Perenchio and other Channel 41 executives refused Daily News requests for interviews.

While it has been widely reported that Perenchio doesn't even speak Spanish, he secured the long-term rights to some of the most popular programming in Latin America, generated by entertainment powerhouses Televisa of Mexico and Venezuela's Venevision, both of which own a stake in Univision.

As a result, the network gets a steady dose of novelas, the extremely popular soap-operalike miniseries that Channel 41 airs in prime time, starting with novelas for teens and racier ones as the night goes on.

One current hit is "Camila," the story of a young woman in a small town whose husband leaves her behind for a job in the big city, where he's seduced by his boss' daughter.

"[Novelas are] a way of life in Puerto Rico," said Millie Almodovar-Colon, a media buyer at Siboney USA, a Spanish advertising agency that represents Colgate-Palmolive and Denny's. "My grandma watched them and my mom watched them," she added.

Univision's program monopoly puts Telemundo's Channel 47 at a big disadvantage, acknowledged that station's general manager, Luis Roldan.

"The novelas guarantee the minds, hearts and souls of the viewers," he said. "We can't buy that programming."

Last year, Telemundo, owned by Sony and AT&T's Liberty Media, tried to strike back, taking old shows like "Charlie's Angels" and reshooting them with a Hispanic cast. "It bombed," Almodovar-Colon said.

While Channel 41 is the leader, Roldan is determined to narrow the gap. Telemundo has been pouring money into new programming recently, and Roldan said he is banking on new shows like "Father Albert," a talk show hosted by a priest.

Even more important, Channel 47 secured the rights to broadcast Yankees, Mets and Knicks games in Spanish.

While Univision is making ratings strides, it remains a laggard when it comes to total advertising dollars. Last year, the station took in \$50 million, about one-sixth the sales of Channel 4.

That's because advertisers have historically poured fewer dollars into reaching Spanish-speakers even though their numbers are rising.

"It's racism and ignorance," Almodovar-Colon contended.

But she added that the tide has been changing for Spanish-language media as the explosive rise of entertainers like Ricky Martin, Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony draws attention to the city's Hispanic population.

Latino culture is becoming "the hottest thing around," Almodovar-Colon said.

U.S. TRADE DEFICIT RISES AGAIN

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, on September 21, the U.S. Department of Commerce issued its regular report on the U.S. trade deficit for the month of July. It should be no surprise to many of my colleagues in this chamber that the deficit has risen again. It has, in fact, grown to \$25.2 billion, a 2.4 percent increase from June.

The U.S. deficit set new records with Japan, China, and Western Europe. Foreign products flood our shores, and there's nothing being done. In 1998, the U.S. trade deficits with China and Taiwan accounted for nearly one-third of the total U.S. trade deficit. The deficit with China alone skyrocketed from \$3.5 billion in 1988 to nearly \$60 billion in 1998, and Taiwan is consistently one of our top ten deficit trading partners.

Nobody seems to notice or care about this problem. Foreign trade becomes a larger and larger portion of our economy. Exports plus imports represent over twenty percent of the U.S. gross domestic product. We ignore it at our own peril. Most economists argue that the trade deficits do not matter. I strongly disagree. Even Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, said, "unless reversed, our growing international imbalances are apt to create significant problems for our economy."

Consequently, huge bilateral trade deficits means lost trading opportunities and ultimately means lost American jobs. While rosy unemployment figures hide the fact that over the last year 422,000 Americans lost good-paying manufacturing job to workers overseas, families continue to labor to make ends meet in low-paying service sector jobs.

While I recognize the fact that the U.S. Trade Representative has done much to im-

prove market access, I strongly believe we can still make significant gains. Consider we have one of the largest markets in the world. Every nation wants to sell their product to us, and we must more effectively utilize this leverage. It comes down to a simple proposition. If foreign nations don't let us fairly sell American products in their markets, we shouldn't let them sell their products in America. We're only asking for what is fair. We're only asking for a level playing field, and we're not even getting that.

This is a real problem, and I submit that with most problems, there is usually a simple solution.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the U.S. Trade Representative to step up efforts to tear down those tariff and non-tariff trade barriers that impede American exports to those nation, especially China and Taiwan. By opening up those huge consumer markets to American products, we can do so much for American workers. Open up those markets, level the playing field, increase American exports, and create American jobs. It's as simple as that.

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the 75th Anniversary of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) of Luzerne County. The GFWC will celebrate this milestone at a breakfast meeting on Saturday, October 9, 1999. I am pleased and proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

Since 1924, the GFWC has been a community-based, volunteer organization representing women of all ages. Early records show meetings held in two parts, the Board of Directors and a Presidents Meeting, which involved club presidents from all over the county in attendance. The purpose of the organization was to bring together the officers of all area women's clubs and consolidate various volunteer programs and projects. The Luzerne County GFWC currently consists of fourteen volunteer clubs representing almost 600 women of all ages.

Many worthy causes have benefited from the GFWC's efforts throughout the years. Federation Day, held in conjunction with Boscov's Department store, has brought thousands of dollars to area social service agencies. In the early 1980s, the GFWC donated almost \$40,000 to the Domestic Violence Service Center to aid a shelter for battered women and children. Other GFWC projects have included supporting Drug Free School Zones signs for all area schools and universities, rooms for terminally ill patients at Hospice St. John, hearing aids for Wyoming Valley Children's Association, a van for Catherine McCauley Center, wishes for terminally ill children under the Make A Wish Foundation, a rescue boat for the Luzerne County Sheriff's Office, and a beautiful new marquee for the Kirby Center.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Luzerne County is affiliated with the national GFWC in Washington, D.C. and the

Pennsylvania GFWC. Consisting of six departments—arts, conservation, education, home life, international affairs, and public affairs—the Federation's structure helps it address the needs of the community and respond to calls for help. Nationally, some twenty-seven million volunteer hours and more than \$56 million have been donated to volunteer projects since 1996. Locally, the GFWC proudly joins in this massive volunteer effort each and every year. This year, the local club joins in the effort to assist our libraries, turning its volunteer resources to the America's Promise program to "keep our library doors open."

Mr. Speaker, the Luzerne County GFWC is an essential element in the high quality of life we enjoy in Northeastern Pennsylvania. These dedicated women take time out of their busy lives to touch the lives of thousands of others. I am proud to join with the community on this milestone anniversary in thanking the General Federation of Women's Clubs and its fourteen affiliates for 75 years of good work and community service. Northeastern Pennsylvania is truly richer through the hard work of these dedicated individuals.

RECOGNITION OF JEANNIE I. ROSSOFF'S 30 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND FREEDOM

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeannie I. Rosoff, President of the Alan Guttmacher Institute, who will be retiring after 31 years of service, 20 of them as AGI's president. AGI, under Jeannie's leadership, has been an invaluable partner in working to protect and promote reproductive health and freedom.

During the years I served as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, and since, I have relied heavily on AGI's timely, relevant and reliable research and on its politically astute staff, all guided by Jeannie, to help advance us towards our mutual goal. Among the many programs that fell under my subcommittee's jurisdiction were Title X of the Public Health Service Act—the national family planning program—and Medicaid. As a result, the subcommittee became a focal point for legislative activity relating to reproductive health policy. During the time my tenure has overlapped with Jeannie's, we have made numerous efforts—some of them successful—to pass legislation reauthorizing Title X without debilitating amendments. We have fought off the squeal rule—a requirement that minors could only obtain contraceptive services with prior parental consent—and defended against the gag rule, which would have prohibited doctors at Title X clinics from providing women full information about their pregnancy options and prevented women from being able to give informed consent to their medical care. We have resisted repeated attempts by family planning opponents to dissolve Title X's categorical structure and to fold family planning services into a block grant to the states. We have fought against the countless legislative attacks on access to safe abortion services for indigent women, especially af-

fecting those eligible for Medicaid. Finally, we have tried to promote a national approach to health care reform, which would have recognized comprehensive reproductive health care as an integral and legitimate part.

Many of these battles, both pro-active and reactive, will certainly continue in the years to come. I intend to continue to advocate for rational and compassionate federal policies on reproductive health and rights, and I know Jeannie will too, even if it is not in her official capacity anymore. After all, Jeannie was here in Washington in 1968, spearheading the effort to gain federal recognition of the important role of the national government in ensuring access to reproductive health services for all people. She advocated especially on behalf of those least able to advocate for themselves: poor women, young women and those otherwise disadvantaged. Indeed, she may well be considered the "mother" of title X, as she was the primary Washington advocate agitating for its introduction in 1968 and passage in 1970. Her innumerable contributions to furthering the cause of reproductive rights have been invaluable and lasting, perhaps most of all to those young women and poor women who will never know her name. And I know they will continue in the future.

For what she's done, and all she's been, I join the many, many others who say, thank you, Jeannie.

IN TRIBUTE TO J. WILLIAM "BILL" LITTLE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to J. William "Bill" Little, who will retire as City Manager of Camarillo, California, this month after bringing it back from the precipice of bankruptcy.

As a former mayor of a neighboring city, I know firsthand how important it is to have someone of Bill Little's caliber at the helm. He is a low-key taskmaster who works quietly and effectively to ensure necessary assignments are accomplished. Eleven years ago, Camarillo suffered a \$25 million loss to bad investments. Its budget was bleeding. The employee pension fund was bare. Then the city hired Bill Little.

Today, the city of 62,500 is thriving. In 1987, the city brought in \$2.5 million in sales taxes. In 1998 it took in \$6.3 million, thanks in large part to the upscale outlet mall and other retail endeavors Bill Little brought to Camarillo. Its credit rating has rebounded. It has money to spend to better the community.

Although Camarillo has long been in the center of the urbanized stretch of Ventura County, meeting planners previously bypassed it for "more suitable" locales. Today, Camarillo is recognized as a fine place to bring the east and west together. Under Bill Little's guidance, it has also become a center for high-tech firms.

Only a person with the rare gifts of both vision and ability could have made it happen. After tightening the city's belt and making it solvent, Bill Little led the way toward rebuilding the city's infrastructure, including a new water treatment plant and police station.

Streets were widened, three interchanges off the Ventura Freeway were added, and the county was persuaded to build a new fire station in the city.

Those improvements made the city much more attractive to commerce, and commerce has responded enthusiastically.

Bill Little is also largely responsible for bringing Ventura County's first four-year university to Camarillo, a facility that will improve the educational and job opportunities for Ventura County residents for decades to come.

Bill and wife Mary will remain in Camarillo after he retires, enjoying the community he raised up from near catastrophe. The city owes Bill Little a debt of gratitude, but he's not one for such sentiments. He says he was just doing his job, but he did it quite well.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Bill Little for proving that the seemingly impossible can be done, for improving the lifestyle for the City of Camarillo and for all of Ventura County, and for accomplishing it all with understated class.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA C. JARRETT

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, each year the National Industries for the Blind selects three of its employees to win national awards for service, manufacturing and career achievement. I am proud to say that this year's winner of the Milton J. Samuelson Career Achievement Award is from the Sixth District of North Carolina. The story of our winner, Patricia C. Jarrett of Greensboro, North Carolina, is one of the most inspirational you will ever hear.

One sunny summer day in 1977, Patricia went for an early morning walk on the beach. Her peaceful stroll was interrupted by a man with a gun who abducted her and shot her three times when she tried to escape. He left Patricia to die in a sand dune.

Luckily she was found, but just barely alive. One bullet lodged in Patricia's brain, a second had pierced her right shoulder, and the third struck her in the nose. When she regained consciousness, Patricia was as helpless as a newborn baby.

The damage was permanent. Patricia lost most of her vision along with her hearing in one ear. She was paralyzed on one side of her body. Patricia even had to relearn how to swallow and eat. Patricia completed the 10th and 11th grades of high school through a home tutoring program. She returned to school for the 12th grade winning the award for "the most courageous senior."

Fast forward several years to where Patricia met her future husband, Doug, at a church retreat conducted, ironically, at the beach. In 1991, Patricia entered a training program at Industries and business skills. She was hired as Sears TeleService Center where for four years she handled customer complaints and scheduled repair calls. In 1996, Patricia was hired by the organization which trained her, Industries of the Blind, as a receptionist and switchboard operator.

In her duties, she greets visitors, manages the switchboard, handles walk-in sales, and

processes mail for a manufacturing plant with more than 100 employees. In addition to her work responsibilities, Patricia has served on the Greensboro Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities. She has been involved in initiatives to improve transportation opportunities for the disabled and has helped plan annual celebrations in recognition of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Patricia was even a 1996 torchbearer for the Paralympics relay that came through Greensboro on its way to Atlanta.

Now, Patricia is living a full life with no time allowed to feel sorry for herself. In addition to her job, Patricia enjoys spending time at home with her husband and their dog. Looking to the future, Patricia wants to obtain even more computer skills and grow in responsibility at the Industries of the Blind.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Patricia C. Jarrett on her national honor. We are thrilled that the National Industries for the Blind awarded Patricia with the 1999 Milton J. Samuelson Career Achievement Award. Patricia is living proof that the human spirit is greater than the evil which walks among us and that there are no limits placed upon any of us despite the hardships we may endure. Patricia's story is an inspiration to us all.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 764) to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong and stringent support of H.R. 764, the Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act (CAPE Act). Victims of child abuse often suffer in silence and alone, and this legislation will help shine light on those who take advantage of our Nation's most vulnerable.

In the State of Michigan, every four minutes a child is reported abused or neglected. Statistics indicate that children who suffer the indignity of child abuse are far more likely to demonstrate future deviant behavior along the very same lines they suffered. Other Michigan statistics show that every 31 minutes a baby is born to a teenage mother, and every two days a child or youth is killed by a gun. How many of these additional statistics are directly related to prior child abuse?

By expanding the allowable uses of grant funds provided through law enforcement grants for child abuse prevention, States will have greater flexibility in crafting solutions to the problem. The measure allows grant money to be used for abused children to testify in court through closed circuit television instead of in person. It will also help social workers, child protective workers, and law enforcement officers gain access to criminal records and court documents necessary to safeguard the future placement of children currently in abusive situations.

This bill also provides an additional \$10 million, increasing the total to \$20 million for child

protective services workers; training court appointed special advocates and child advocacy centers. These child advocacy centers will provide a centralized facility that unites all child examination and treatment services in one place. No longer will it be necessary to go from location to location in order to meet the needs of abused children.

Child abuse represents a present and future threat to the well being of our society. Through affirmative and prospective steps like the one we are taking today, we could minimize this threat. I support H.R. 764 because it is time we in Congress enact legislation that addresses future problems. H.R. 764 does this, and should serve as a precedent for future bipartisan cooperation in Congress to meet the present and future needs of the Nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PFIZER INC.

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today to congratulate Pfizer, Inc., on its 150th anniversary. Pfizer is one of the world's premier pharmaceutical companies, recognized for its success in discovering and developing innovative drugs for humans and animals. In its Lincoln, Nebraska, animal health facility, that is located in Nebraska's 1st Congressional District which this Member represents, Pfizer employs 736 men and women who have helped the company in offering its worldwide livestock and companion animal customers one of the broadest product lines in the industry.

German immigrant cousins Charles Pfizer and Charles Erhart founded Pfizer in 1849. From the start, the company sought to chart new courses. The company made many important breakthroughs and developed popular and effective drug treatments in its first 75 years. Pfizer medicines were heavily relied upon by Union Forces during the Civil War, and its ability to mass-produce penicillin in 1944 saved many lives on the front lines of Europe during World War II.

During the era that followed World War II, Pfizer continued in its search for effective antibiotics. Soon, Pfizer began opening plants worldwide and was on its way to developing into an international powerhouse. Today, Pfizer products are available in 150 countries.

In the 1970s, Pfizer began to devote much of its resources to research and development, making long-term investments that would pay off years later. Those investments not only benefited the company, but also the millions of people around the world who have relied on Pfizer drugs to treat a variety of conditions.

From the first Pfizer innovation to the high-performance medicines of today, throughout its 150 years Pfizer has been driven by pioneers—people who were willing to take risks to make the advances that made history. Today, the company spends close to \$2.8 billion annually on Research and Development in a wide range of challenging medical fields. Pfizer employees, including the 736 men and women who work in this Member's District, go to work each day dedicated to improving our nation's health.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on October 5, 1999 and, as a result, missed rollcall votes numbered 474 through 478: on passage of the National Medal of Honor Memorial; on Commending the Battle of the Bulge Veterans; on the Jackson-Lee (TX) Amendment to McCollum Substitute Amendment; and on the Jones (OH) Amendment to McCollum Substitute Amendment to the Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the aforementioned rollcall votes.

COMMENDING GARRISON KEILLOR,
NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS
WINNER

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a great Minnesota and American humorist, Garrison Keillor. Keillor, best-selling author and radio host of "A Prairie Home Companion," was recently awarded the 1999 National Humanities Medal at a ceremony at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Keillor was one of only 20 individuals selected by the White House to receive the National Medal of the Arts and Humanities for supporting the growth and availability of the arts and humanities to the American public.

During the long, cold Minnesota winters and mosquito-infested summers, the characters of his fictitious small town, Lake Wobegon, make us laugh and remind us of the common human thread that runs through all our communities. And Mr. Keillor doesn't just stick to fictitious characters. With no shortage of raw material, he sometimes takes jibes at us politicians in Minnesota. But we don't mind too much because as Mr. Keillor writes:

"In Minnesota, you learn to avoid self-pity as if it were poison ivy in the woods. Winter is not a personal experience; everyone else is as cold as you are; so don't complain about it too much."

Garrison, I commend you for this great accomplishment. Keep writing, keep telling us your stories and keep us laughing.

I submit the remarks by President Clinton at the National Medal of the Arts and Humanities Dinner as well as a September 30 Associated Press article listing all the 1999 Medal of the Arts and Humanities winners for the RECORD.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT NATIONAL
MEDAL OF THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES DINNER
SEPTEMBER 29, 1999

The President: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the White House. A special welcome to all of our honorees of the National Medals of Arts and Humanities. The nice thing about this evening, apart from being here in America's House slightly before we celebrate its 200th birthday, is that there are no speeches and lots of entertainment—unless, of course, Mr. Keillor wants to substitute for me at this moment. I'll be living down that

crack I made about him for the rest of my life.

I want to say again, as I did today and as Hillary did, that this is one of the most enjoyable and important days of every year to us, because it gives America a chance to recognize our sons and daughters who have enriched our lives, made us laugh, made us think, made us cry, lifted us up when we were down. In so many ways, all of you have touched so many people that you will never know. But in all of them accumulated, you have made America a better place, you've made the world a finer place.

And as we look to the new century, I hope that as time goes on we will be known more and more for things beyond our wealth and power, that go to the wealth and power of our spirit. Insofar as that happens, it will be because of you and people like you. And it was a privilege for all of us to honor you today.

I would like to ask all of you here to join me in a toast to the 1999 winners of the Medal of Arts and the Medal of Humanities. And welcome. Thank you.

ARTS MEDALS

(By Joseph Schumann)

WASHINGTON (AP).—As Aretha Franklin, Steven Spielberg and August Wilson passed through a White House receiving line, President Clinton was overheard telling one guest, "If I could make Keillor laugh, I knew that I had achieved."

Humorist Garrison Keillor, director Spielberg, soul diva Franklin, playwright Wilson, and 14 others, as well as the Juilliard School for the performing arts, were awarded national arts and humanities medals Wednesday, chosen by the White House as American cultural treasures.

The medals go to individuals or institutions supporting the growth and availability of the arts and humanities to the general public.

"It gives America a chance to recognize our sons and daughters who have enriched our lives, made us laugh, made us think, made us cry, lifted us up when we were down," Clinton said at a White House dinner honoring the medal winners.

Earlier in the day, Clinton referred to Keillor—a writer and radio impresario best known for his public radio show, "A Prairie Home Companion"—as "our modern-day Mark Twain."

"With imagination, wit and also with a steel trap mind and deep conviction, Garrison Keillor has brought us together," said the president.

He said Keillor's humor and variety show about life in a fictitious small town in Minnesota "constantly reminds us how we're all connected and how it ought to keep us a little humble."

At a ceremony at Constitution Hall near the White House, Clinton said this year's winners of the National Medal of Arts and the National Humanities Medal "defined in their own unique ways a part of who we are as a people and what we're about as a nation as we enter a new century and a new millennium."

American Indian ballet dancer Maria Tallchief and folk singer Odetta were among the musicians, writers and arts patrons so honored this year.

Odetta's 50 years of performing American folk and gospel reminds "us all that songs have the power to change the heart and change the world," Clinton said.

Tallchief helped put an American stamp on classical ballet, until recent decades a primarily European discipline, Clinton said.

The 1999 winners of the National Medal of the Arts are:

—Arts patron Irene Diamond, who gave more than \$73 million to the arts through foundations and personal gifts.

—Franklin, the "Queen of Soul" who has won 17 Grammys.

—Designer and architect Michael Graves, who created some of century's most admired structures, including the Riverbend Music Center in Cincinnati.

—Odetta, the "Queen of American Folk Music," who created a groundbreaking sound with her voice and guitar.

—The Juilliard School of performing arts in New York, which includes among its alumni comedian-actor Robin Williams, cellist Yo-Yo Ma and jazz and classical trumpeter and composer Wynton Marsalis.

—Writer and director Norman Lear, who created some of the century's most popular television social comedies, including "All in the Family," "Good Times" and "The Jeffersons."

—Actress and producer Rosetta LeNoire, who boasts a more than 60-year career that includes numerous movies, Broadway productions and TV shows, including "Family Matters" and "Amen."

—Arts administrator Harvey Lichtenstein, who was president of the Brooklyn Academy of Music for 32 years and established it as a leading arts center.

—Singer Lydia Mendoza, who brought Mexican-American music to the public's attention and became famous in Latin America with her signature song, "Mal Hombre."

—Sculptor George Segal, who made a career of sculpting environments, including a life-sized bread line at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington.

—Tallchief, who was the New York City Ballet's longtime prima ballerina.

The 1999 winners of the National Humanities Medals are:

—Librarian Patricia M. Battin, who organized a national campaign to save millions of decaying books by putting their content on microfilm.

—Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and journalist Taylor Branch, whose books, including "Parting the Waters: America in the King Years," made him an authority on the civil rights movement.

—New South scholar Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, who founded the Southern Oral History Project at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

—Keillor, best-selling author and radio host of "A Prairie Home Companion."

—Television anchor and editor Jim Lehrer, host of a public television news program named for him.

—Political philosopher and author John Rawls, renowned for his views on justice, basic rights and equal opportunity.

—Academy Award-winning filmmaker Spielberg.

—Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Wilson whose plays, including "The Piano Lesson" and "Fences," explore the black experience in America. Wilson is formerly of St. Paul.

UNITED NATIONS' POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) WORK IN KOSOVO

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call attention to the work UNFPA is doing in Kosovo. UNFPA is helping Kosovo rebuild from the war, improving medical care for men, women and children, making deliveries safer, and providing a full range of healthcare services. While the war is over, UNFPA is con-

tinuing its work to improve the quality of life and healthcare for Kosovar Albanians.

Mr. Speaker, to answer critics who are questioning their work and commitment in Kosovo, I submit the following explanation of their work into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

UNFPA'S WORK IN KOSOVO

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is working in Kosovo as part of the United Nations humanitarian and development effort. The United Nations has set up a civil administration in the province of Kosovo, under Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999. UNFPA is working along with other United Nations agencies in Kosovo and is a cooperative partner in the health sector under the leadership of the World Health Organization (WHO). As in all its programmes, UNFPA strictly adheres to internationally agreed human rights conventions and standards and to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994.

UNFPA'S EMERGENCY RELIEF OPERATIONS

When the refugee crisis in Kosovo began, UNFPA responded quickly to ensure that those fleeing the province had access to critical reproductive health services. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the lead United Nations agency responsible for refugees, formally asked UNFPA to serve as co-ordinator for reproductive health service. The Fund conducted a rapid needs assessment from 6 to 13 April 1999; sent materials, supplies and equipment for safe delivery, safe blood transfusion, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, management of miscarriages, and treatment for victims of sexual violence. Also, a total of 350,000 packets of sanitary towels and 14,000 pairs of underwear were purchased for distribution during the crisis.

In essence, UNFPA's major contribution to meeting the needs of the Kosovo refugees was to supply emergency reproductive health kits and other reproductive health equipment to refugee camps in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and to maternity hospitals throughout Albania. UNFPA procured emergency reproductive health kits to meet the needs of approximately 350,000 people for a period of 3 to 6 months. In Albania, emergency reproductive health kits were supplied to refugee camps in Kukes, Korca and Elbasan and to a total of 10 hospitals and maternity clinics. In addition, UNFPA facilitated the donation of two ultrasound machines from a private company to the Albanian Ministry of Health.

UNFPA's emergency reproductive health supplies included:

Individual clean delivery kits for use if medical facilities are unavailable. The kit includes soap, plastic sheeting, pictorial instructions and a razor blade to cut the umbilical cord;

Delivery equipment—for use by trained personnel to deal with both normal and complicated deliveries, as well as referral-level equipment to be used in hospitals to perform Caesarean sections and to resuscitate mothers and babies;

Sexually transmitted diseases (STD) kit—intended to diagnose and treat STDs and explain how to prevent contraction;

Safe blood transfusion equipment;

Then, in early May, UNFPA sent an expert on the treatment of sexual violence and war trauma to assess the needs of women victims of such violence. Interviews with them showed that a considerable degree of sexual violence had occurred and that there were urgent needs for the treatment and counselling of women, their families and communities. UNFPA set up a training programme for health and relief workers of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working with

refugees and for international and national medical staff in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

REHABILITATION OF KOSOVO

Following the cessation of hostilities and the return of refugees to Kosovo, UNFPA, along with other United Nations agencies, quickly established an office in Pristina, the capital of the province. As part of the civil administration authorized by the United Nations Security Council, UNFPA is a member of the Joint Civil Commission on Health, which is responsible for developing health policy and which includes representatives from the United Nations and from all of the communities in Kosovo. UNFPA heads the Reproductive Health Policy Task Force of the Joint Civil Commission and the Reproductive Health Coordination Committee, which includes representatives of all the United Nations bodies, NGOs and bilateral aid agencies working in reproductive health. The Policy Task Force has worked with the Kosovo Institute of Public Health, a local organization, to draw up a Reproductive Health Policy, which will guide the work of all organizations as they undertake the rehabilitation of the province.

UNFPA'S PRIORITY AREAS

The main concern of the United Nations in the area of health is to help reestablish the public health system in the province in order to meet the health needs of all the people of Kosovo. The overall needs throughout the province are overwhelming, and most of the health infrastructure has not been properly maintained; much of it was destroyed or removed during the recent hostilities. Equipment in hospitals is either obsolete and/or broken, including such basic equipment as washing machines and incubators for premature babies. Many health facilities have been left in decay, with broken windows, useless heating systems, and little or no functioning equipment.

The maternity, obstetric and gynecological clinic in Pristina delivers some 30 to 40 babies per day; it is on target to deliver 12,000 babies in the coming year, which would give it the largest number of deliveries of any hospital in Europe. It is achieving this with one broken-down washing machine and a shortage of sheets, gowns, incubators and ultrasound machines. On particular busy days, it does not have enough cribs in which to put the newborns, even when they are doubled up. Many of the deliveries are premature, born to women who suffered great trauma and stress during the hostilities. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that almost 50 percent of premature infants born in the Pristina Hospital do not survive. Other problems related to the effects of the hostilities are a higher-than-normal incidence of miscarriages and still births, both of which put the lives of mothers at risk. Conditions are equally poor, if not worse, in maternities and health centres outside Pristina. In light of the above, it is essential to upgrade the equipment of the maternity at the Pristina Hospital and in other regions of Kosovo, as a critical first step in safeguarding maternal and child health within the overall context of the rehabilitation of the health system of Kosovo.

UNFPA is playing a key role in the area of reproductive health by helping to assess reproductive health conditions and needs; by supplying urgently needed equipment, materials, and medicines for hospitals, primary health facilities and mobile clinics; by providing training and support for health staff; and by supporting health information and education programmes. UNFPA has begun work with its other partners in Kosovo in drawing up a standard reproductive health-training curriculum for health workers in

the province. It is designed to raise their awareness of reproductive health needs and to provide basic and refresher training in basic reproductive health skills.

The issue of sexual and other violence against women in Kosovo is a very serious issue. UNFPA has sent an expert on sexual violence to the province to report on ways in which the health system and health workers in Kosovo can address these issues in a culturally sensitive manner. Another component of UNFPA's strategy in the area of health, education and community services focuses on mental health, particularly the mental health of women. Violations of human rights and human dignity have been used as a systematic way of conducting war and have left profound scars that may not disappear. Victims of torture or violence, be it physical, sexual or psychological continue to suffer from significant trauma. To provide counselling and to prevent ostracism and exclusion of the victims from their own communities, UNFPA will continue to help strengthen local community capacity to provide care and support to women and men in distress.

There is an urgent need in Kosovo for demographic and health status of Kosovo since the return of the refugees in June this year. Given the new situation, all prior census and other data—if they can be found—are obsolete. All relief organizations working in the province are looking for such information to use in their operations. To that end, UNFPA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) jointly organized a preliminary mission to assess the feasibility of a cluster sample population survey in Kosovo. The two organizations have developed a proposal for a survey of about 9,500 households. The results of the survey will be made available to all interested agencies and to the public.

Therefore, as priority measures for emergency relief and rehabilitation in Kosovo, UNFPA is preparing to undertake three crucial projects in the short term: upgrade the equipment of the maternity/OB-GYN department of Pristina hospital, and to provide basic equipment and supplies to maternities and "birthing centers" elsewhere in the province; strengthen local capacity to identify members of the community who need psycho-social support and to provide care and support to these women and men; and undertake an urgently needed demographic, socio-economic and reproductive health survey of the province.

TRIBUTE TO DARRELL W. OPFER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifelong contributions that Representative Darrell W. Opfer has made to Ohio and more specifically, the Fifty-Third Ohio House District. For the last seven years, Darrell has been the epitome of a public servant in the Ohio House of Representatives. He works tirelessly to represent both Ohio and his district to the best of his ability, and for this we are greatly indebted. On behalf of Ohio's lawmakers and citizens, I am pleased and honored to pay tribute to this outstanding leader.

Born and raised Elmore, Ohio, Darrell has been a resident of Ottawa County and the Fifty-Third district his entire life. After completing bachelor's and master's degrees from

Bowling Green State University, he entered the Peace Corps as a volunteer school teacher, instructing schoolchildren in East Africa. Upon his return, he spent sixteen years teaching high school government and social studies at Genova High School.

Darrell began his political career by serving as an Ottawa County Commissioner for ten years. During this time, he helped form the Ottawa County Visitors Bureau and the Community Improvement Corporation. These organizations have improved the quality of life in his district, as each implemented programs to create more jobs and support local businesses.

Darrell was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives, where during his first term he became known for his bipartisanship. During his tenure in the Ohio General Assembly, he was a member of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Finance and Appropriations Committee, Local Government and Townships Committee and Veteran's Affairs Committee. He was also the ranking minority member of the Agriculture and Development Subcommittee. In his last two terms in office, he was dedicated to bringing about electric deregulation, attempting to meet the needs of schools, local government, industry, customers, and public utilities. Through his career Darrell passed a remarkable amount of legislation, personally sponsoring 30 bills and co-sponsoring 718 others. During his years of service in Columbus, he never missed a session of the Ohio House of Representatives and never missed a vote. In 1991, he earned the Outstanding Chief Elected Official Award, presented by Ohio Training Directors Council. His steadfast dedication in representing his district as an Ohio House Member was only interrupted by state mandated term limits.

Darrell has always been wise counsel to other elected officials and community leaders, quietly building coalitions on issues, bringing various points of view together in discussions, and offering his expertise with myriad concerns. Throughout his years as a Commissioner and State Representative, I have sought his advice many times and know him to be a man possessed of great skill and a wealth of knowledge. He has truly been an invaluable resource for all Ohioans and for us in Northwest Ohio.

Upon Darrell Opfer's retirement from the State House, the prosperity of Ottawa County and jobs for its residents continue to drive his ambitions. After careful consideration, he accepted the position of director of Ottawa County's economic development program. He plans to use his government, utility, and business acumen to further economic development throughout Ottawa County.

Walter Lippman once said, "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on. . . . The genius of a good leader is to leave behind him a situation which common sense, without the grace of genius, can deal with successfully." The work of Darrell Opfer has made out state a better place to live. On behalf of the entire Ohio community, I would like to thank you, Darrell, for your loyalty and service to our state and your district. We will certainly miss your skills as a legislator, but you know that you will continue your dedication to leadership and service in your new position. Good luck and God bless.

COMMEMORATING THE 88TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to a special occasion. In San Francisco we are celebrating the 88th Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of China, known as the "Double Tenth" celebration of freedom day.

The people of the United States have a strong bond with and commitment to the people of the Republic of China [Taiwan] who have demonstrated to the world their pledge to democracy. The Republic of China continues to be a prosperous, colorful nation of peoples and interests characterized by strong economic growth and respect for basic human rights and democratic freedoms.

The Republic of China is an important partner of the United States—economically, culturally, strategically, and politically. It is my privilege to congratulate the celebrants of the "Double Tenth" festival of freedom. I am proud to voice the support and best wishes of the Republic of China's many friends in Congress and look forward to celebrating this historic event in the years ahead.

CO-OPS IMPORTANT TO ARKANSAS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, throughout my district and throughout rural America, cooperatives are the lifeblood of communities. Cooperatives are made up of groups of people who work together to produce results above and beyond what any one member could accomplish alone. Cooperatives embody the characteristics of hard work, economic liberty, interdependence, and togetherness that have defined American business and society throughout history.

In the 1st District of Arkansas, cooperatives provide electricity, farm supplies, and other services and products to residents. These businesses generate economic activity that fuels local economies, while providing savings to local citizens.

For years co-ops have provided great benefits to farms across Arkansas by selling fertilizer, marketing crops, and performing services that otherwise would be much more expensive. I am proud that cooperatives play such a vital part of the communities in my district. It is very fitting we celebrate co-ops' important contributions by recognizing October as National Cooperative Month.

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contribution of coopera-

tives to the economic health of the nation. October, after all, is National Cooperative Month. Cooperatives represent economic opportunity for nearly 40% of Americans who are members of a cooperative. Cooperatives come in many forms—rural electric, agriculture, telephone, credit unions, consumer co-ops and more.

This year commemorates the 155th anniversary of the cooperatives as we know them today. In 1844, the Rochdale Society of Pioneers in England formalized cooperative activity by writing down their principles and practices. These principles and practices are the basis of today's cooperative enterprises, which serve more than 600 million people in every country in the world.

In the United States, about 30 percent of farmers' products and farm supplies in the United States are marketed through cooperatives. Rural electric cooperatives operate more than half of the electric distribution lines in the United States and provide electricity for more than 25 million people. Consumer-owned and controlled cooperatives pioneered prepaid, group-practice health care. Today cooperative health-maintenance organizations (HMOs) provide health-care services to more than one million Americans. Moreover, credit unions have more than 63 million members and assets in excess of \$100 billion.

In my home state of Wisconsin, 2.9 million citizens depend on more than 800 cooperatives to market and supply agriculture products, as well as to provide credit, electricity, telephone service, health care, housing, insurance, and numerous other products and services. Cooperative businesses employ approximately 20,000 Wisconsin residents. Cooperatives provide hundreds of millions of dollars in annual economic activity in Wisconsin and pay millions of dollars annually in taxes.

Cooperatives have a rich history in my home state, with Wisconsin being one of the first states in the nation to enact a law authorizing cooperatives in 1887. A young woman—Anne Pickett—started Wisconsin's first dairy cooperative in 1841, pooling milk from neighborhood farms, processing it into our state's world class cheese and shipping it to the "big city" of Milwaukee for sale.

In addition, the nation's cooperative marketing of livestock had its beginnings in Wisconsin during the 1920s, when local livestock shipping associations organized at rail points to ship livestock to a terminal market.

Mr. Speaker, cooperatives are owned by their members who come together to meet their common economic, social, and cultural aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise. Member-owned cooperatives elect a board of directors who determine its management structure and direction. Cooperatives are everywhere, helping people meet their common needs through group effort.

Like everything else in today's world, cooperatives are changing to meet today's challenges. During this Month, let us pay tribute to the important role that cooperatives have played in the tremendous economic success of our nation.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF
EMILY COLE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Emily Cole, principal of Jefferson Davis High School in Houston, Texas. Ms. Cole has been principal of Jefferson Davis High School for the last 11 years and has been an educator for 34 years. As a Jeff Davis graduate, I am especially proud to join in paying tribute to her.

Emily Cole earned a BA and M.Ed from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. Ms. Cole was the first in her family to earn a college degree. Education has always been a major part of her life. She has worked as a teacher in several elementary schools in Texas, as the associate director of the Teacher Corps at the University of Houston, and as an assistant principal and principal in Houston public schools.

Ms. Cole has spent her career working tirelessly on behalf of all children. She has always promoted what was best for school children, never forgetting that their best interest was her driving force.

During her tenure at Jefferson Davis High School, Emily Cole has made many improvements. The number of seniors receiving scholarships has increased, TAAS scores have risen, the dropout rate has decreased and the number of graduates has grown.

In addition, Ms. Cole has used Project GRAD (Graduation Really Achieves Dreams) to increase the number of college-bound students at Jefferson Davis High School. Project GRAD was started 10 years ago by Jim Ketelsen, former Tenneco chief executive officer, as a scholarship program. It now provides a comprehensive college-preparatory curriculum to students beginning in the elementary grades. Before the program was started at Jefferson Davis High School, only 20 graduates per year went to college. In 1998, 110 Davis graduates enrolled in college.

American historian and writer Henry Adams once stated that "a teacher affects eternity; he can never tell when his influence stops." For Emily Cole, the lives she has touched over her many years in the education field will ensure that her influence carries on far into the future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the career of one of Texas' education heroes as principal of Jefferson Davis High School. Ms. Cole, we wish you well.

RECOGNIZING DR. EARL F.
SKELTON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to recognize the outstanding achievements of Dr. Earl F. Skelton, who recently retired from the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) after 32 years.

Dr. Skelton has made tremendous contributions to science through his research and teaching. He earned a Bachelor of Science in

Physics from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1962 and received his Ph.D. in Physics in 1967 from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

A leader in scientific research, Dr. Skelton has served in many research positions. From 1961–1962, he served as Research Physicist at Benet Weapons Laboratory. In 1967, Dr. Skelton served as Research Associate at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and as a National Research Council Postdoctoral Associate at NRL. He was a Research Physicist at NRL from 1968–1976. In 1978, Dr. Skelton worked in the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, as Liaison Scientist for the Office of Naval Research. After returning to the United States, Dr. Skelton served as an Associate Member with the Laboratory for High Pressure Science at the University of Maryland from 1977 to 1980. The following year, he was a Visiting Scholar in the Stanford University Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory. Additionally, Dr. Skelton was a Research Affiliate from 1982 through 1986 for the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics. Dr. Skelton served as the Supervisory Research Physicist at the Naval Research Laboratory from 1976 until his recent retirement in September 1999.

In addition to his many research positions, Dr. Skelton also worked in a variety of academic positions at several accredited institutions. From 1968 through 1973, Dr. Skelton lectured in Physics for Prince George's Community College. He also served as an Associate Professional Lecturer at George Washington University for five years. From 1975 to 1980, Dr. Skelton was a Graduate School Lecturer at the University of Maryland. Since 1972, Dr. Skelton has been a National Research Council Postdoctoral Advisor at NRL. He has also been a Professorial Lecturer at George Washington University since 1979. Currently, Dr. Skelton is the Adjunct Professor of Engineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Science at George Washington University.

Throughout Dr. Skelton's career, he has received many honors and awards in science. He was awarded seven Research Publication Awards from the NRL since 1977. In addition, Dr. Skelton received the U.S. Navy Technology Transfer Award and the Pure Science Award from the Society of the Sigma Xi. He was elected to the Users' Executive Committee at both the Brookhaven National Laboratory and Stanford University. In 1980, Dr. Skelton was elected Fellow by the American Physical Society. He also received the Yuri Gagarin Satellite Communication Award and Medal.

Dr. Skelton authored or co-authored over 300 publications, and he has been awarded five patents for his research findings. Dr. Skelton has also organized and led a multinational team to create a new beam line at the National Synchrotron Light Source at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

In addition to his scientific findings and teachings, Dr. Skelton has researched and written a variety of pieces regarding family genealogy and other topics. He has published 13 non-technical publications and received the Best Writing Award from the National Genealogical Society.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Earl F. Skelton, has been a significant leader in scientific research for many years. His expertise and leadership have contributed greatly to the field of science

and to future scientists. Dr. Skelton is my cousin, and also a dear friend of mine. I know the House will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding scientist and wishing him and his family—his wife Francesca, his daughter Diana, and his son, Isaac—all the best in the years ahead.

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, October 7, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 12

2 p.m.
Foreign Relations
East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the Perry Report and North Korea policy.

SD-419

OCTOBER 13

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the force structure impacts on fleet and strategic lift operations.

SR-222

Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on S. 1507, to authorize the integration and consolidation of alcohol and substance programs and services provided by Indian tribal governments.

SR-485

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine pain management and improving end of life care.

SD-430

10 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold closed hearings to examine Chinese espionage at United States nuclear facilities and the transfer of United States technology to China.

S-407, Capitol

2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings on numerous tax treaties and protocols.

SD-419

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 167, to extend the authorization for the Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council and to au-

thorize construction and operation of a visitor center for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, New York and Pennsylvania; S. 311, to authorize the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs; S. 497, to designate Great Kills Park in the Gateway National Recreation Area as "World War II Veterans Park at Great Kills"; H.R. 592, to redesignate Great Kills Park in the Gateway National Recreation Area as "World War II Veterans Park at Great Kills"; S. 919, to amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 to expand the boundaries of the Corridor; H.R. 1619, to amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 to expand the boundaries of the Corridor; S. 1296, to designate portions of the lower Delaware River and associated tributaries as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; S. 1366, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct and operate a visitor center for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreation River on land owned by the New York State; and S. 1569, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Taunton River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

SD-366

OCTOBER 14

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings on the lessons learned from the military operations conducted as part of Operation Allied Force, and associated relief operations, with respect to Kosovo; to be followed by a closed hearing (SR-222).

SD-106

Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the devastating impact that diabetes and its resulting complications have had on Americans in both human and economic terms.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 1218, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue to the Landusky School District, without consideration, a patent for the surface and mineral estates of certain lots; S. 610, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management in Washakie County and Big Horn County, Wyoming, to the Westside Irrigation District, Wyoming; S. 1343, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain National Forest land to Elko County, Nevada, for continued use as a cemetery; S. 408, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a former Bureau of Land Management administrative site to the City of Carson City, Nevada, for use as a senior center; S. 1629, to provide for the exchange of certain land in the State of Oregon; and S. 1599, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Black Hills National Forest and to use

funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire replacement sites and to acquire or construct administrative improvements in connection with Black Hills National Forest.

SD-366

OCTOBER 15

9 a.m.

Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine quality management at the Federal level.

SD-628

OCTOBER 19

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 1608, to provide annual payments to the States and counties from National Forest System lands managed by the Forest Service, and the reconstituted Oregon and California Railroad and reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road grant lands managed predominately by the Bureau of Land Management, for use by the counties in which the lands are situated for the benefit of the public schools, roads, emergency and other public purposes; to encourage and provide new mechanism for cooperation between counties and the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to make necessary investments in federal lands,

and reaffirm the positive connection between Federal Lands counties and Federal Lands; and for other purposes.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 1365, to amend the National Preservation Act of 1966 to extend the authorization for the Historic Preservation Fund and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; S. 1434, to amend the National Historic Preservation Act to reauthorize that Act; and H.R. 834, to extend the authorization for the National Historic Preservation Fund.

SD-366

OCTOBER 20

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the use of performance enhancing drugs in Olympic competition.

SR-253

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for elementary and secondary education assistance, focusing on Indian educational programs.

SR-285

OCTOBER 21

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To resume hearings on the lessons learned from the military operations

conducted as part of Operation Allied Force, and associated relief operations, with respect to Kosovo; to be followed by a closed hearing (SR-222).

SD-106

OCTOBER 26

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

To hold hearings on the Real Property Management Program and the maintenance of the historic homes and senior offices' quarters.

SR-222

OCTOBER 27

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings on the implementation of the Transportation Equity Act in the 21st Century, focusing on Indian reservation roads.

SR-485

CANCELLATIONS

OCTOBER 26

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on S. 882, to strengthen provisions in the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 with respect to potential Climate Change.

SD-366