Lester C. Permut, the surgeon in charge of Sophia and Sergei's cases, The Westchester Medical Center is providing its services without charge to the children’s families.

Dr. Permut said that Sophia and Sergei suffer from two of the most common heart disorders in children and that in the United States, the prognosis for such cases is excellent; a 95 percent survival rate after surgery. “In my opinion, it is reasonable to consider this kind of pediatric heart surgery very routine operations,” he said.

But in Russia, children having surgery to correct congenital heart defects have only a 5 percent chance of survival because advanced pediatric heart care is not available there. As Olga Victorovna Ovchinnikova, Sophia’s grandmother through an interpreter: “I was told my child could have surgery in Novosibirsk, but that it was highly experimental and there were no guarantees. Then we heard about this. It was like a miracle.”

It is the first time that the Children’s Hospital at the Westchester Medical Center—one of only about 10 hospitals in the state licensed for pediatric heart surgery—is taking part in the Children’s Foundation program. More than 100 children each day are cared for at the center here, which has the region’s only extensive care and neonatal intensive care centers. Next year, the Medical Center plans to complete construction of its new 257,500-square-foot, four-story Children’s Hospital.

At the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York earlier this year, Anton Kozhedub, 3, of Ukraine and Maria Lucia Miller and Merolyn Roario, infants from the Dominican Republic, underwent heart surgery. Mr. Fugazy said those medical procedures, like the others that have been performed, “have opened avenues not there before and created new friendships.”

In particular, Police Commissioner Howard Safir of New York City and law enforcement officials from the Dominican Republic have since exchanged information that has aided in arresting criminals. And pharmaceutical companies are exploring new business venues in the Dominican Republic. Also, George Steinbrecher, the principal owner of the Yankee Stadium, helped finance a hospital in the Dominican Republic, a country that is a rich source for American baseball teams.

In the latest partnership with Siberia, the most immediate and palpable gain is Sergei’s speedy recovery. A hole in his heart has been repaired and he is making satisfactory progress, Carin Grossman, a hospital spokeswoman, said.

Dr. Permut, who performs about 150 open-heart procedures a year, explained that the wall that should have formed between the lower left and right chambers of Sergei’s heart did not completely close when Sergei was in the womb—resulting in an abnormal blood flow and increased pressure in the artery that goes through his lungs.

Before the operation, the blood pressure in the artery to Sergei’s lungs was the same as that in his aorta, when it should have been one-fourth of the pressure. It has, however, finally begun to drop, but not to the level it should be.

Under ideal circumstances, the surgery should have been performed before Sergei reached puberty because the valve that was already large to start fixing the problem,” Dr. Permut said.

Sergei’s lungs have suffered, although the damage is probably reversible, Dr. Permut said. Without the surgery, or a heart-lung transplant, Sergei would have died usually only into his teenage years or perhaps until he was 20.

In contrast, Sophia is undergoing a correction of a hole between the two upper chambers of her heart at precisely the correct time in her life, Dr. Permut said. Her medical problem is less complex than Sergei’s, although the mitral valve in her heart needs to be repaired as well. Without surgery, she might not have lived past her 20’s, he said.

In interviews last week, Sophia’s mother, Mrs. Yurinskaya, said she had been overwhelmed by the kindness New Yorkers have shown to them and their children.

“They’ve treated us like family,” Mrs. Yurinskaya, a housekeeper at a Siberian factory said, speaking through Dr. Gregory Roszenblit, a director of the department that performed the surgery. Sergei’s bed is littered with toy trucks and other presents from well-wishers.

Mrs. Yurinskaya is able to talk by phone every day to her husband Mikhail, who also works in a factory in Siberia, and to her parents and inlaws. “They were very worried about the baby, and at first they were crying because everything was so bad. But now they are crying because they’re so happy.”

Sophia lives with her mother, aunts and grandmother in a small town in Siberia. Ms. Ovchinnikova, a single mother who works as a housekeeper in a gym, said she talks to her relatives only about once a week at a pre-aranged time and place from the United States, because there is no phone in their apartment in Siberia.

When they do talk (the news from Siberia is that the snow has already begun to fall) the women discuss their new hopes for Sophia and changing relations between the two countries.

“We can’t believe what is happening,” Ms. Ovchinnikova said, “that after all these years of cold war tensions, there is now so much friendship.”

Sophia is awaiting surgery, and since their arrival in the United States, Sophia and her mother have lived in a small apartment here provided by the hospital, so that Sophia can continue to recover from a cold and ear infection.

In the 21st century, the United States has become the patient of the whole world. Operation Lifeline, a project that has provided medical care to Russian children, exemplifies the importance of American generosity to the health care of the Russian people. In 1999, Operation Lifeline will provide medical care to 1000 children from the former Soviet Union, the recipients of Operation Lifeline’s care.

The demonstration project has allowed tribes to transfer more than $400 million to 211 home health care agencies as a result of the Balanced Budget Act. My amendment to the Congressional Budget Resolution was approved and represented the first legislative action on the road to the eventual restoration of some of the reimbursement rate reductions for home health care agencies in last year’s omnibus budget bill.

A number of us recognized last year that much more needed to be done for health care providers and seniors, which is why I am pleased that we are finally debating this bill on the floor.

I am disappointed, however, that the majority has chosen to consider this measure by suspending the rules, barring members from offering amendments. Although this legislation will pass by a wide margin today, we cannot rest on this accomplishment.

We need to continue working to bridge the differences between what is included in this piece of legislation and what has been included in a separate measure in the other body. As with any comprehensive piece of legislation, there are provisions about which I have concerns within this bill and would prefer certain provisions of the bill awaiting action by the other body. While the Senate and we both intend to provide much needed resources to health care providers in our states, we have understandings that are taken different approaches and offered different solutions.

I look forward to continuing working with my colleagues in both chambers and the administration to ensure we enact positive relief before the end of this session of Congress.
Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of my dear friend Mr. Richard L. Krzyzanowski, as he retires from his position at Crown, Cork & Seal, where he has served many years with dedication and distinction.

Mr. Krzyzanowski has a long and respectable history of service to the Polish American Community. He was born in Warsaw, and was later naturalized as an American Citizen. He also received education in the countries of France and Italy. Mr. Krzyzanowski graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Through hard work and loyal and faithful service at Crown, Cork & Seal, he worked his way up to General Counsel, Member of the Board of Directors and Serrate of the Corporation.

Mr. Krzyzanowski was the founder of the Friends of Pope John Paul II Foundation, which devotes its efforts to strengthening the Catholic faith in Eastern Europe in what were formerly known as the Iron Curtain Countries. Through his diligent efforts, chapters have been founded in Philadelphia, West Palm Beach, Houston, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Jakarta and Singapore.

Mr. Krzyzanowski works closely with many charitable foundations, including the Connelly Foundation, established by the late president of Crown, Cork & Seal, John Connely, for whom his admiration continues unabated. He is a loyal citizen and friend to Crown, Cork & Seal, and America.

Through his service at “Crown,” Mr. Krzyzanowski displayed the type of commitment and insight necessary for success, and he will be missed and remembered when he retires from the corporation. Richard L. Krzyzanowski exhibits the qualities of a great American citizen, and it is the embodiment of those qualities which serves to make the United States the bountiful country it is today. I thank him for his service and wish him the best of luck in the coming years.

TRIBUTE TO JACK MAHON
HON. JAMES E. ROGAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, today, on behalf of the 27th Congressional District; the City of Los Angeles; and the County of Los Angeles, I wish to acknowledge the 70th birthday of a true American, our dear friend, Mr. Jack Mahon.

Born John Francis Mahon, Jr., on December 16, 1929, Jack is the son of Irish immigrants who came to my district in the early part of this century. Jack’s parents: John Francis Mahon Sr. from County Offaly; and Katherine Fullerton from County Donegal, came to America and settled in the City of Pasadena where Jack attended St. Andrews Elementary School. Later, Jack attended Loyola High School in Los Angeles.

Jack served our great nation in military service, joining the Army in the 1950’s, completing a tour of duty in Korea during the war. In 1955, Jack married Eileen McGoldrick, also the daughter of Irish Immigrants residing in my district. Shortly thereafter, Jack was accepted to the Los Angeles Police Academy, and embarked on his career in law enforcement which would eventually span 30 years.

Jack worked every division within the L.A.P.D., including the prestigious Metro Division, were he rose to the rank of Lieutenant. Before retiring from the police department with 20 years of professional community service, Jack worked as special assistant to Deputy-Chief Daryl Gates. Jack retired to assume the elected duties as Marshall of Los Angeles County, where he diligently served the community for another 10 years.

Jack Mahon’s professional reputation is matched by his devotion to politics and sports, as he has been a life-long member of the Republican Party, and consistently shoots a round of golf in the 70’s.

In 1981, Jack married Betty Allyn. Since his retirement, Mr. Mahon and Betty have shared themselves between loving friends, family, and grandchildren, while remaining active in their community.

Descendant from his humble Irish roots, Jack Mahon has lived life committing himself to bettering his family and his community. Surely, we are all better off having known Jack.

On this day we not only say, Happy Birthday, but we thank Jack: for his selfless service to God and country, to family and community. Happy Birthday, Jack, and may God bless you.

INTRODUCTION OF DERIVATIVES MARKET REFORM ACT
HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining with the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) in introducing the Derivatives Market Reform Act.

In recent years, over-the-counter (OTC) derivative financial products have become an important component of modern financial markets. They provide useful risk management tools for corporations, financial institutions, and governments around the world seeking to respond to fluctuations in interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, commodity prices, and movements in stock or other financial assets. While OTC derivatives are frequently used to hedge risks or to lower borrowing costs, they can also be used by dealers or end-users to make risky and highly speculative synthetic bets on the direction of global financial markets. The potential for such derivatives to contribute to excessive speculation or leveraging has raised concerns over the potential for OTC derivatives to increase, rather than reduce the risk of catastrophic financial loss or contribute to a future financial panic or meltdown in global financial markets. In addition, the concentration of market-making functions in a small number of large banks and securities firms, the close financial inter-linkages OTC derivatives have created between each of these firms, and the sheer complexity of the products being traded raise serious concerns about the potential for derivatives to contribute to serious disruptions in the fabric of our financial system. The potential for the failure of a market participant to trigger a meltdown—or the specter of a potential collapse of an entire market due to highly leveraged and complex investment strategies was illustrated by last year’s near collapse of the hedge fund known as Long-Term Capital Management (LTCM).

The LTCM affair has underscored the need for regulators to minimize the potential for OTC derivatives to contribute to a major disruption in the financial markets, either through excessive speculation and over-leveraging, or due to inadequate internal controls and risk management on the part of major derivatives dealers or end-users. Today, Senator DORGAN and I are introducing legislation in both the House and the Senate which would provide for certain targeted derivatives market and hedge fund reforms in the aftermath of the LTCM affair. Here’s what our bill would do:

First, the bill would define “derivative” to include any financial contract or other instrument that derives its value from the value or performance of any security, currency, exchange rate, or interest rate (or group of index thereof). With respect to instruments based on an exchange rate, the definition would include the most common type of derivative instrument—forward rate contracts—but would include foreign currency swaps that have a duration greater than 270 days. Securities traded on an exchange or on the NASDAQ futures markets, swaps, and foreign institutions deposits also would be excluded.

Second, the definition of “security” in section 3(a)(10) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) would be amended to include derivatives based on the value of any security. While options on securities already are included within this definition, the amendment would bring equity swaps explicitly under the definition of “security” and subject transactions in equity swaps to regulation under the Exchange Act.

Third, persons defined as “derivatives dealers” would become subject to Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) regulation. Derivatives dealers that are not (1) registered broker-dealers or (2) material associated persons of registered broker-dealers that have filed notice with the Commission, would be required to register with the Commission and would be subject to Commission rulemaking and enforcement authority. Commission rulemaking would focus on financial responsibility and related recordkeeping and reporting requirements, and the prevention of fraud. Such dealers also would be required to become members of an existing registered securities association, or any registered securities association that may be established for derivatives dealers. Rules adopted by a registered securities association would focus on the prevention of sales practice abuses and the establishment of internal controls.

Derivatives dealers that are material associated persons of registered broker-dealers would be required, as a general matter, to file notice with the Commission. Alternatively, such dealers would be permitted to register as a derivatives dealer. Dealers that file notice would be regulated indirectly...