

approached me in the clinic waiting room, she looked harried. But as she got closer, she could see how unhappy I was, and she put her arm around me and directed me to a private room. I began to cry, and she intuitively responded: "You know, scan days are the worst. But whatever the results, we are not going to give up on you. We're going to fight with you and for you all the way." I hugged her and thanked her for hanging in there with me.

If I have learned anything, it is that we never know when, how, or whom a serious illness will strike. If and when it does, each one of us wants not simply the best possible care for our body but for our whole being.

I still am bound upon Lear's wheel of fire, but the love and devotion of my family and friends, and the deep caring and engagement of my caregivers, have been a tonic for my soul and have helped to take some of the sting from my scalding tears.

TRIBUTE TO JIM GLASS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to a good friend and outstanding citizen of Ohio. This year, James Glass will retire from the Wildlife Conservation Fund of America. A political expert and former business executive, Jim founded and until 1993 was president and CEO of the fund.

Jim served in the aerospace field for 28 years as an executive with the Columbia Aircraft Division of Rockwell International. During his employment with the aerospace giant, Mr. Glass had the responsibility for coordinating Columbus Aircraft Division support for many facets of major programs with NASA and the U.S. Department of Defense. These programs included the B-1 bomber and space shuttle projects.

For over two decades, Mr. Glass has been involved in wildlife, soil, and water conservation. He formerly served as a director of the National Wildlife Federation. In recent years he has worked to defend the rights of sportsmen and the integrity of wildlife management in the face of wildlife protectionist opposition. In 1978, Mr. Glass founded the Wildlife Legislative Fund of the American and the Wildlife Conservation Fund of America in order that sportsmen's interests be represented in the Congress, the courts, and in the state legislatures.

As a former president of the State Senate of the Ohio, I depended on Jim and his organization to keep me informed on the needs of sportsmen. During that time, we worked together on many projects.

Whether looking back on his years in business or his many civic activities, Jim Glass should feel the pride that comes with great accomplishments. I wish him and his family all the best in the years ahead.

FDA IS CRITICAL TO THE HEALTH AND PROSPERITY OF OUR NATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, regardless of one's view of tobacco, it is clear that an efficient and effective FDA is critical to the health and prosperity of our Nation. Roughly 25 percent of every American consumer dollar spent is spent on products FDA is responsible for overseeing. Tobacco is not one of those products. FDA clearly lacks any semblance of statutory authority to regulate tobacco products as drugs, yet Dr. David Kessler seems intent on pursuing this politically correct agenda at the expense of the agency's core mission.

FDA's product approval process demands the Commissioner's attention. The backlog of pending medical device applications exceed 1,100. Drug approval times averaged 29 months in 1991, despite a statute mandated time limit of 180 days. Approximately 80 percent of the drugs approved by the FDA between 1987 and 1989 were available in other countries an average of 6 years earlier.

While FDA has been investigating and inspecting tobacco company manufacturing processes, inspections of domestic products and manufacturing plants are unacceptably low. Recent rates indicate that FDA will visit each of the 90,000 establishments subject to inspection every 6 years instead of the two required by statute.

Dr. Kessler may say the agency is improving, but the fact remains under his leadership the agency continues to fail to meet its statutory obligations. In April 1995, Dr. Charles Edwards—FDA Commissioner from 1969 to 1973—criticized the FDA for spending valuable resources investigating tobacco while it is unable to perform important functions within its authority. Dr. Edwards said:

FDA's paternalistic tendency in recent years is, in my opinion, more than bad policy. It is bad management. It diverts limited resources from key tasks and drug and medical device approvals.

And in response to a question, Dr. Edwards directly criticized Dr. Kessler's private crusade against tobacco products. "I feel very strongly about this, that you cannot regulate human behavior. This is really an issue for the Surgeon General." He added, "I think issues like this divert the resources of the Agency—enormous resources of the Agency."

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the President to end Dr. Kessler's ill-conceived crusade against tobacco. Clearly, the Agency does not have the resources to justify it. Further, it lacks the legal authority to regulate tobacco products. It is high time the President directed Dr. Kessler to run the FDA in a manner the American people deserve and that he abandon his thinly veiled crusade to begin our inexorable march towards America's next experiment with prohibition.

PENSION SIMPLIFICATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced a bill, H.R. 2037, which will make it easier for small businesses to offer pensions to their employees. This may not sound terribly exciting to most people, but it has the potential to enhance the retirement savings of millions of Americans. Currently, pension plans are so heavily regulated and so expensive to administer that only 19 percent of small employers—those with less than 25 employees—sponsored a pension plan at all. My bill will restore flexibility to our outmoded and bureaucratic pension laws and thus encourage employers, including both large and small businesses, to offer and maintain retirement plans that are vital to the retirement security of our Nation's workforce.

My bill removes many of the burdens that small businesses face when trying to provide retirement programs for their employees. It will also make it easier for small businesses to provide retirement security for millions of Americans by providing a tax credit for starting a new pension plan. In addition, it removes the complex discrimination rules for small employers and exempts small businesses from the minimum participation rules.

The response from small businesses in my district to this proposal has been overwhelmingly positive. For instance, one employer said "the present law is far too complex, and is a serious deterrent to creating an employer sponsored benefit plan." Another explained that "As small business owners, we wholeheartedly support—the Portman—effort to simplify the employee pension plans, thereby, giving the necessary relief to the many small businesses that are presently not able to participate in these plans."

A local realtor explained that:

I concur that the current complexities, administrative burdens, contributions and distribution rules and regulations tend to discourage rather than encourage retirement savings. . . . When I was in the banking business, we found it a difficult process to properly and accurately establish and serve as an administrator on various KEOGH and self employed pension plans. Small business owners were either intimidated or frustrated with all the complicated rules, regulations, definitions and administrative "hassles" on the establishment, funding and distribution in these retirement plans.

And a retailer in Batavia, OH said, "These are overdue changes * * * we have had a married couple who work for us get snagged for 2 years in a row by the unfair family aggregation rules. Repeal of these rules * * * makes a great deal of sense."

Pension laws are complex and confusing. Since 1980, Congress has passed an average of one law per year affecting private sector pensions. As the rules and regulations governing pension plans have multiplied, defined benefit pension plans have become less and less attractive to employers. As a result, pension plan termination have consistently outpaced the growth of new plans.

At a time when our national savings rate is so low, we should be encouraging private sector retirement savings, not crippling pension plans with more and more regulation.

That is why we must simplify the process to increase retirement security and the ability to save for working Americans. And that is exactly what this bill does.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 96TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION AT FORT BRAGG

HON. CHARLIE ROSE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, on August 17, 1995, the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) at Fort Bragg will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its activation. I would like take a moment to recognize the 96th, which, incidentally, just happens to be the U.S. Army's only active duty civil affairs unit.

The battalion has had a long and distinguished history. The 96th Civil Affairs Battalion is descended from the 96th Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Military Government Group, which was constituted at the Presidio in Monterey, CA on August 25, 1945, and activated the following day. This unit was inactivated on January 25, 1949, in Korea. On May 10, 1967, the unit was redesignated the 96th Civil Affairs Group and allotted to the regular Army. It was activated on August 25, 1967 at Fort Lee, VA. On November 26, 1971, the group was reorganized and redesignated the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion at Fort Bragg, NC ever since. The last redesignation took place on March 1, 1986, when the battalion was placed on Airborne status and renamed the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne).

The quiet professionals of the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) continue a tradition, developed over the past 50 years, of being premier ambassadors for both the U.S. Army and the United States of America. Today the soldiers of the 96th are deployed around the world in Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia, Rowanda, Hatii, Grenada, Panama, Honduras, Wake Island, Cambodia, and Mongolia, where they serve to advise officials of foreign nations in various aspects of civil-military operations and humanitarian relief. Above all, the men and women who serve in the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) help build and strengthen the cause of democracy. For this, we owe them a debt of gratitude.

I would like to extend to everyone who serve and have served in the 96th my thanks and the thanks of the U.S. Congress for your fine work. Congratulations on your 50th anniversary, 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), and I encourage you to keep up the good work for another 50 more.

LIBERATING GUAM: THE UNITED STATES COMES BACK

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend and congratulate the National Park Service for spearheading the production of a laser-disc video entitled "Liberating

Guam: The U.S. Comes Back" in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Guam. Nominated to the 28th annual WorldFest—Houston International Film and Video Festival last June, it was a finalist winner for the category of Best Documentary of 1994.

A special commendation is also in order for this project's supervising producer/director, Karine Erlebach. In addition to international acclaim, her talent and professionalism, has earned her a special place in the hearts of the people of Guam. By resenting the war through the perspective of the Chamorro people, she has focused upon an aspect of the war that has been largely neglected.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate everyone who gave a hand in the production of this award-winning documentary. The educational benefits that this documentary has to offer will surely be appreciated by all those who view it both on island and abroad. I offer my sincerest thanks for making all this possible.

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL'S FIGHT AGAINST SARCOIDOSIS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the important work that is taking place at the Sarcoidosis Clinic at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City.

Sarcoidosis is a very common disease of unknown cause. Though the disease can involve every part of the body, most patients with sarcoidosis have no complaints, or only minor ones. Symptoms include shortness of breath, pain in the joints, swollen lymph nodes, skin rash, fatigue, or fever. And while many patients require no treatment and the disease goes away after 6 months to 2 years, about 20 percent of those with the disease require substantial treatment.

Approximately 10,000 patients with sarcoidosis have been treated at Mount Sinai Hospital Sarcoidosis Clinic since its founding in 1948. Dr. Louis E. Siltzbach, one of the world's most renowned experts on sarcoidosis, originally founded the Mount Sinai Sarcoidosis Clinic, and in the 48 years since its inception, the clinic has made tremendous advancements in the battle against this perplexing disease.

Recently, Mount Sinai has gone beyond treatment with the formation of the Sarcoidosis Support Group. This patient-run group helps remove the mystery of the disease, provides general information, and hopes to generate enough interest to spurn research that will lead to more effective treatment and, ultimately, a cure. As part of this effort, the Sarcoidosis Support Group will be celebrating Sarcoidosis Awareness Month on August 11.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to honor the excellent work being done at Mount Sinai to provide treatment for support for those living with sarcoidosis. I would also ask my colleagues to join me in helping to make all of our constituents aware of this mysterious disease in the hopes that some day we might find a cure.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD J. DESIDERIO

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Leonard J. Desiderio on his retirement as principal of Oak View Elementary School in Bloomfield, NJ.

"Mr. D," as he was known by students and faculty, retired in June bringing to a close a highly distinguished career in the field of education. Leonard J. Desiderio has dedicated the past 33 years of his life to serving the Bloomfield Public School system. He began his career in education in the Newark Public School System, teaching during the day and attending Seton Hall University at night to earn his degree. In 1962 he joined the Bloomfield Public School System as the 5th and 6th grade teacher at the Forest Glen School. After only 3 years at Forest Glen, Mr. D. became vice principal and 2 years later principal. In 1970 he accepted the position of principal at Oak View School where he remained until his retirement, making Oak View School the No. 1 school in the system in all testing and academic achievements.

Several honors were recently bestowed on Mr. Desiderio in recognition of his outstanding achievements and dedication to Oak View School. As a display of recognition for Mr. Desiderio's dedication to the students of Oak View School, the Bloomfield Board of Education named the school's gymnasium the "Leonard J. Desiderio Gymnasium" placing a bronze plaque above the entrance doors. The mayor of Bloomfield joined in the celebration by naming June 8, 1995, the date of the dedication, as Leonard J. Desiderio Day. Other honors were awarded to Mr. D. from the General Assembly of New Jersey, and the Bloomfield Board of Education. These honors reflect the enormous amount of gratitude and respect the community feels toward Mr. Desiderio for his dedication to excellence in education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Leonard J. Desiderio for his leadership and dedication to education. His commitment to service has fostered educational excellence and helped shape the development of thousands of children. It is difficult to know how many lives Mr. Desiderio touched during his career in education, but I am confident that his leadership and good nature will be missed, and his legacy will surely lone endure.

1995 DELAWARE WINNER OF THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I recommend the following essay by Janelle Jones, winner of