

system that's presented is looked at as something that's not enjoyable. So a kid—maybe he does enjoy reading, but perhaps the way it's presented isn't for him. So, he may go away thinking, "I'm no good at English, I can't get it right." But that's not necessarily the case. It may be that the system that the English is being presented [in] the problem. So you need to look at that, it's more than just looking at, "Well, he's just a bad student."

TRIBUTE TO MRS. GLENDA
GRAHAM-HARRIS

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a distinct honor to pay tribute to one of Miami's distinguished educators, Mrs. Glenda Graham-Harris. Her retirement from the Dade County public schools on June 8, 1996, will certainly leave a great void in our community.

She is the daughter of the late Rev. Edward T. Graham, the first African-American ever to serve on the Dade County Board of Commissioners and certainly one of Miami's pre-eminent civil rights crusaders. Mrs. Harris grew up in a family ambience consecrated not only to the insatiable thirst for learning and excellence, but also to the commitment of helping those who could least fend for themselves in their quest for equal treatment under the law.

Heeding the call of service, Mrs. Graham-Harris fully lived up to her father's vocation to serve others. She became an educator. Rising from the classroom trenches into the higher echelon of the Dade County public schools' administration, she was responsible for opening Miami's American Senior High School as its first principal in the mid-1970's. She subsequently exercised other principalships at Miami Shores Elementary School and at Westview Elementary, contributing her resourceful expertise toward the pilot testing of the extended school program and primary education program, two initiatives which now form part and parcel of the school system's curricular activities.

During her 40-year stint in the Dade County public schools, she was known for her unequivocal standards for exacting learning excellence and personal achievement both in the school environment and the homes of her students. Her tremendous success in motivating many a wayward innercity youth earned her the utmost respect and admiration of her colleagues. Her hallmark of excellence was defined by her genuine forthrightness in demanding utmost discipline in complying with her policy on homework and parental involvement long before they were adopted as school-based management activities.

She gained the enormous confidence of countless parents who saw in her as an excellent educator, entrusting her with the future of their children and confident that they too would learn from her the tenets of scholarship under the regimen of a no-nonsense discipline. Her unique approach to educating young boys and girls emphasized personal responsibility and balance accountability. In times of crisis crowding her students' quest for learning, her ever ready guidance and counsel

was one that verged on faith in God and faith in one's ability to succeed, despite all the odds.

During her tenure with the Dade County public schools our community was deeply touched and comforted by her undaunted leadership and utmost understanding of the high stakes involved in the education of our children. She virtually preached and lived by the adage that the quest for personal integrity, academic excellence and professional achievement is not beyond the reach of those willing and ready to work hard and pay the price.

This is the legacy of Mrs. Glenda Graham-Harris. I am indeed greatly privileged to have known her friendship and her contribution to our community's well-being through the acumen of her educational leadership and the timeliness of her professional insights. In the name of the many parents and guardians whose children were deeply touched by her exemplary commitment, I want to thank her and wish her good luck and Godspeed on a well-deserved retirement.

MSGR. ANDREW J. MCGOWAN
HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my close friend, Msgr. Andrew J. McGowan. Monsignor McGowan will be honored for his outstanding community leadership by Leadership Wilkes-Barre, an organization dedicated to fostering leadership in the Greater Wilkes-Barre area. I am pleased to be able to join Leadership Wilkes-Barre area in paying tribute to Monsignor McGowan on June 13.

Mr. Speaker, it is most fitting that Leadership Wilkes-Barre honor Monsignor McGowan, who is one of the most beloved and well-respected individuals in northeastern Pennsylvania. The monsignor has committed himself to the betterment of the lives of everyone in the Greater Wilkes-Barre area. He has freely shared his wit and wisdom which has helped everyone he has touched. Most importantly, Monsignor McGowan's spirituality has been always been a source of strength and faith.

Fifteen years ago, Monsignor McGowan joined several of his colleagues in establishing an organization that could effectively work for the betterment of the Wilkes-Barre community. Today that organization successfully operates as Leadership Wilkes-Barre. Committed to ensuring success for the organization, Monsignor McGowan served as its first board chairman. Upon being selected to lead Leadership Wilkes-Barre, Monsignor McGowan sought effective ways to improve community management. To accomplish this goal, the monsignor helped the organization to structure a year-long class for emerging and existing community leaders, who then educate officials about the needs of the communities in which they live and work. Its curriculum was heavily influenced by Monsignor McGowan's commitment to community growth, understanding of economic development, and an overwhelming compassion for the citizens of the region.

Mr. Speaker, Monsignor McGowan personifies leadership in Wilkes-Barre and throughout

the Wyoming Valley. In addition to his support of Leadership Wilkes-Barre, the Monsignor is the director of Community Affairs and the bishop's representatives for hospitals and colleges in the diocese of Scranton, PA. He has received the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania Distinguished Service Award, and the B'nai Brith Americanism Award. Monsignor McGowan has been selected as an honorary fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives, and was chosen to receive the 1994 Award of Excellence of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania.

Currently, Monsignor McGowan serves the region as the vice chair of Allied Services Hospital Foundation and chairs the Commission on Economic Opportunity of Luzerne County and the Heinz Institute of Rehab Medicine. The monsignor is also a First Valley Bank board member and generously volunteers his time to serve on the executive committee of the Boy Scout of America, the Luzerne Foundation, and the Scranton Public Library. In addition to these and other organizations, Monsignor McGowan sits on the boards of King's and Marywood Colleges and the Catholic University of America.

Monsignor McGowan served as chairman of the board of the Kirby Center for Performing Arts, the Hospital Trustee Association of Pennsylvania and was a board member of the University of Scranton, College Misericordia, and Mount St. Mary's in Maryland.

The monsignor is probably best known for his masterful use of the English language. He is the most sought after speaker in northeastern Pennsylvania and serves as master of ceremonies for almost every prestigious event in the area. For more than 10 years he has been MC for the Pennsylvania State Chamber of Commerce annual meeting, and has been at the dais of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's Day Banquets in both Wilkes-Barre and Scranton for more years than I can remember.

Mr. Speaker, I have always admired Monsignor McGowan for the charming wit and wisdom that he has shared with everyone. Even before being elected to Congress, I had the privilege of working with him for the betterment of northeastern Pennsylvania. Each time we work together, Monsignor McGowan demonstrates skillful and diplomatic problem-solving abilities. His leadership has taught me to be a more effective Member of Congress and a more compassionate and understanding individual. I am very grateful to have Monsignor McGowan among my closest personal friends.

Mr. President, I am extremely pleased to have been asked by Leadership Wilkes-Barre to participate in their tribute to Msgr. Andrew J. McGowan. I am very proud to bring the monsignor's distinguished community service record to the attention of my colleagues, and thank him for his dedication to the people of northeastern Pennsylvania.

HEALTH INSURANCE RELIEF FOR
RETIRED TEACHERS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Representative MATSUI and I are today introducing a bill to provide Medicare part A hospital insurance

buy-in relief for certain individuals who, through no fault of their own, were not able to participate in the Medicare Program and have received no help from their former employers in buying into the Medicare program in their retirement years.

The bill we are introducing is a less expensive variation of a bill we introduced last December 18, H.R. 2805.

The bill will help about 30,000 people, generally retired school teachers and other public servants, whose governmental unit did not participate in Medicare. For many of these retirees, their original health insurance plans have become insanely expensive or been terminated as the pool of insureds has shrunk. These individuals have been forced into the option of buying into Medicare part A. But the monthly premiums for those who buy-in on their own are now a little over \$250 a month or \$3000 a year. For many older retired teachers, this expense can easily eat up a third to a half—or even more—of their pension.

Our bill would provide that after a person has purchased on their own—without third party help—Medicare part A insurance for 5 years, they will have met their obligation and not owe any additional amounts.

Of the roughly 330,000 people who are buying into part A, approximately 300,000 receive help from their former employer or from another source. The 30,000 people who are strictly on their own are the people this bill would help. After 5 years of buy-in, these individuals will have contributed more to part A than the average worker in similar professions would have contributed in taxes. By limiting the payment to 5 years, we provide some measure of fairness and save these individuals from crippling costs as they grow older.

I want to take a minute to thank Mr. Harold Taylor of San Lorenzo, CA who has worked on this issue for years and has been an invaluable source of information. He has been a constant voice of conscience in trying to help older, retired teachers who are facing these extraordinary burdens.

I hope that when we next consider improvements to the Medicare Program, we can adopt this legislation to help a small group of individuals who are facing terrible financial burdens that are not their fault.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT H. BOYLE

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert H. Boyle, a tireless environmental advocate who has pioneered the fight to save the Hudson River from environmental degradation. On Friday, June 7, the Pace University School of Law in White Plains, NY, will honor Mr. Boyle for his leadership in the fight to protect and revitalize the resources of the Hudson River by dedicating the Robert H. Boyle Environmental Advocacy Center in the new offices of the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic.

Mr. Boyle's efforts to combat pollution in the Hudson River and bring polluters to justice span more than 30 years. In 1966, he founded the Hudson River Fishermen's Association, which went on to win the first prosecutions of

industrial polluters in the United States. Then, in 1983, Mr. Boyle founded the Hudson Riverkeeper Fund as a successor to the Fishermen's Association. Together, the Fishermen's Association and the Riverkeeper Fund have won nearly 100 cases against polluters in Federal court. The Hudson Riverkeeper Fund has also been a model for other areas in our country, with "keeper" programs established for Long Island Sound, New York Harbor, San Francisco Bay, and the Delaware River.

Robert Boyle recognizes that the Hudson River belongs to the residents of the State of New York. That is why he has dedicated himself to ensuring that those who pollute the River are held accountable. In addition to bringing polluters to justice in court, he has authored numerous publications on the Hudson, including "The Hudson River: A Natural and Unnatural History." Boyle has testified on environmental issues before committees in this body, and has won a number of awards, including the Outdoor Life Conservationist of the Year Award in 1976 and the 1981 Conservation Communication Award from the National Wildlife Federation.

I know I speak for many here in Congress—and citizens across the Nation—in expressing our gratitude for Robert Boyle's energy and commitment to protecting our environment.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2579

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of H.R. 2579, the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act of 1995. The tourism industry makes up an enormous part of our economy, and in fact, it is our Nation's second largest employer. This industry also generates a total of \$58 billion in taxes for our Federal, State, and local governments annually. The revenue generated by travel and tourism has made it our nations leading export. Additionally, the revenue that's been generated by domestic and international tourists has helped to ease the tax burden for American households. In past years the U.S. tourism industry has grown, while enhancing the economic prosperity of communities and cities from across the Nation, resulting in secure jobs and thriving businesses.

The travel industry has exploded worldwide, to the point where it now employs 10 percent of the global work force. And it continues to grow—at a rate 23 percent faster than the world's economy. In a competitive market like this, the United States cannot afford to fall behind in its attraction of world tourists. This was the impetus behind the establishment of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration [USTTA]—the promotion of the United States for the international traveler, as well as for the tourist at home. The marketing techniques used by the USTTA allowed this nation to dominate and remain competitive in the world market.

In April of 1996, however, USTTA was closed down in an effort to save money. However, the cost of our actions could be greater with the loss of some 177,000 jobs throughout the tourism industry, as well as the end of or-

ganized U.S. travel promotions efforts. Since 1993, there has been a huge decrease in international travelers inbound for the U.S., while at the same time, an increase in U.S. residents traveling abroad. The obvious result of these trends have led to a loss of revenue, a loss of jobs and a loss of our ranking in the world tourism industry. Clearly, since the closing of the USTTA our Nation has suffered a loss in tourism revenue while the rest of the world benefits in an increase in tourism.

New York State alone generated \$4.8 billion in tax revenue collected from international and domestic tourists, in 1993. Along with the revenue generated, there are 357,000 New York jobs that are supported by these tourists. Obviously, the tourism industry is an important source of revenue for the State of New York, collecting 11 percent of the \$58 billion generated in the United States overall from the international traveler.

Simply put, we need to attract international tourists back to the beautiful sites our country has to offer, while steering them toward use of U.S. companies. This is why I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2579—already cosponsored by a bipartisan group of 246 Members—to establish a U.S. National Tourist Organization. The organization will advise the President and Congress on policies that will increase U.S. competitiveness in the global arena, in the hopes of alluring the international tourist to the United States, and the American tourist back home.

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE INSURANCE PROTECTION ACT

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Victims of Domestic Abuse Insurance Protection Act." The purpose of this legislation is to protect those individuals who are survivors of abuse from being penalized by their insurance companies for injuries that they have not brought upon themselves.

Recently, it has come to light that some insurance companies routinely deny emergency room care, increase premiums, and refuse to issue insurance policies of all types to survivors of domestic violence. Denying insurance coverage and refusing to pay emergency room visits only compounds a victim's problems. Domestic violence is a national problem, and we should not allow discriminatory practices by insurance companies and their underwriters make a victim's circumstances worse.

Specifically, "the Victims of Domestic Abuse Insurance Protection Act" would prohibit insurance companies from denying, refusing to issue or reissue, canceling, or denying the payment of a claim based on incidents of domestic violence.

As the former Insurance Commissioner of North Dakota, I was taken-back when I learned of this practice, and while there is no record—to my knowledge—of denials or cancellations occurring in North Dakota—there is insurance discrimination of this nature occurring in other states.

In fact, the Pennsylvania State Insurance Commissioner surveyed company practices in Pennsylvania and found that 26% of the respondents acknowledged that they considered