

planning and training of the local work force. While our people need time to develop the sewing skills needed to be competitive on a worldwide basis, we are very good at cutting—regularly meeting or exceeding the quantitative standards.

To take advantage of our cutting skills, the existing garment manufacturing company is proposing a three-phase expansion. The expansion plans call for the construction of an enlarged cutting facility where fabric of U.S. origin will be cut, a dye plant in which grey goods or pre-dyed fabric of U.S. origin will be dyed and a knitting facility where yarn of U.S. origin will be knit into fabric.

This will be good for the U.S. textile industry—in American Samoa and on the mainland. We estimate that an additional \$5 to \$7 million can be generated for the mainland U.S. textile industry if the expansion goes forward as planned. In addition, sewing capacity in American Samoa will increase in order to handle the larger output of material. The total required work force after 3 to 5 years is estimated to be in the range of 2,000 persons.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very small number in U.S. mainland terms, but it is of great significance on an island whose population totals 60,000 people.

It now appears that a recent change in U.S. Customs regulations will jeopardize our infant garment industry and its future growth. As of July 1, 1996, garments produced almost entirely in American Samoa lose their previous Customs treatment even if only a relatively small portion of the production process is performed in a foreign country.

The garment company doing business in American Samoa would like to import United States yarn to American Samoa, knit or weave it in American Samoa, dye it in American Samoa, cut it in American Samoa, use what the plant in American Samoa can sew, ship only the excess out to another country for sewing, bring it back to American Samoa for final assembly and packaging and have the finished goods enter the United States as products of the United States.

This was possible under the old regulations; under the new regulations which took effect on July 1st of this year, this can no longer be done. It does not make good business sense for this company to expand as it is proposing in American Samoa unless this expansion is economically feasible. The legislation I am introducing today, if enacted into law, would grandfather the nascent American Samoa garment industry under the old rules, enabling the industry to operate successfully in American Samoa and allowing the existing company to build a larger production facility and finance an orderly expansion.

I believe that this legislation is reasonable and fair and in the best interest of the U.S. textile industry as a whole and the U.S. territories in particular.

My legislation is limited in scope and will merely preserve the old country of origin rules for garment producers in American Samoa.

My legislation will help other manufacturing companies who may contemplate locating in American Samoa.

This industry is already providing more than 400 new local jobs in American Samoa, and will provide hundreds more if the expansion plans can be implemented. The infant industry and its future growth are at stake.

This is an important test case which will prove whether or not new export industries

can be successful in American Samoa. The implications of the success, or failure, of the expansion project are critical for the economic future of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the experience of the people of American Samoa is a good example of the difficulties the United States territories face in attracting businesses to invest in our economies.

American Samoa's economy has been hampered by our isolation from world markets and world shipping lanes. We have relied on incentives such as the possessions tax credit and the advantages offered under General Note 3(a) of the Harmonized Trade Agreement to help attract the outside investment our economy needs to grow, but those incentives are disappearing.

Over time, the advantages of doing business in the U.S. territories may be outweighed by the emergence of low-cost alternatives engendered by NAFTA and GATT/WTO policies. Countries with lower wage scales, such as Mexico and others in Central America and the Far East, could lure business away from the United States.

Under our analysis, sewing in higher wage countries will continue to be reduced, and there may not be a domestic U.S. sewing industry in ten years. I believe that this legislation will better position the United States to keep as much of the industry in U.S. hands as possible, and I look forward to seeing this bill enacted into law.

SALUTING THE GOODSPEED OPERA

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute yet another achievement of the Goodspeed Opera House and its executive director, Michael Price.

"By Jeeves," a musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Alan Ayckborn, will appear at the Norma Terris Theater in Chester, CT in October. The work, inspired by the P.G. Wodehouse stories about Jeeves the butler, will be yet another feather in the cap for the Goodspeed, a theatre dedicated to the development and preservation of musical theatre.

The Goodspeed is the Tony award winning house where "Annie" and "Shenandoah" premiered over 20 years ago. Since that time, the theatre has sent more than a dozen new shows to Broadway, including last year's hit "Swinging on a Star."

The Goodspeed currently maintains two separate houses, the 398 seat main stage in East Haddam, as well as the 200-seat Norma Terris in Chester. The Goodspeed-at-Chester is a unique place developing new musicals and nurturing emerging artists. These artists have a space at Goodspeed where they can develop their work and get ready for commercial audiences without the commercial pressure of Broadway.

Musical theatre is a uniquely American art form. The spaces that Goodspeed provide to artists and theatre patrons alike are an invaluable asset to the cultural life of the United States and eastern Connecticut in particular.

And so I congratulate Mr. Price and everyone else on the "By Jeeves" team. Thank you

for your work and the enjoyment you have brought me and thousands of others.

A TRIBUTE TO PALMER VINEYARDS OF AQUEBOGUE, LONG ISLAND

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Palmer Vineyards of Aquebogue, on Long Island's North Fork, a winery of international renown that is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its first vintage this year. In this decade of excellence, Palmer vineyards has established itself as perhaps the most distinguished winery in what is becoming one of the world's preeminent wine producing regions.

It was in 1983 when Lorraine and Robert Palmer planted the first vines on their 62 acres of farm land along Sound Avenue in Aquebogue and 3 years later, the first vintage was produced. The following year, Palmer Vineyards earned its first award medals in a professional tasting competition. Today, after a decade of unmatched distinction, Palmer wines are enjoyed throughout the world and have become the most widely distributed of Long Island's many celebrated vintages.

In its first decade, Palmer Vineyards has garnered an impressive host of national and international awards in competition against the world's best vintners. These awards include 45 gold medals and six double golds, 115 silver medals and countless bronze citations. Among the top achievers is Palmer's Chardonnay, which has earned double gold medals at the San Francisco National Wine Fair and the New York Wine Classic for 2 consecutive years. Equally impressive is the nine gold medals, including two double golds, that Palmer's 1994 Select Harvest Gewurztraminer has been awarded.

Palmer Vineyards' phenomenal success is mostly attributable to the superior quality of its wines, but much credit is due to the aggressive and skilled marketing efforts of Robert Palmer and his dedicated staff. Marketed in 23 States, including California, Palmer wines are also available throughout Canada, the United Kingdom, and much of Europe. Palmer's Merlot is served on all of American Airlines' first class transcontinental flights, its Chardonnay was selected as the official wine of the U.S. Golf Open and Palmer Wines are the only Long Island wines available at Disney's Epcot Center.

The prosperity and growth of Palmer Vineyards over the last decade parallel the fortunes of Long Island's entire East End wine country. Many of the world's great wine regions have been producing vintages since the Middle Ages, but the first grape vines were planted on the East End just 24 years ago. Today, the Long Island wine industry has expanded to include 40 vineyards that grow grapes on approximately 1,400 acres. Seventeen of those vineyards also make their own wine, producing 120,000 cases of wine and \$15 to \$20 million in sales annually. More than 200 full-time workers are employed in Long Island's wine industry.

The East End's success as a wine region is attributable to its ideal growing conditions. The

loamy top soil and supporting sandy layer below provide a perfect base from which to grow vines. With an average growing season of 210 days, the Atlantic Ocean's moderating influences provide the East End with near perfect weather for growing grapes. Relatively mild winters help sustain vine growth, while the cool ocean breezes help temper summer's harsh heat.

As impressive as the industry's growth has been, the peripheral benefits of Long Island's still nascent wine industry are just as valuable. Though not as quantifiable, the impact the wineries have on the local tourism trade, the goods and services they purchase from local merchants, and the role the industry plays in marketing Long Island to the world are invaluable to the entire region.

On Sunday, July 14, Robert Palmer and Palmer Vineyards will commemorate its 10th anniversary with a special celebration at the winery's classically designed tasting house, an old English pub that was imported from Britain and rebuilt by Robert Palmer. To mark the event, Palmer will be releasing its special reserve 10th anniversary wine. Specially crafted by winemaker Dan Kleck, the special reserve is a limited production release made from select Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Pinot Blanc grapes. Like the many fine Palmer vintages before it, the special reserve is destined to earn the honors and admiration of the judges and public alike.

Here's to the second 10 years of excellent wine at Palmer Vineyards.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD VARLEY
FOR HIS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE
AS A FIREMAN

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I rise today to express my congratulations to Edward Varley for his 50 years of dedicated service to the Washington, CT, Volunteer Fire Department.

The Washington Volunteer Fire Department was chartered in 1926 and on July 10, 1946, Edward Varley began what was to be the longest service of a volunteer fireman the town of Washington has ever had. As the first member of the fire department to earn this achievement, Mr. Varley deserves our praise and our gratitude for the courage he has displayed, putting his life on the line in situations where the risk was high. Mr. Varley also served his department as fire chief in 1965–1966. The community is forever indebted to him for his outstanding service throughout the last 50 years. The citizens of Washington can rest easier knowing that their homes, businesses, and loved ones are safe thanks to thoughtful neighbors like Edward Varley.

Today, I congratulate Edward Varley for his 50 years of service and I commend him on his dedication to his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT L.
DEMMONS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Robert L. Demmons for 22 years of dedicated service in the San Francisco Fire Department which culminated in his appointment as chief of the department on January 16, 1996.

The importance of his appointment goes beyond the fact that Chief Demmons is the first African-American to hold this position in San Francisco. What makes his appointment momentous is that Chief Demmons was the tenacious force behind the original complaint that brought about the consent decree which mandates the elimination of discriminatory practices and promotes the integration of minorities and women within the entry-level and promotional ranks of the San Francisco Fire Department. There are only a handful of men and women who challenge a system and are then given the privilege to rectify that process. I have no doubt that under Chief Demmons' leadership, both recruitment and the promotional system will meet or exceed the standards of the consent decree. I commend Mayor Willie Brown on this appointment.

Chief Demmons has devoted himself to improving the personnel practices of the fire department. When he served as the chief of management services, he ran two extraordinary recruitment drives. He also improved the EEOC complaint process which safeguards the rights of employees.

Chief Demmons has received numerous awards for his leadership in the fire department and in the community. One award that I would like to mention was the Meritorious Heroism Award that he received from the department. In 1985 when he was a lieutenant at the 33d Engine Company in Ingleside, he and another member of the department rescued a woman from a burning building and brought her outside to safety.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Demmons has demonstrated his courage both in the field and by his efforts to reform the system. I know that you will join with me in saluting him for the contributions he has made and will continue to make to the citizens of San Francisco.

THE SAFE MEDICATIONS FOR THE
ELDERLY ACT [SMEA]

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, each year tens of thousands of preventable health complications arise from inappropriate prescription drug use, costing billions annually. Yesterday, I introduced the Safe Medications for the Elderly Act or SMEA, a bill that seeks to correct this problem of inappropriate prescription drug use.

Over the course of the last year, I have worked on a solution to this problem. In an effort to curb the number of seniors being hospitalized or seriously injured—sometimes leading to death—SMEA shifts the emphasis of

pharmaceutical care from pharmacists who need to dispense drugs as rapidly as possible to pharmacists who will sit down with an elderly individual and provide adequate consultations with specific medications.

As health care enters the 21st century, it is time to empower pharmacists and encourage them to play a greater role in health care delivery. Some pharmacists are currently spending the time necessary to improve patient compliance, but many are not.

Senior citizens have special needs that require additional attention when it comes to taking prescription drugs. Pharmacists can be an important component of the health care puzzle making a significant difference in seniors lives.

SMEA provides senior citizens with Medicare coverage for carefully targeted pharmaceutical care services including: vaccine administration, consultation with physicians, and consultation with patients to improve prescription drug compliance. Pharmacists only receive compensation if they achieve results.

Numerous studies have confirmed the problems and high costs associated with inappropriate drug use, especially among senior citizens who are particularly vulnerable due to their higher rate of prescription drug usage for multiple health problems.

Last year, the General Accounting Office [GAO] report that hospitalizations due to inappropriate prescription drug use cost about \$20 billion according to FDA estimates. The report added that inappropriate use of prescription drugs is a "potential health problem that is particularly acute for the elderly."

Another study cited in the Archives of Internal Medicine in October 1995, stated that:

Prescription-drug related problems—often caused by patients not taking their drugs properly—cost an estimated \$76.6 billion in medical bills and cause 119,000 deaths a year.

A recent Wall Street Journal article (April 12, 1996, by Frank Bass) reported that a program under the H-E-B Grocery Co. and Nueces County's Memorial Medical Center in south Texas found that "pharmacist counseling can both benefit chronically ill patients and reduce health-care costs." The Wall Street Journal cited an H-E-B spokesman saying that "among the people in the program, emergency-room trips have declined 23 percent, hospital admissions 33 percent, and physicians visits 41 percent."

These are just a few of the studies and stories that exist to illustrate the problems that the elderly encounter with prescription drug misuse and positive benefits of proper pharmacist counseling.

Under the vaccine administration provision, pharmacists would be compensated for administering certain vaccines to elderly individuals. This would only apply to States where pharmacists are authorized to provide such services. Typically, States with large rural populations certify pharmacists for vaccine administration, because in many instances, a pharmacist is the most accessible health care provider in a rural community.

SMEA would provide one more opportunity for seniors to receive preventive medicine—a simple vaccine—that can save lives and Medicare dollars. Vaccines have a proven record as a cost savings to the health care system.

The second section of SMEA involves physician consultations. A pharmacist would only be reimbursed when consulting a physician about a senior citizen's prescription drug regimen which resulted in the physician taking action on the pharmacist's advice. In other