

have traditionally lacked extensive medical and health services.

With a mission to improve the quality of life for Medicaid recipients and other medically underserved citizens by elevating their health status, MHS, under Ms. Clark's stewardship, has designed a health plan that seeks to increase its members' utilization of services by helping them foster a relationship with a primary care physician, educating them about the importance of wellness and preventive care and offering them a series of creative outreach and case management programs.

Ms. Clark brings extensive experience in health care management to MHS. A graduate of Rider College and the Columbia School of Business, Ms. Clark was senior vice president for Healthcare Management Alternatives [HMA], an innovative inner-city health plan in Philadelphia, from 1989 to 1993. At HMA, Ms. Clark was responsible for quality assurance, utilization review, and provider relations for approximately 85,000 residents of South and West Philadelphia.

Prior to joining HMA, Ms. Clark served at Travelers Health Network of New York from 1987 to 1989, initially as director of operations and provider relations and then as executive director. As executive director, she was responsible for development and maintenance of the provider network for the Travelers' managed health care division in Metropolitan New York and northern New Jersey.

Ms. Clark has also exemplified her pioneering spirit through prior positions with such companies as Whittaker Health Services, Interracial Council for Business Opportunity, Managed Health Plan, Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York, Manhattan Health Plan, and Lancaster & Co.

As a shining beacon of hope, Karen Clark has made a difference through her tireless undaunted mission to improve the health of urban communities faced with diminished resources. I am pleased to introduce her to my House colleagues.

THE JOHNSTOWN ASSOCIATION OF LIFE UNDERWRITERS 75TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity before the House to congratulate the men and women of the Johnstown Association of Life Underwriters on its 75th anniversary.

JALU was founded in 1921. Since that time it has been a dedicated community service-oriented organization, coordinating numerous public service efforts over the years with the Salvation Army, the St. Vincent DePaul food banks, and New Day.

The organization, whose members are from Cambria, Somerset, and Bedford Counties in my home State of Pennsylvania, has won numerous national and state awards for public service throughout its existence. For the past 3 years, the JALU has been working to raise funds to establish the first scholarship fund for Cambria County Area Community College.

One of the most notable activities in which they engage annually is hosting a summer pic-

nic for underprivileged children. It means so much to those kids to know that these adults care about them—it makes such an impact on those young lives that I can't emphasize enough its importance. It's that kind of involvement in the community that we need more of and I want to applaud and thank this organization for its service in that regard.

I also want to applaud their tenacity in the face of economic hardship and corporate downsizing within the insurance industry because they've been able to keep their agencies open and continue to provide the kind of professional service the area needs and has come to rely on.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my daughter and son-in-law, Angela McDonald Thomas and Juan Demeris Thomas, on the birth of their child, my new granddaughter, Ramia Regina McDonald Thomas. Ramia was born on Tuesday, July 23, 1996, at 10:07 p.m. at the Sutter Roseville Hospital in Roseville, CA, weighing 8 lbs., 4 oz., and 20.5 inches in length.

The relationship between grandmother and grandchild is a special one and the bond between grandmother and granddaughter is one that has been cherished by millions of women around the world. I shall love Ramia and cherish every moment that we spend together. I shall do my best to provide her with the benefit of whatever knowledge that I have gained over the years. I will share with her many good experiences, as well as those that I wish to forget and hopefully be a bridge to our family's past. Once Ramia is armed with the knowledge of her forebears, she can chart a course for her future.

In Africa, a family's wealth was judged by the number of children and grandchildren they had. By my heritage, I am a wealthy woman. I have five wonderful children, Valerie, Angela, Sherryl, Keith, my daughter-in-law Lori Blair McDonald, and son-in-law Juan Demeris Thomas of whom I am proud. They have blessed me with Ayanna Damaris McDonald Thomas, Myles Chandler Millender McDonald, Diamond Sequoia Short (adopted), and new Ramia, four wonderful grandchildren. My husband Jim and I thank God for each and every one of them and we will love them for as long as they shall live.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO CLINICAL TRIALS FOR ENROLLEES OF FEDERAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two bills to give Americans covered by Federal health insurance programs access to peer-reviewed clinical trials when no standard therapies are available to treat their very serious medical conditions.

The first bill would require the Medicare, Federal employee and military health plans, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to cover the medical costs associated with the clinical investigation. In addition, the bill ensures that Federal matching funds under Medicaid would be available to States electing to cover clinical trials in their Medicaid programs. Finally, the bill requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make available information about on-going clinical investigations and the results of those studies.

The second bill is limited to a Medicare demonstration project covering clinical trials for cancer treatment.

Both bills stipulate that the Federal Government is only to pay for routine medical costs associated with the patient's treatment, such as hospital room and board, and radiology and laboratory services to monitor the patient's condition. The Federal Government would not be paying for the cost of the investigational agent itself.

Tragically, many patients must turn down these opportunities because they cannot afford to pay the routine costs associated with the clinical trial—a terrible irony, in my opinion, as these plans will cover the same medical treatment if it were provided as part of standard medical therapy.

Until a new therapy, technique or device is proven, many private payers of health care will cover the patient's medical costs. Therefore, I am pleased that one of my home State insurers, Aetna, has been a leader in working with researchers to pay some of the costs of patients enrolled in clinical studies. Such access gives these patients hope that their medical conditions may be improved or even cured, when no other door is open to them.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government already funds potentially life-saving clinical research every year, but bringing breakthroughs into standard medical practice requires these investigations. These initiatives back up the Federal Government's investment in the basic research with financial backing to bring these promises to fruition.

REPEAL OF THE BEER TAX

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which would reduce the excise tax on beer from \$18 to \$9 a barrel. The Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1990 doubled the excise tax on beer to \$18 a barrel. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 included provisions commonly referred to as "luxury taxes" on high-priced items such as boats, furs, and automobiles. All of these luxury taxes have been reviewed by Congress. For example, today we passed the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 which includes a phaseout of the luxury automobile excise tax. The automobile excise tax is the last luxury tax still in effect.

I believe it is time for Congress to look at a repeal of the beer tax. The tax increase of 1990 doubled the tax on beer. Currently, consumers pay 32.6 cents per six pack. This legislation would reduce the tax to 16.3 cents a six pack. The beer tax is an example of an excise tax which affects the average working American.

Congress has repealed and reviewed the luxury taxes which mostly affect the wealthiest of all Americans. We should now review a repeal of the increase on the excise tax on beer. This type of excise tax is regressive and it affects the average American. If we can repeal excise taxes on items that affect the wealthy, we should look at items that affect the average working person. Forty-three percent of the cost of beer is taxes. This is simply too high.

Lately, there has been a lot of talk about tax reform and tax fairness. Repealing the excise tax on beer would help make the Tax Code more fair. Mr. Speaker, I urge Congress to take another look at the beer tax.

SALUTE TO THE NATIONAL STEINBECK CENTER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bestow congressional recognition on the National Steinbeck Center, a national cultural institution located in Salinas, CA, in the heart of my congressional district. The city of Salinas is John Steinbeck's hometown and the Salinas Valley is the setting for some of Steinbeck's most powerful writings. It is only fitting, then, that a national center be located in Salinas, dedicated to the preservation of the art of John Steinbeck and to the celebration of his works and ideas through a variety of historical exhibits and cultural programs.

John Steinbeck was one of our Nation's greatest authors, a native son of California, Pulitzer Prizewinner, and Nobel Laureate. "Grapes of Wrath," which became an American classic, earned him the Pulitzer Prize Fiction Award in 1940. In describing the journey of an Oklahoma family's migration to California during the Depression in the hopes of realizing a better life, Steinbeck achieved worldwide recognition for his keen observations and powerful writings of the human condition. With "Cannery Row," published in 1945, Steinbeck wrote a lively story about life in the thirties in Monterey, a sleepy California fishing village, when life seemed to him to have more meaning, although the conditions were quite different. Steinbeck's fiction represents the character of our people, in particular their vitality and uniquely American qualities. As a resident of California's central coast, John Steinbeck's novels are rich in the portrayal of our region's abundant agricultural heritage, and the locales of his stories are reflective of life and the people of the Salinas Valley. In 1962 he received the Nobel Prize for Literature "for his realistic as well as imaginative writings, distinguished by a sympathetic humor and keen social perception" for his work.

I join the State of California in proclaiming the National Steinbeck Center. The national center will be a world-class museum and cultural center dedicated to Steinbeck teachings and lore. It encompasses one of the largest existing collections of Steinbeck artifacts, papers, and photographs in the world, and commemorates the Salinas Valley's multibillion-dollar agricultural industry, an industry which has earned the valley the designation as the Salad Bowl of our country. The National Steinbeck Center hosts an annual Steinbeck

Festival at the beginning of August, where visitors can immerse themselves in films, tours, panel discussions, and special events depicting Steinbeck's writings. The National Steinbeck Center is not only a tribute to Steinbeck's life and literary genius, but also a unique repository for American culture from the first half of this century.

John Steinbeck's literary accomplishments make him an icon of our cultural heritage. In bringing the plight of the poor and disadvantaged to the forefront of our social consciousness, Steinbeck's writings are as contemporary to modern day societal problems as they were in previous decades. In his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize in 1962, John Steinbeck left each one of us with words to live by: " * * * celebrate man's proven capacity for greatness of heart and spirit—for gallantry in defeat, for courage, compassion and love. In the endless war against weakness and despair, these are the bright rally flags of hope and of emulation."

I ask the Speaker and all my colleagues to join me in saluting the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, CA.

ESTABLISH A VISA WAIVER PILOT PROGRAM FOR NATIONALS OF KOREA

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this measure in support of economic growth and jobs for Americans.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Korea reports that the average visitor from South Korea to the United States spends over \$3,400. South Korean visitors to the United States spent nearly \$2 billion in 1995. This means economic growth and jobs for Americans particularly those in States most visited by South Koreans: California, New York, Hawaii, Guam, Nevada, Arizona, Illinois, and Washington, DC. All indications show that this boom is just the beginning. Today, South Korea has the 11th largest economy in the world and is the 6th largest United States trading partner. We need to take positive advantage of this new phase of South Korean prosperity.

Unfortunately, the United States continues to restrict Korean travelers by not allowing South Korea to participate in the Visa Waiver Pilot Program [VWPP]. Although many more Koreans would like to visit the United States, they find the visa process to be cumbersome. Today, the United States lags behind Canada, Australia, and other countries in cornering the Korean tourist market.

The bill I offer with Mr. JAY KIM would establish a visa waiver pilot program for nationals of Korea who are traveling in tour groups to the United States. Under this bill, Korean visitors are allowed for a period of not more than 15 days. The bill would also establish special bond and notification requirements for tour operators. These include the posting of a \$200,000 bond and approval by the Secretary for a tour operator's application to escort tour groups to the United States.

As we work to strengthen our economy in this country, I am confident that increased rev-

enues generated from Korean visitors will be most welcomed.

LET LEBANON BE LEBANON: GIVE BACK ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a House Concurrent Resolution, expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the territorial integrity, unity, sovereignty, and full independence of Lebanon.

You may ask what that means, and you may ask why it is prudent or necessary to introduce such a resolution. I will tell you.

As a Lebanese-American Member of Congress, I am aware of recent events in the Middle East which despite secret diplomacy may have slowed the peace process. I have seen resolutions introduced in this body which would do the same by calling upon Syria to get its Armed Forces out of Lebanon—as though Syria is the only occupying force that needs to get itself out of Lebanon; as though Syria is to blame for every single adverse thing that has happened to Lebanon in recent years.

Mr. Speaker, Syria is no angel—but Syria isn't the only problem Lebanon has, or that the Middle East has, for that matter. We all know that to be true.

The biggest problem today appears to be that everyone views Lebanon as some kind of bargaining chip, or pawn, to be used by Israel and Syria and then whoever else find themselves with an ax to grind in the region—not an ax to grind with Lebanon necessarily—and they then proceed to grind their axes at will and at Lebanon's expense.

The most recent grinding of axes in and around Lebanon was called Operation Grapes of Wrath. And the axes were turned into shells and rockets and so-called precision weaponry that allegedly could penetrate buildings in the middle of the city of Beirut and search out a floor with a window that supposedly was concealing Hizbollah, without harming the innocent mothers and children also living in that building. But the precision weapons turned out not to be so precise, and more than 100 Lebanese civilians were killed, 400,000 were displaced and many left homeless, injured, and suffering.

This resolution is for Lebanon and about Lebanon. It isn't about Israel or Syria—except that all non-Lebanese forces are asked to get out of Lebanon. It is an idea whose time has come and perhaps a point of discussion in current secret diplomacy and/or other talks.

Another idea whose time has come is that the United States Government—the Congress—the President of the United States—need to reformulate their policy toward Lebanon and they need to reaffirm their support for a country that has long been friendly toward the United States. Not only do they need to reformulate a policy, the policy needs to be implemented.

Lebanon has a government, and it has an army, and it is rebuilding and it is getting stronger and more secure every day. It is time that the United States Government began