

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS SILVER ANNIVERSARY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 1996*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the National Women's Political Caucus [NWPC] on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

The National Women's Political Caucus is a grassroots organization committed to increasing the number of women holding elected and appointed office in the U.S. Government. Since its founding in 1971, NWPC has supported the efforts of women seeking political office, regardless of party affiliation.

Thanks in part to NWPC's multifaceted agenda of support for women seeking political office, our Nation has benefited from a continued increase in women's political participation. Over the past 25 years, America has seen the number of women in State legislatures jump from 362 to 1,536 and the number of women in Congress grow from 15 to 58.

NWPC is instrumental to women seeking political office and to women facing the challenges of holding office once elected. Many women get their start in politics through their involvement in local chapters of the caucus across the country. NWPC's educational programs, campaign training, and grassroots opportunities are invaluable for women candidates as they rise up through the ranks of the political world.

The NWPC helps women gain elected and appointed office by holding campaign workshops, providing campaign support, and encouraging the appointment of women to policy-making posts. The caucus also conducts research on women as candidates, using the results of these studies to increase the number of winning women candidates. For women in office, the caucus provides networking opportunities and forums for discussion, including newsletters for and about women in politics.

As the cochair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I know how important it is to elect women to Congress. Although we come from many different backgrounds and have different areas of expertise, we share a common commitment and perspective that has already improved the political landscape for American women. From issues ranging from women's health to women's economic equity, Congresswomen are making a difference. The National Women's Political Caucus has been a driving force in opening up political office to women, and I sincerely thank NWPC for its outstanding work. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the National Women's Political Caucus for its commitment to the support and advancement of women in politics.

THANK YOU, MARLENE MOULDER,  
FOR YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 1996*

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last De-

cember 11 my decision to retire from the House at the conclusion of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff and because of the genuine friendship I feel for them. Each one of them has served the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District in an extraordinary way.

Today, I want to thank one member of my staff, Marlene Moulder, a staff assistant in my Humble office, for everything she's done for me and my constituents in the 11 years that she has worked in my office.

A native of Houston, Marlene has overseen my service academy nominations board, which recommends outstanding young men and women for appointments to the Nation's four service academies, since she joined my staff. The nominating process in my office is highly competitive, strictly merit based, and scrupulously fair. As a result, it is considered one of the most successful such programs in the Nation; 161 young men and women living in the Eighth Congressional District have received appointments to the service academies since Marlene began managing the program in early 1986. Much of the credit for the program's success can be directly attributed to the dedication and hard work that Marlene devotes to it.

Indeed, Marlene's work with the board and the Nation's service academies led to her receiving the Air Force Association's Civilian of the Year award in 1988, and the U.S. Air Force Academy recognition award from the San Jacinto Association of Air Force Academy graduates in 1992. Marlene has been asked to address educators, other congressional staffers, parents, students, and service academy liaison officials regarding how the academy nominating process works.

In addition to her service academy responsibilities, Marlene has handled tour and flag requests, as well as receptionist and secretarial duties during her years on my staff. Perhaps Marlene's greatest strength is her ability to work well with people, constituents and co-workers alike, to resolve problems or answer questions from constituents, and to help ensure that whatever needs to get done in my office actually gets done.

Marlene has been an active member of several civic groups during her tenure in my office, serving as treasurer and then president of the Channelview Channelette Booster Club. She also has volunteered her time and talents to the Sterling Forest Civic Association, the Sterling Shadows Neighborhood Watch program, and the Channelview ISD advisory board for fundraising guidelines.

Marlene is deeply devoted to her wonderful daughter, Carrie, who is currently a senior at Loyola University in New Orleans.

Marlene Moulder is one of those hard-working men and women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. I know she has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank her for the dedication, loyalty and professionalism she has exhibited throughout the years it has been my privilege to know and work with her.

Marlene has yet to make a definite decision about what she wants to do in the years ahead. But I am confident that the skills and the personal qualities she has demonstrated in my office will lead to continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying thank you to Marlene Moulder for her years of loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District, and to this great institution. And I know you join with me in wishing Marlene, and her daughter Carrie, and the best in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM  
E. EICHER, U.S. ARMY, RET.

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 1996*

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the illustrious career of Maj. Gen. William E. Eicher, U.S. (Ret.), who officially retired as vice president of technical services of the American Defense Preparedness Association on August 31 of this year. General Eicher will be honored officially on September 16 with the William R. Moseley Award for excellence in munitions management. This award was established in 1982 and named after a long time executive and chairman of the board of Day and Zimmermann, Inc., a Pennsylvania based munitions producer. The William R. Moseley Award panel has selected General Eicher because he has made the greatest overall contribution to the munitions program this year.

I had the pleasure of meeting General Eicher and recognized in him an earnest commitment to the security of this great Nation. His career is one threaded with remarkable accomplishments, and so I wish to share with my colleagues some of the highlights of General Eicher's 44 years of distinguished service to our Nation.

General Eicher was a commander, logistician, staff officer, and systems manager during 32 years of active military service. He commanded logistical activities both at retail and wholesale levels. Similarly, he was also involved in the acquisition, production, and distribution of material. He was on the staff of the Army Material Command as director of maintenance. His responsibilities included directing that Command's worldwide maintenance management program. As Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics on the Army staff, he assisted in the worldwide management of all aspects of the Army's complex logistic structure.

For over 5 years he was commander of the Army's Armament Material Readiness Command and was responsible for dispensing operable/quality munitions and armament material worldwide to the Department of Defense and Allied Forces. He controlled multifaceted operations in such disciplines as procurement, industrial operations, material and maintenance management, personnel, management information systems, engineering quality assurance, and financial management. Inherent in General Eicher's role as commander were the responsibilities to plan, organize, review, and manage people and things.

He exercised extensive responsibilities in the management of weapon systems and conventional munitions, and he was deeply involved in the acquisition and production of both weapons/ammunition. His working knowledge of armaments supply and maintenance activities of fielded systems gave him unique

insight into the logistics requirements of systems support. He has a broad background in integrated logistics support management and the application of this process to both developmental and fielded material.

General Eicher joined the American Defense Preparedness Association in 1984 as vice president, technical services. He was responsible for the overall operations of the technical services, which consists of 26 technical divisions, and for the conduct of over 50 meetings a year. His additional responsibilities included conducting studies and roundtable type meetings, publication of white papers, and a wide range of support activities for the Department of Defense and other U.S. Government agencies.

As vice president, technical services, General Eicher was in the forefront of the efforts to define and maintain a viable industrial base consistent with national security interests. His skillful leadership was especially crucial during the ongoing adjustments in post-cold-war defense policies. His insights were regularly sought by the Department of Defense, thereby enhancing ADPA's contribution to the formulation of industrial base policies. ADPA's enviable reputation as a forum for ethical dialog between Government and industry is largely attributable to General Eicher's vision and his keen appreciation of industrial base issues. Working with industry and Government volunteers, he consistently designed and directed programs of exceptional technical conferences that are the hallmark of ADPA's service to the Nation and defense community.

Mr. Speaker, General Eicher's distinguished career is a model of hard work, loyalty, and patriotism. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his contributions to our Nation. Furthermore, I want to extend my congratulations to General Eicher for being honored as this year's recipient of the William R. Moseley Award. I wish General Eicher and his family success and happiness in the coming years.

GUESS WHAT CLUNKY BUREAUCRATIC MACHINE COMES IN NO. 1

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 1996*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, you, Mr. Speaker, like to talk about the withering away of Medicare. When questioned about your statement, you say you didn't really, really mean for Medicare to wither away, just the agency that administers it, the Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA]. You like to make fun of HCFA as a clunky, bureaucratic machine.

I'm not sure what the difference is between destroying a program and destroying its administration, but I hope you will take the time to read the enclosed opening paragraphs from the American Medical Association's newspaper American Medical News of August 26, 1996.

MEDICARE SHAPES UP CLAIMS

Q: What well-known health insurer has the highest proportion of claims filed electronically, the lowest average cost per claim processed, and has cut the real cost per claim processed by 85% since 1975?

A: It's not some hotshot entrepreneur or Wall Street wonder company.

It's Medicare.

You know, that federal program run by the Health Care Financing Administration and the gang of 34 (carriers).

Medicare is the undisputed leader in electronic claims. The program now electronically processes 79% of all claims and nearly 71% of Part B claims. That compares with 66% of claims for the runner-up, the nation's Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans, and a paltry 20% for commercial carriers.

Increasing electronic claims processing has been the major factor in driving down Medicare's processing cost per Part B claim from \$8.03 (in today's dollars) in 1975 to 94 cents in 1995.

But HCFA isn't resting on its laurels. Over the next six to 12 months, the agency will begin implementing several measures designed to increase claims processing efficiency and lower costs even further.

A first step will be taken toward standardizing electronic claims formats. New universal provider identification numbers will be issued, and a uniform payer identification system will be developed. National uniform claims review standards will be expanded, and steps will be taken to shift routine claims processing from the local carriers to two giant processing centers.

All of these initiatives could help physicians by streamlining medical review, coordination of benefits with non-Medicare payers and speeding payments.

TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE MIDAS INTERNATIONAL CORP.

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 1996*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding group of workers in my district who were recently recognized for their commitment to quality and safety in the workplace—the 231 employees at the Midas International Corp. facility in Bedford Park, IL.

The facility was recently selected by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA] for participation in the Voluntary Protections Programs [VPP] as a Merit site. The VPP program recognizes worksites for achieving excellence in their safety and health programs through cooperation among labor, management, and the Government. The Merit is often a stepping stone to the Star Program, the highest level of participation in the VPP.

The Midas Bedford Park, which manufactures motor vehicle parts and accessories, is the second site in my district to achieve the honor of VPP approval. The OSHA review team commended Midas for its strong commitment to safety and health at the facility. The Midas workers are represented by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 781.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the workers and management of the Midas Bedford Park facility on this great achievement and wish them continued success in maintaining health and safety at their workplace.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RAYMOND CONTESTI

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 1996*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the March of Dimes is an organization with a noble mission: to fight birth defects and childhood diseases. We all share the March of Dimes dream which is that every child should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

For the past 13 years, the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation has honored several Macomb County residents who are outstanding members of our community and have helped in the campaign for healthier babies. On the evening of Wednesday, September 25, 1996, the chapter will be hosting the 13th annual "Alexander Macomb Citizen of the Year" award dinner. The award, instituted in 1984, is named after my home county's namesake, Gen. Alexander Macomb, a hero of the War of 1812.

This year, the March of Dimes has chosen Dr. Raymond Contesti as a recipient of the award. Dr. Contesti, the youngest of 10 children, learned at an early age that service to one's community is the way to a good life. Throughout his distinguished career as an educator and superintendent of schools, he has been recognized for outstanding commitment to his community. In 1995 he was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Mount Clemens General Hospital Foundation and "Distinguished Citizen of the Year" by the Boy Scouts organization in 1994 as a champion of youth involvement. They could not have chosen a more deserving human being.

Dr. Jonas Salk's polio vaccine is just one of the more famous breakthroughs that would not have been possible without March of Dimes research funding. Without people like Dr. Raymond Contesti the job of protecting babies would be that much more difficult.

I applaud the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the March of Dimes and Dr. Raymond Contesti for their leadership, advocacy, and community service. I am sure that Dr. Contesti is honored by the recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him as a 1996 recipient of the "Alexander Macomb Citizen of the Year Award."

TRIBUTE TO SOLID ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH OF PATERSON, NJ

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 1996*

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Solid Rock Baptist Church of Paterson in the Eight Congressional District in New Jersey.

Next year, Mr. Speaker, the Solid Rock Baptist Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary as a spiritual leader in the Northern New Jersey area. The church was founded in September 1947 when a group of four deeply religious souls, Deacon Miledge Primus, Minister James Shropshire, Sister Lucille Scott, and Sister Catherine Primus, sought to create a place of sanctuary.