

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 whither 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.

The church struggles with the initial growing pains felt by many new establishments during their formative years. Finally, in August 1954, Rev. Timothy Fennel became pastor to the nearly 100 members and rapidly strengthened the organization's membership and infrastructure.

Under the leadership and guidance of Reverend Fennel, the Solid Rock Baptist Church ordained five deacons and initiated a number of auxiliary functions, including the creation of the missionary circle, deaconess board senior choir, gospel chorus, junior choir, usher board busy bees, and M club. The church also provided assistance to area hospitals and the surrounding community through its pastor's aides, nurses aides, youth guild, Sunday school Bible class, and prayer meetings.

After a life of dedication to the Solid Rock Baptist Church, Reverend Fennel passed away on September, 23, 1976. However, Mr. Speaker, he left the church with a meaningful legacy and vivacious future. In the 1980's, under the leadership of Reverend Shearin, the church initiated a number of remodeling projects. He also established the stewardship and Bible study programs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Solid Rock Baptist Church built such a strong presence in the community that they no longer had to look outside the organization for guidance. The church elected a favorite son as pastor in 1996.

Rev. Jack Lotts has been a member of the Solid Rock Baptist Church since his return from military duty in 1961. He graduated in 1987 with a certificate in christian ministry from the New York Theological Seminary in New York City and was ordained on October 29, 1989. Throughout his tenure with the church, Reverend Lotts has exhibited the commitment to the spiritual growth and development demonstrated by Reverend Fennel and the original founders of the church. He is certainly the right man to lead the Solid Rock Baptist church into its next 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to help me salute the Solid Rock Baptist Church for its historic achievements, and pray for its continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE GREG LASHUTKA

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Honorable Greg Lashutka, the mayor of Columbus, OH, on the occasion of his earning the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award [DESA]. Through the course of my 18 years of public service, I have had the privilege of working closely with Mayor Lashutka and can thus attest firsthand to his unparalleled devotion to the betterment of the city of Columbus, his tireless involvement in civic activities, and his remarkable commitment to God and family. Mayor Lashutka truly embodies the spirit of this extraordinary award.

The highest award administered by the National Eagle Scout Association, the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award honors an elite few who have achieved a state of eminence through their chosen careers and lifeworks. Recipients are determined by the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award Committee, which is comprised entirely of previous DESA winners. The selection process is rigorous and deliberate, and a substantial percentage of nominations is declined. Among those honored with the DESA include former President Gerald R. Ford, several governors, CEO's of Fortune 500 companies, nationally known doctors, lawyers, and educators, and some of my colleagues in this body. Mayor Greg Lashutka will be only the second Distinguished Eagle Scout Award winner in central Ohio.

In 1958, a 14-year-old Greg Lashutka was awarded the Eagle Scout Award at the Bethany English Lutheran Church in Cleveland, OH. Thirty-seven years later, Mayor Lashutka has rightfully earned the admiration and respect of all those with whom he has come in contact. His resume reflects his all-American experience: Co-Captain of the 1965 Ohio State University football team; a decorated naval officer in Vietnam; city attorney for the city of Columbus; a successful private attorney with a prestigious Columbus firm; and finally mayor of the 16th largest city in the United States. Under his adept leadership, Columbus has grown profoundly, becoming nationally renowned for its crime prevention, cultural activities, international trade, and business-friendly environment. His innovative and thoughtful leadership has earned Columbus a designation as an All-American City in 1992, and himself the honors of 1996 president of the National League of Cities as well as 1993 Municipal Leader of the Year Award from American City and County Magazine.

Equally important, however, is Mayor Lashutka's social and civic involvement. His active participation in countless organizations and groups—often as a board member or as chairman—is truly remarkable. The mayor devotes much of his already scarce time to the Boy Scouts of America; the boys and girls clubs of Columbus; the Columbus Civic Center Committee; the Columbus Urban League; the Heart Fund; the Big Brother Association of Columbus; the German Village Society; the Central Ohio Chapter of the March of Dimes; and other outstanding, philanthropic organizations. Mayor Lashutka is happily married to Catherine Adams and is a loving father of four.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my good friend, Mayor Greg Lashutka, for being awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, and in recognition of his astonishing lifelong service to the city of Columbus.

HONORING CHIEF JUDGE NORMAN W. BLACK

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Honorable Norman W. Black, Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, as he prepares to assume senior status later this year.

Judge Black's 16 years as a U.S. district judge cap a career of service to his country, to his community, to education, and to the practice of law. His career has been marked by a deep commitment to integrity, hard work, fairness, honesty, and justice.

Judge Black obtained both his undergraduate and legal education at the University of Texas. He served in the U.S. Army Military Police from 1955 to 1957 before beginning his legal career as an assistant U.S. attorney. Later, he participated in the formation of the law firm of Black, Hebinck, Hargorve & Clark. He engaged in private practice from 1959 to 1976.

In 1976, he was appointed U.S. Magistrate for the Southern District of Texas. In 1979, President Carter appointed him U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas at the recommendation of Senator Lloyd Bentsen, and he has served as chief judge since October 1992.

Each year, the Houston Bar Association evaluates all sitting judges in Harris County, including U.S. district court judges. Judge Black routinely rates as one of the top judges in every category evaluated by members of the trial bar who practice in the various courts.

The best testimonials to Judge Black's achievements come from his colleagues and those who have practiced before him. I want to quote from some of their statements nominating Judge Black in 1995 for the Samuel Pessarra Outstanding Jurist Award.

Attorney David Beck, who has appeared before Judge Black, stated, "I have always found Judge Black to be objective and even-handed in his rulings and courteous to all litigants and their counsel. He rules decisively and timely, works extremely hard, and is knowledgeable of the law, which is no easy task given the numerous substantive areas to which our judges are consistently exposed."

Chief Judge Henry A. Politz of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Judicial Circuit, had this to say about Judge Black: "On the administrative level, he is nothing short of a marvel. * * * I wish all of our judges had his keen instinct for what is right in just about every situation."

Attorney James B. Sales stated, "A universal comment is that he possesses impeccable integrity, fairness, and honesty. Indeed, he is the epitome of the kind of judge that we all admire and hold as the standard by which to measure others who aspire to the Bench."

In addition to his commitment to law, Judge Black has contributed tremendously to education and to our community. He has taught at the University of Houston School of Law, the University of Cincinnati, and the South Texas College of Law, where he currently is adjunct professor. He is much-loved by his students, and his seminar is always the first one closed because of over-subscription.

Judge Black's contributions to his community include membership in the Houston Philosophical Society, as well as the Federal, Texas, Houston, and American Bar Associations. He has been instrumental in developing mentoring and fellowship programs to encourage interest in and knowledge of the law. Judge Black also has been active in many of our community's religious and cultural institutions. Despite these many commitments, Judge Black has always found time to be a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Judge Black will be sorely missed by all who have worked with him, all who value the law, and all who appreciate his fairness and integrity. We wish him well.