

trouble in 1994. For some time, the former star of "Saturday Night Live" has had a problem with painkillers, which he says he first took for back injuries caused by prat-falls.

State narcotics officials spent almost a year compiling prescription records on Chase, whom they suspected of illegally obtaining the potent painkillers Percocet and Percodan from numerous doctors. His Pacific Palisades home was searched, as were several physicians' offices.

Agents believed the evidence showed that Chase had engaged in unlawful doctor-shopping and recommended that charges be filed by the Los Angeles County district attorney's office. But that's as far as it went; prosecutors considered the case unwinnable.

Explaining his decision not to file charges against Chase, Deputy Dist. Atty. John Lynch said not only was the doctor-shopping law vague, but it was unclear whether Chase had committed any fraud as defined by the statute.

Los Angeles attorney Zia F. Modabber, a spokesman for Chase, declined to comment because of pending litigation brought against the comedian by a former chauffeur. The driver contends that he has been unable to get work since he was caught by police in 1994 while allegedly ferrying painkillers into Canada for Chase. The judge has restricted public discussion of that case, which is nearing trial.

"I think it would be inappropriate to discuss the issues," Modabber said, "not because we have anything to hide, but out of respect for the justice system."

#### A SLAP ON THE WRIST

Disciplinary records from state pharmacy and medical boards also raise questions about the resolve of regulatory agencies to get tough with those who violate criminal and professional codes.

From 1990 to 1995, the state medical board disciplined about 120 physicians for drug-related matters, 44 of whom were convicted of drug crimes. The pharmacy board disciplined about 160 people. The dental board disciplined 20.

One in four pharmacists or pharmacy owners, one in four dentists, and one in nine physicians lost their licenses after charges were sustained. Some of the cases included minor offenses for which license revocations would seem inappropriate.

But even when physicians were found guilty of criminal offenses, including felonies, three out of four kept their licenses. One of them was Dr. Jovencio L. Ranases, formerly of Anaheim Hills.

In 1990, Ranases agreed to plead guilty to one felony count of illegally prescribing controlled substances. He was sentenced to one day in jail and three years probation. Four felony counts were dismissed.

Case records show that Ranases issued thousands of fraudulent prescriptions for Dilaudid through a bogus treatment program for back pain. Authorities estimated that the scheme netted a minimum of \$400,000 from January 1988 to April 1989.

Despite the scale of the operation, the state medical board decided in December 1993 to suspend Ranases' license for two months and place him on eight years professional probation.

Back in 1984, the board first warned Ranases about his prescribing practices and ordered him to take medical courses. Court records show that he never took the classes, and the state never checked to see if he did.

Such examples have prompted allegations over the years that the medical board, as well as other regulatory agencies, have done little to rid their professions of the worst offenders.

Medical and pharmacy board officials acknowledge that there have been some problems with professional discipline, but say that reforms have been made since the early 1990s when the criticisms were at their height.

Records show that more complaints are being investigated and more people disciplined because of streamlined procedures.

Laws now require the automatic suspensions of medical, dental and pharmacy licenses for someone convicted of a felony. In addition, investigators say, they are seeking more court orders to suspend medical licenses after a person is arrested.

"There have been some improvements," said John Lancara, chief of enforcement for the state medical board, who was hired in the early 1990s to help overhaul the disciplinary system. "Our goal is to vigorously enforce the Medical Practices Act."

Meanwhile, at the pharmacy board, backlogs of cases—some of which had lingered for 10 years—have been eliminated. More records are being computerized, and fines that went unpaid for years are being collected.

Board member Bauer argues, however, that there is plenty of room for improvement. She compares the public attitude toward prescription drug abuse to that surrounding drunk driving before a grass-roots movement resulted in stronger laws.

"No one really sees this as a crime," she said. "To me, what is this if not a crime? We need to change people's attitudes. There is a need to say, 'This is a problem.'"

#### TRIBUTE TO THE REMSENBERG COMMUNITY CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 11, 1996*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Remsenberg Community Church, and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of this glorious house of worship, serving this pastoral south shore Long Island, NY, hamlet.

On September 15, 1896, the Remsenberg Community Church building was dedicated by the congregation. For the ensuing 100 years, the "Red Brick Church" has served the spiritual needs of its congregants, strengthening the entire community through countless acts of charity and fellowship.

Both the church and the hamlet owe their appellation to Dr. Charles Remsen, the man who generously provided the funds to build this community its own house of worship. To show Dr. Remsen their appreciation, his neighbors moved to rename this hamlet in the southeastern corner of Southampton Town. On July 27, 1895, this former section of Speonk was formally founded as Remsenburg.

Though settlers pre-date the Revolutionary War, the organized founding of the Presbyterian Church dates back to July 3, 1853. Before Dr. Remsen's beneficent gesture, congregants gathered in schools and homes to worship, while ministers from neighboring towns were hired to preach God's word. The first frame church was dedicated in 1854 on Elijah Phillips's land, and the charter members include some of Suffolk County's prominent founding families: Selah Raynor, Merinda Halsey, Mrs. Nancy Tuthill, and Sophia Rogers.

The cornerstone of the current church building was laid on April 18, 1896, by the pastor,

Rev. Minot Morgan, on land donated by John and Elizabeth Dayton. The Suffolk County News reported that a "handsome new brick church in Remsenburg, presented to the Presbyterian Society of that village by Dr. Charles Remsen, was dedicated on September 15."

Today, the community church has an active membership of 36, with another 30 friends who attend services regularly; the Sunday school instructs about 15 students. Operated by the board of trustees, the church benefits from the enthusiasm and hard work of its own Ladies Aid Society and the Chapelettes.

On Sunday, September 15, at 10 a.m., Remsenburg Community Church members will hold a special service of thanksgiving. Today, more than ever, our Nation relies on the spiritual sustenance and communal support that our churches and temples provide. That is why I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Remsenburg Community Church. This bastion of community faith and fellowship has strengthened the fibers that bind this community and have made Eastern Long Island a better place to live.

#### A TRIBUTE TO TRINITY SCHOOL AT RIVER RIDGE BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD WINNER

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 11, 1996*

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise Trinity School at River Ridge, located in my district in Bloomington, MN, for being named winner of the U.S. Department of Education's prestigious Blue Ribbon Award.

The Department of Education could not have selected a more deserving school for this highly coveted honor. When it comes to a comprehensive and successful approach to excellence in teaching, student achievement, leadership, and parental involvement, Trinity School at River Ridge has, in just 10 short years since its opening, set a lofty standard.

Mr. Speaker, this high distinction was well earned. Everyone at Trinity played a role in achieving this extraordinary level of educational excellence. Trinity was the only private school in Minnesota to receive the Blue Ribbon designation, and 1 of only 50 private schools selected nationwide.

Under the visionary leadership of a most remarkable man, Headmaster William Wacker, Trinity School has flourished. Always there for each and every student, William Wacker provides at all hours of the day a willing ear, an understanding shoulder, and a marvelous source of advice and encouragement.

The board of trustees, under the leadership of Louis Grams and full of caring and committed individuals, has selflessly devoted the time, talent, and energy necessary to make Trinity School at River Ridge one of the best in all of America.

Trinity School at River Ridge's special mission and educational approach are perhaps best described in the words of John Buri, a psychology professor at a private college in our area and member of the school's board of trustees: "In a national educational system where acquisition of job skills is of primary importance, it is good to see recognition of an institution where truly human qualities are valued and where there is an effort to educate

the whole person. Trinity School is about the task of what is truly education."

Trinity School at River Ridge calls its approach "An Education in Truth, Beauty and Goodness."

Forming a true community of learners through the active involvement of students, Trinity School at River Ridge has instituted a common, coherent, and integrated curriculum that helps students apply their knowledge more effectively. The constant evaluation of students at Trinity School is a critical part of this unique education. Students, teachers, and parents know where resources and energy need to be focused.

This historic designation was accomplished through the pioneering and innovative contributions of a truly dedicated administrative staff and dynamic collection of committed teachers. Their deep and unwavering commitment to the students forms the foundation for a very special relationship with the young people at Trinity School at River Ridge. The teachers and staff have gone above and beyond all reasonable expectations to help kids.

Mr. Speaker, another key ingredient in the overwhelming success of Trinity School at River Ridge has been the precedent-setting and inspiring level of involvement by parents. In this day and age when we in Congress hear so much blame being placed on the lack of participation by parents in their children's education, Trinity parents stand out as shining examples of the miracles that can happen when adults take the time to help out at their schools.

But, Mr. Speaker, the No. 1 reason Trinity School at River Ridge has been chosen as a Blue Ribbon Award winner is its spirited students. This student body is focused in a most impressive way on real achievement and a relentless pursuit of the highest standards of excellence. The students have worked hard to create a safe, supportive, and drug-free environment. They have worked hard to establish a record of academic excellence across the board.

From student leadership to participation in public service projects to help people in need in the community, from the heavy emphasis on scholastic achievement to the enthusiastic way they revel in the success of their classmates, the students of Trinity School at River Ridge deserve to claim this national honor as their own. The students at Trinity are the kind of young people any parents would be proud to call their own.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating everyone at Trinity School at River Ridge on a job well done and for setting such a powerful example of what can be accomplished by a school if everyone pitches in and strives to do their best.

Today we salute Trinity School at River Ridge for proving that schools all across America can succeed if everyone puts their minds and hearts into the effort.

"ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL":  
ESSAY BY KELSEY PERKINS

HON. DAN SCHAEFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its

Ladies Auxiliary sponsor an annual Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. This year's contest attracted more than 116,000 secondary school students competing for 54 national scholarships totaling more than \$118,000. The theme this year was "Answering America's Call".

I am pleased to report that Kelsey Perkins of Aurora, CO, was the State winner of this year's contest. Kelsey, a senior at Smoky Hill High School, is active in her school and has won many scholastic and musical awards, including the Yale Book Award, National Merit Commendation, National Honor Society, and membership as a violinist in the all-State orchestra. Although she maintains a 4.0 grade point average at school, she still finds time to play field hockey, hike, camp, and read.

I commend Kelsey's composition to your attention, Mr. Speaker, as it gives excellent reasons why Americans should become involved in their country's Armed Forces, government, and community. It proves that democracy requires commitment and involvement by all citizens.

I congratulate Kelsey Perkins and her sponsoring VFW Post 3161 in Aurora, CO, on this fine essay.

"ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL"

Good Morning, and welcome to the American Safari Corporation. I will be your guide for today's tour. What brought most of you here was not the call of the wild, rather it was the call of America. Today we will be conducting a tour in search of some rare species. Now I'm sure that some of you have been told that our search is futile since the prize we are seeking is often considered to be almost extinct. I'll let you be the judge of that. For those of you who are not familiar with our goal today, let me begin by telling you that we are searching for some responsible Americans. Before we set out, I will outline three identifying marks of a responsible American which will help you in our hunt.

The first sign of a responsible American is often that of involvement in our country's armed services. In many countries across the world, military service is mandatory for young men. They have no choice in whether or not to serve their country. In the United States we have no such requirements. Service is voluntary during peace-time. The strength of a country's military is often the standard by which it is judged by other nations. The military is not only a fighting force, it is an international representative of its country. Service shows patriotism and pride for one's home. The armed forces serve the common good by protecting America's interests in all areas, and by embodying the strength, skill and patriotism that symbolizes our country and fills every American with pride. For many citizens, military service offers the perfect opportunity to answer America's call and take on responsibility for our nation. Our armed forces have very high standards for their applicants. By meeting this standard of excellence through service in the armed forces, many men and women are successfully answering America's call to responsibility.

The second tell-tale mark to look for in our hunt is involvement in the government. Perhaps one of the best days to search for responsible Americans is on the first Tuesday in November. They can be seen in herds as they assemble to vote. In a day and age where many people are content to sit on the sidelines and not become involved in our government, utilizing one's right to vote and becoming involved in the government is a sure sign of a responsible American. As

President Harry S. Truman observed, "It's not the hand that signs the laws that holds the destiny of America. It's the hand that casts the ballot."

Responsible Americans not only participate, but realize what an honor their role in government is. Our founding fathers risked execution by first daring to give Americans their rights to vote and to be involved in government because their actions of protesting unfair government were seen as treasonous. Since the Revolution, Americans have fought and died in many wars to keep Americans free. They fought and died to maintain our rights which include voting and government participation. As citizens of the United States today, it is our duty and privilege to vote in elections and to be involved and informed about our national and local government. Answering America's call includes meeting these responsibilities which support the rights for which many men and women have risked their lives.

One final way to find a responsible American is to look for those who are involved in community service. Acts of unselfish kindness for the common good or the benefit of others is not too much to ask in a nation which has so much. Community service touches the individual lives which make up this great country. It serves as a testimony to our country's humanity. Behind the mass of the armed forces and government are the everyday individuals in life which can be touched and inspired by the work of a few citizens who have realized their responsibility as members of this nation. Many organizations work year round to meet the basic needs of our nation's people because we have a responsibility to those less fortunate than ourselves. So, be sure to search for those who spend their free time helping others in such places as food banks, soup kitchens, and schools.

Well, I hope my little overview has given you a better idea of what to look for in your hunt for a responsible American. Don't forget to look for those obvious signs we reviewed: military service, government participation, and community service. With these in mind, you're sure to find a trail. Please also consider yourself in regards to what's been said today. Don't be afraid to answer America's call personally. By doing so, you could greatly increase the responsible American population. They don't have to be an endangered species!

COMMENDING KURT ANGLE OF  
THE U.S.A. OLYMPIC WRESTLING  
TEAM AND MT. LEBANON, PA

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend one of my constituents, Mr. Kurt Angle, for his heroic athletic achievement at the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, GA. Mr. Angle represented his family, his community, and his country with dignity and honor in earning a gold medal in the 220-pound division of Olympic freestyle wrestling.

As one of America's best hopes for a medal and the defending 1995 world champion in the 220-pound class, Mr. Angle withstood the intense pressures of competing against the best wrestlers in the world and persevered to achieve his dream.

Mr. Angle has been a National Collegiate Association of America [NCAA] champion from