

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY
CHEERLEADING TEAM

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 1996

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as the college and high school basketball seasons move into high gear, we pause for a moment to give praise to one group closely associated with the sport of round ball which is often overlooked, namely the cheerleaders. These dedicated young people contribute much to the joy and enthusiasm which exists at our Nation's high school and college basketball games, as well as many other sporting events.

Of course, everyone knows that North Carolina is a basketball hotbed. We are proud of the level of basketball skills exhibited at the high school and college levels and that includes our cheerleaders. We think they are the best. Now, we have proof that the Sixth District of North Carolina is home to the best cheerleaders in our State.

The members of the Ledford High School varsity cheerleading team were declared State champs recently in the North Carolina State 2A cheerleading championships. The Davidson County high school squad, coached by Debbie Pope, won the State title which was sponsored by the North Carolina Cheerleading Coaches Association and recognized by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

The Panthers' cheerleading squad is comprised of team captains Heather Pitts and Courtney Troutman, as well as Shannon Montgomery, Chrissy Ayers, Lauren Garner, Leslie Varner, Kellie Jackson, Ashley Craven, April Kindred, Brittany Yountz, Melissa Quinn, and Alicia Belle.

The most recent State championship is not the only trophy captured by the Ledford cheerleaders. The squad won the varsity dance/pom championship at UCA summer camp and the ECA regional championship in the varsity division. Ledford was also invited to the ECA Nationals. Three team members were selected as all-stars at UCA summer camp, and Chrissy Ayers was chosen to be a member of the West squad for the N.C. East/West All-State Cheerleading Team.

For winning this title, we offer our congratulations to Ledford principal Max Cole, athletic director Gary Hinkle, Coach Debbie Pope, the faculty, staff, students and families of Ledford High School. We are certain that the whole community is sharing in the excitement.

So, if you attend a sporting event at Ledford High School anytime soon, take special notice of the cheerleaders because they are State champions. From the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, three cheers to the Ledford High School Varsity Cheerleading Team.

HOME EDUCATION

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 1996

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert Gov. Don Sundquist's proclamation declaring this week, March 4–10, 1996, "Tennessee Home Education Week," into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I fully support this worthy proclamation, and I will continue to work to allow America's parents to have more control over their children's education.

STATE OF TENNESSEE—PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

Whereas, Tennessee is committed to excellence in education and to public policy that strengthens the family; and

Whereas, Tennessee recognizes parental choice in pursuit of that excellence and the importance of parental involvement in education; and

Whereas, Tennessee appropriately and statutorily authorizes home education as an educational alternative, as well as recognizes the rights of parents to teach and train their children because of their religious beliefs; and

Whereas, home schools can afford families the opportunity to develop positive character qualities and instill desired values in their children; and

Whereas, parents rightfully have the final authority and responsibility for the care, upbringing and choice of education for their children; and

Whereas, home education was a predominant form of education in the early years of America, and many Americans such as George Washington, Patrick Henry, John Marshall, Robert E. Lee, Booker T. Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Quincy Adams, Thomas Edison, Douglas MacArthur, Pearl S. Buck and Franklin Roosevelt were primarily educated at home; as well as many other diverse and creative Americans; and

Whereas, studies continue to confirm that children who are home educated score well on national achievement tests, exhibit self-confidence, and are fully prepared to meet the challenges of today's society; and

Whereas, it is appropriate that Tennessee home educators and home-educated children be recognized for their contribution to the diversity and quality of education in this great state,

Now Therefore, I, Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of March 4–10, 1996, as Tennessee Home Education Week in Tennessee and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 30th day of June, 1995.

DON SUNDQUIST,

Governor.

RILEY C. DARNELL,

Secretary of State.

THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG
CONSUMER INFORMATION ACT
WILL HELP SENIORS REDUCE
THEIR HEALTH CARE COSTS

HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 1996

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, as the price of health care continues to rise, spending on prescription drugs becomes an ever-increasing burden for millions of Americans. A recent study by the PRIME Institute at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy shows that producer list prices for the 500 most prescribed drugs climbed an average of 4.6 percent in 1995. This 4.6 percent increase exceeds the 2.6 percent increase in Social Security benefits over the past year. Furthermore, the increase in prescription drug prices is more than twice the increase in the 1995 producer price index. As the prices of prescription drugs continue to outpace the general cost of living for seniors, these Americans on fixed incomes often face the choice between food and medicine.

Consumers and their doctors need comparative information about prescription drug prices to help them reduce spending on prescription drugs without compromising quality. But comparative information is not readily available. Prescription drugs do not sit on grocery shelves with separate price tags under each item. Even doctors often do not know the prices of medications and whether a less expensive but equally effective alternative is available.

The Prescription Drug Consumer Information Act of 1996 will make this essential information more available by directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services [HHS] to publish annually an easy-to-understand consumer guide to prescription drug prices that presents price and cost-effectiveness information by therapeutic category for easy comparison to other drugs and to other therapies.

The guide will provide consumers with the information they need to intelligently discuss the cost effectiveness of various prescription drug options with their doctors and pharmacists. The guide will also provide doctors with information that will help them determine the most cost-effective therapies for their patients. This information is not available anywhere else at this time. The increased availability of price information could also unleash free market forces to help reduce the cost of medications that are excessively priced.

This legislation directs the Secretary of HHS to publish a consumer guide to prescription drug prices annually, beginning no later than 2 years after the legislation is enacted. The guide will be made available electronically—that is, through computer networks—and in print. The Secretary may publish periodic bulletins that reflect changes in the prices in the consumer guide between the dates of annual

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

publication of the guide. The consumer guide will be provided to public libraries free of charge. The Secretary will also provide the guide to individuals and other organizations for a reasonable fee which is not to exceed the cost of printing and distributing the guide. Organizations representing consumers, seniors, and health professionals will be encouraged to make the consumers guide widely available.

This legislation offers consumers a new tool to help them manage their prescription drug costs. Armed with price information, they will be in a better position to save money without cutting corners on their health care.

I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in cosponsoring this legislation to help Americans fight the rising cost of health care.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JENNINGS
RANDOLPH OF WEST VIRGINIA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 1996

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, retired U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia will be 94 years old on March 8, 1996.

On this occasion, on behalf of myself and all West Virginians, I wish a happy 94th birthday to Senator Randolph, and we wish him many happy returns of the day.

Senator Randolph served the great State of West Virginia for 40 years, beginning in 1933—during Franklin Roosevelt's first 100 days as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Senator Randolph served in the House of Representatives from 1933 to 1947, and then, served in the U.S. Senate from 1958 until his retirement in 1984.

Known for his courtly manner and as the epitome of a southern gentleman, Senator Randolph could also be tenacious and unyielding as a proponent of the working men and women of West Virginia and the Nation. As a strong supporter of President Franklin Roosevelt's depression-era legislative remedies, he also followed another Roosevelt's maxim. It was Teddy Roosevelt who cautioned: Speaker softly, but carry a big stick. Even though Senator Randolph had a true orator's voice when he spoke on the floor, during meetings, or in public speeches to his constituents, it was during his one-on-one dealings with his colleagues that he used his softest voice, folded his massive hands into a supplicant's gesture, his words while gentle conveying that he said what he meant and meant what he said.

This philosophy that a soft voice turneth away wrath was especially evident when it came to legislation that addressed the needs of the coal miners in his State and throughout the country, and when he spoke for all blue collar workers everywhere whose rights he protected with every fiber of his being.

He never backed away from a fight over spending priorities either in the House, the Senate, or when confronted by one of the 10 Presidents under whom he served during his 40-year tenure of service to West Virginia.

Senator Randolph loved the House and the Senate, serving 14 and 26 years respectively in both bodies, and he did so with distinction.

He was a legislator of integrity and style. He deserves the respect and admiration of all of us for the outstanding job that he did and the many contributions he made to both institutions.

If he were here today, he would be out in front, leading all those who can be heard calling for an end to name calling and for complete civility between and among Members of both the House and the Senate as they conduct the people's business. Senator Randolph was a stickler for correct demeanor at all times, and for keeping the House and the Senate in proper order. On the Senate floor he was often heard to call for order in the Senate. He strongly believed that Members of the Senate should come to the floor and vote from their seats—calmly and quietly—rather than milling about on the floor and in the well. And, of course, they seldom did so.

I am as much in awe of Senator Randolph's life of public service as I was when, in 1976, I was about to be sworn in as the then-youngest Member of the House of Representatives, and my respect for his achievements has but grown over the years.

More than anything else, I am proud to be associated as a West Virginian and as a Member of this House, with his record of leadership. The record will show that he acted always with clarity of thought; that he believed deeply in the inherent abilities and talents that lie within every American.

Senator Randolph was able to lead others, never through outrageous or revolting words or deeds, or through bellicosity or belligerence, but simply with an honest expression of confidence made quietly, a silent gesture or salute, or a humorous anecdote. And, if absolutely necessary, a gentle rebuke.

Senator Randolph treated each of us with the characteristic wit and wisdom of a true gentleman, embodying the finest traditions of the House and the Senate, and of this great country, which he loved dearly.

Senator Randolph now lives in a personal care home in St. Louis, MO near his eldest son Jay Randolph, and his grandchildren.

Again, Senator Jennings Randolph, happy 94th birthday.

NEW JERSEY'S PUBLIC PENSION
FUND SHORTFALL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 1996

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Star-Ledger of New Jersey reported on the troubling situation of pension funds for New Jersey's public employees. Governor Christine Todd Whitman has used these workers' investments to pay for her campaign promises from 1993, which the State could not afford. When Governor Whitman ran short on money to pay for important programs like Medicaid and education, she either tried to cut them, or she simply stopped paying the government's full share of the State employees' pensions.

The result is a massive shortfall in State pensions, including a \$2.5 billion unfunded liability in the teachers' fund alone. What allowed this to happen is a legal system that lets the Governor use inaccurate economic estimates, and a State legislature that proved

willing to comply. Governor Whitman is balancing the New Jersey budget on the backs of the State's workers, who are seeing their retirement funds placed in the greatest of danger.

I have proposed a solution to this problem. In May of last year, I introduced legislation to grant State public employee pension beneficiaries the right to sue the State in a Federal court. My bill, H.R. 1683, does not stop a State from changing its contribution to retirement funds. Rather, it encourages the State to obtain the approval of a review board first. The board's primary responsibility will be the fund's economic health, not a political agenda. If a State uses such a panel, then any lawsuit filed by pension beneficiaries will be held to a much higher standard of proof.

My bill will put the fate of State employees not in the hands of political opportunists, but of people who know how to make a pension fund work for the benefit and security of its members.

LEONID KUCHMA, PRESIDENT OF
UKRAINE, RECEIVES FREEDOM
HOUSE 1996 FREEDOM AWARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Freedom House in paying tribute to His Excellency Leonid Kuchma, President of Ukraine. Recently he was the honored recipient of the Freedom Award for his contributions to regional stability and ethnic relations in the Ukraine. The award is given periodically by Freedom House, one of our country's oldest human rights groups. It was established in 1941 to encourage American public support for the struggle against Fascism, and through the years it has been a leading voice for tolerance, human dignity, human rights, and freedom.

Previous recipients of this distinguished award include Dwight Eisenhower in 1945, Edward R. Morrow in 1954, Winston Churchill in 1955, 15 Soviet dissidents in 1973, the Dalai Lama in 1991, and Czech President Vaclav Havel in 1991.

President Kuchma was honored at a gala dinner at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington attended by some 500 Government and congressional leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, corporate and business executives, leaders of the nongovernment organizations, and leaders of the Ukrainian-American community.

President Kuchma has served as President of Ukraine since July 9, 1994. His election marked the first democratic Presidential transition in the Republics of the former Soviet Union. His policy priorities have included initiating a program of market reforms, securing Western financial assistance to his country, normalizing relations with Russia, facilitating the passage by the Ukrainian Parliament of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, promoting interethnic harmony, and strengthening Ukrainian statehood and security.

President Kuchma is an engineer by profession. He served as technical director of rocket testing at the Soviet Baikonur Space Center and as general director of the Southern Machine-Building Plant in Dnipropetrovsk,