

of 1996, legislation to ensure the availability of implantable medical devices, which include: pacemakers, heart valves, artificial blood vessels, angioplasty catheters, left ventricular assist devices, and hip and knee joints. This bill is almost identical to H.R. 753, which I introduced last year, and is the same language that was included as title II of the Product Liability Fairness Act conference report which passed both Houses of Congress.

The measure that I, along with a bipartisan group of 23 cosponsors, introduce today will provide for expedited dismissal from lawsuit of suppliers of raw materials used in the manufacture of lifesaving and lifeenhancing medical devices—biomaterials. The Biomaterials Access Assurance Act of 1996 will not limit recovery from a biomaterials supplier where the supplier is also the manufacturer or seller of the device, or where the supplier failed to provide the biomaterials described in an applicable contract or specifications.

A looming crisis exists which necessitates adoption of the Biomaterials Access Assurance Act. Biomaterials suppliers have stopped selling raw materials to medical device manufacturers. The suppliers, named in lawsuits involving medical implants because they are considered deep pockets, have been forced to pay millions to defend themselves. Although these suppliers are rarely found liable, the litigation costs are not offset by the profits realized by selling to the device market. Sales to the device market make up only a small percentage of the overall sales of these materials to alternative markets. Raw materials used in the manufacture of these devices—polyester yarn, resins, polyurethane—have other commercial applications. For example, polyester fibers used in medical implants account for less than \$200,000 of sales in a \$9 billion worldwide polyester yarn market.

Twelve suppliers have withdrawn from the biomaterials market in the past 2 years. Device manufacturers have been forced to seek overseas suppliers, many of whom refuse to sell raw materials to U.S. manufacturers. The result is a critical shortage of biomaterials. The ultimate losers are the people who depend on medical devices to extend and improve their lives.

The Product Liability Fairness Act, which contained the exact language that I introduce today, passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 259 to 158, and the Senate by a vote of 59 to 40. Despite the President's veto of the Product Liability Fairness Act, he stated that this provision in particular was "a laudable attempt to ensure the supply of materials needed to make lifesaving medical devices." Although the President went on to express certain reservations that he has concerning this legislation, I intend to work closely with the cosponsors and the administration to ensure enactment of this lifesaving measure.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVID GUETZKOW

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA
OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my most sincere congratulations to David Guetzkow, who was named the Wisconsin

Boys & Girls Clubs' "1996 Youth of the Year." David is an exemplary young man very deserving of this distinguished award.

David has been an active member of the Irving J. Seher Boys & Girls Club for 11 years. He has demonstrated his leadership and commitment through activities sponsored by the Seher Club, as well as the Milwaukee Trade and Technical High School which he attends. Club projects like Adopt-A-Highway on South 27th Street in Milwaukee and the graffiti removal project instilled a sense of community pride in David.

At Milwaukee Trade and Technical High, David has excelled in both academic and extracurricular areas. While maintaining a 3.5 grade point average, he has made time to tutor other students, serve as captain of the volleyball and basketball teams, and quarterback of the football team, and will be inducted into the National Honor Society this fall.

In receiving this honor, David performed exceptionally in all eight categories judged: service to the club, community service, home and family, school performance, spirituality, essay writing, interview skills, and public speaking. He speaks highly of the values and direction the Boys and Girls Club has provided throughout his youth.

So, I send my best wishes to David Guetzkow as he heads to the midwest regional competition in June. His parents, Jeanne and Joel, are no doubt proud of their son. I share in their pride and believe that with young people like David, our society indeed has a very bright future.

BOSSES' DAY 1996

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, in the Tenth Congressional District of Michigan, the personnel at Selfridge Air National Guard Base have served in the defense of the United States for over 78 years. Currently, Selfridge personnel are helping bring peace to the former Yugoslavia. I am proud to say that members of the Air Force Reserve's 927 Air Refueling Wing—927 ARW—which is stationed at Selfridge, were the first reservists to volunteer this past December for the "Joint Endeavor Express" from the United States to Germany.

Selfridge Air National Guard Base is one of the Nation's oldest and most historic military installations. It is named after Lt. Thomas Etholen Selfridge. Lieutenant Selfridge was the first military officer to pilot a heavier-than-air, engine-driven aircraft. While flying with Orville Wright on September 17, 1908, Lieutenant Selfridge, unfortunately, became the first officer to meet his death in powered flight. Wright survived only after a lengthy stay in the hospital.

Selfridge Field was activated as a military installation in 1917, 3 months after the United States entered World War I. In 1947, when the Air Force became a separate service, Selfridge Field became Selfridge Air Force Base and had grown from a 640-acre leased parcel of land to a permanent 3,600-acre base.

In 1971, the base was transferred to the Michigan Air National Guard and received its

current name. As the home of many diversified units, "Team Selfridge" takes pride in being the only Reserve Forces base to have permanently assigned units from all five of the uniformed services: the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and the Coast Guard. The Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard also have units at the base.

This Saturday, May 18, 1996, the 927th is recognizing the employers who support its Reserve and Guard employees. Even though the deployment of these employees may cause financial and organizational strain, in times of need, their employers have subordinated company interests to those of the Nation. I applaud these employers for their sacrifice and commitment.

National Guard and Reserve Forces comprise almost half of our Nation's defense capability and are essential to national security. And, as is being demonstrated in Bosnia-Herzegovina, they are also essential to peace. "The mission of the 927th ARW is to extend the Global Reach of United States air power through trained personnel and mission ready equipment." As the first to volunteer in support of "Joint Endeavor," the 927th moved more than 6 tons of supplies in their first three missions—not only extending air power but offering a hand in peace.

These citizen-soldiers and airmen train vigorously and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their active duty counterparts in order to be ready to meet the Nation's call at a moment's notice. And, their civilian bosses must also be ready, in a moment's notice, to see some of their best employees answer that call.

Civilian bosses and supervisors of Reserve component soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines have continued to pledge their active support. Thanks to their commitment, our National Guard and Reserve members have been able to fulfill their military missions.

Our National Guard and Reserve Forces, as demonstrated in operation "Joint Endeavor," are playing a greater and more diverse role than probably ever imagined by Lieutenant Selfridge. And with the vital support of America's employers, the National Guard and Reserves will be able to fulfill their ultimate mission of maintaining peace.

As a measure of our thanks, we should celebrate the significant contributions of our National Guard and Reserve employers. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to join me in honoring employers of National Guard and Reserve members by remembering May 18, 1996, as Bosses' Day. And I encourage the American people to express their gratitude to these employers for their extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our Nation.

HONORING THE CENTRAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON
OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Central Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers,

"These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA LEWIS PARKS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Sylvia Lewis Parks on the occasion of her retirement from Richland County School District One after 38 years of dedicated and unselfish service to the children of Columbia, SC.

Mrs. Parks joined the school system in 1958 as an elementary school teacher, where she quickly earned a reputation for her superior and innovative teaching style. After just over a decade of classroom teaching, Mrs. Parks began the first of numerous increasingly important positions within the school system, eventually becoming one of the top administrators in the entire system. Some of these positions were: Title One Coordinator; Director of Federal Programs; Executive Director for Development Programs; Executive Director for Development and Planning; and, Acting Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education. Mrs. Parks' most recent position has been Executive Director for Elementary School Services.

In addition to her work with Richland District One, Mrs. Parks has been a consultant to school districts and educational associations across the country including: the U.S. Department of Education, Seattle, WA, Public Schools, the Oklahoma City Schools, and the Fayetteville, NC, School District. She has been a presenter at the Overseas School-to-School Partnership in Gabon and Cameroon, West Africa, the South Carolina Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals, and the South Carolina Education Association.

While keeping a very busy professional schedule, Mrs. Parks has always generously found time to serve her community and to improve the lives of the world at large. She has been a member of the board of directors of the United Black Fund, the Columbia Urban League, and the Midlands Marine Institute. She previously served as president of the Richland County Chapter of the Assault on Illiteracy Program and was a member of the

South Carolina Coalition of Blacks and Jews, the Community Relations Council, the Seventy-Three Breakfast Club, and the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and a former member of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Despite the numerous demands on her time, Mrs. Parks has always found time for her family. She is a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. She is a friendly neighbor and a warm smile to all who meet her. Over the years, she has served as a mentor to legions of students, teachers, and school administrators. Mrs. Parks is a dedicated member of the St John Baptist Church, where she has been a member of numerous committees and organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Sylvia Parks is a true Renaissance woman. I am proud to represent her in the Congress. While she will be missed at Richland School District One, I am sure her dedication and untiring devotion to our children will never end. I ask that you and the other Members of the House join me in saluting Mrs. Sylvia Lewis Parks as her family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate her retirement on Saturday, May 25, 1996, at the Clarion Townhouse in Columbia, SC.

MEDIA OBJECTIVITY

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, the professed objectivity of this country's mainstream media should be of concern to all Americans as they attempt to assess the vital issues of the day. News tinted with bias clearly prevents citizens from making truly informed decisions. I share with this body the following startling comments by Newsweek assistant managing editor and Washington bureau chief Evan Thomas from Inside Washington, a weekly public affairs show broadcast locally in the Washington area the weekend of May 11 and 12, 1996.

Apparently one member of the media establishment knows bias when he sees it.

There is a liberal bias; it's demonstrable. Boy, if you look at some statistics: About 85 percent of the reporters who cover the White House vote Democratic; they have for a long time. There is, particularly at the networks, at the lower levels, among the editors and the so-called infrastructure, there is a liberal bias.

There is a liberal bias at Newsweek, the magazine I work for. Most of the people who work at Newsweek live on the upper West Side of New York and they have a liberal bias.

I don't think it's so much Washington. It's New York. You have to look at which city we're talking about. It's where the networks are based—where the New York Times is based. I think the greatest liberal bias is amongst the people who work for large major news organizations in New York.

The network White House correspondent who writes for a conservative opinion magazine's bosses are liberal and they're always quietly denouncing him for being a right-wing nut.

The word liberalism is pretty much dead. Therefore, it's not a liberal bias; it's an anti-Republican, anti-right, anti-Christian Coalition bias. That's the bias.

I submit these observations into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in the hopes they are

kept in mind when the topic of media fairness arises.

ROBERT A. FORTINSKY HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my close personal friend Robert A. Fortinsky, who, on May 20, 1996, will receive the Distinguished Community Service Award from the Greater Wilkes-Barre Society of Fellows Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this event, and I take pride in honoring Bob on the House floor today.

In 1913, the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith was established to fight defamation based on religious, racial, and ethnic prejudices and to promote education, and a more mature understanding of all humankind. Bob Fortinsky has embraced the principles of the Anti-Defamation League, and through his actions has become most deserving of the organization's Distinguished Community Service Award.

Born in Wilkes-Barre in 1929, Bob experienced a traditional Northeastern Pennsylvanian upbringing with a strong commitment to academics. After graduating from Meyer's High School, he enrolled in Penn State university, but his education was interrupted in 1944 when he left college to serve his country in the U.S. Army.

While in the Army, Bob's leadership qualities became evident to his superiors who promoted him to Second Lieutenant. Upon attaining this rank, Bob became the youngest second lieutenant in the Army Chemical Corps. Following his service to his country, Bob returned to Penn State where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry.

Using the resources of leadership and a strong education, Bob established Fortune Fabrics, Inc. in 1949. Since that time he has established several other companies including Wyoming Weavers, Inc. in 1975 and Jilj Enterprises, Inc. in 1983. Throughout all of his business dealings, he has always operated his businesses with adherence to the highest ethical standards and a commitment to producing the best quality products.

Bob's leadership is not only evident in his business successes, but in the community organizations and clubs to which he lends his skills and time. In 1972 and 1984, Bob was Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal Campaign, and from 1973 to 1976 he served as the President of the Jewish Community Center of Wilkes-Barre. Bob was Co-Chairman of the Jewish Community Center's Endowment Fund, and in 1985 he became Chairman of Israel Bonds. He also served as President of Temple Israel and later served as Chairman of the Board of Temple Israel. In 1988 he was honored by Wilkes University with the dedication of Fortinsky Hall.

Today, Bob Fortinsky continues to be active in many community organizations and private clubs. He is a Director of the Luzerne National Bank, and a member of the International Textile Society. In addition to being a Trustee of Wilkes University, he is a member of the university's John Wilkes Society. He became a