

including the St. Peters Rec-Plex and the YMCA of St. Charles. He has served on the board of directors for Boys Town of Missouri, Missouri K.I.D.S., Lewis and Clark Performing Arts, and United Services for the Handicapped.

Mr. Weber knows that giving of yourself is simply more than donating a check. He understands that in St. Charles, as in the rest of the country, it is volunteerism which drives community spirit and cooperation. For all his life he has embodied those ideals.

A quote recently printed in the St. Charles Chamber newsletter by Mr. Ben Blanton, may best describe his character: "... this lion of a man has a teddy bear heart. A lion exterior to do battle for all the right things of our community, and a compassionate heart to weep over those who are in need."

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Mr. Weber for his dedicated service and wishing him continued success. I am honored to join the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce in honoring this outstanding leader and citizen.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY,  
AMVETS POST 22

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 1997*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, patriotism is the noblest American virtue. I rise today to pay tribute to a group of individuals that exemplifies patriotism, the members of AMVETS Post 22. The AMVETS know service to their country doesn't end after their military career. They have been providing vital services to not only veterans but the community as a whole.

On Saturday, January 25, AMVETS Post 22 in Essexville, MI will celebrate their 50th anniversary. But more than celebrating their anniversary, AMVETS is celebrating 50 years of community service and involvement. AMVETS is involved in community projects providing services not only to veterans but to any member of the community in need. In such activities as the Caro State Hospital where they held local talent shows with music, singers, and dancers, for the patients. The civic minded members of AMVETS also pass on our country's patriotic rituals to the public in an annual flag disposal ceremony designed to teach the community how to respectfully dispose of worn out flags.

Yearly Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas baskets for the needy help assuage hunger around the holidays, but their concern is not seasonal. In September they hold the white clover sales where members go out all day collecting donations. This money is used for such vital community projects as Special Olympics and Toys for Tots.

In an effort to ensure that those who served their country are not forgotten, the AMVETS assist the veterans hospital by taking patients on outings and volunteer weekly at the hospital to make veterans more comfortable. They also hold Pearl Harbor Day services and Memorial Day services.

With an eye to the future, AMVETS provides scholarships for students aiding them in pursuit of higher education in many diverse fields of study. They also foster civic pride amongst grade school students with their essay and poster contest.

Mr. Speaker, AMVETS Post 22 has been working hard for 50 years to improve the quality of life for all Americans. Please join me in congratulating the AMVETS Post 22 on its 50th anniversary, with best wishes for many more.

TRIBUTE TO JIM ESHLEMAN

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 1997*

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the achievements of Jim Eshleman, an aerospace engineer from California's Inland Empire. Jim was recently honored with 1 of 50 company-wide Nova awards by Lockheed Martin Corp. The award was presented during a ceremony at the Air and Science Museum here in Washington last summer.

Jim was recognized as the flight sciences lead for a team that designed and built a large-scale model of an aircraft that may replace about 3,000 military jets of various designs by the year 2010. Called the "Joint Strike Fighter Demonstration Airplane," a one-design-fits-all aircraft that could replace diverse military aircraft. All would be variations of the same plane, with but few modifications for each aircraft.

Jim brings to his work at Lockheed the history and values of his home town Fontana in my congressional district. Along with his family, including his six brothers and sisters, Jim worked in the Eshleman Meat Co. in Fontana. Jim belonged to the local 4-H Club. In high school, he took an aviation sciences class and earned his pilot's license before high school graduation. He was educated at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and Stanford University. He worked at NASA Ames Research Center before coming to Lockheed Martin in 1986 to join the famed Skunk Works.

At home in my district, we are proud of the contributions Jim is making in the aerospace field. I ask my colleagues to share this pride in an American whose work will make a difference in the way military avionics will develop in the next century.

HONORING THE AWARD WINNERS  
OF THE DALE CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 1997*

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to rise and bring to the attention of my colleagues some very special and important people in Dale City, located in Prince William County in the 11th District of Virginia. These are individuals who have put the welfare of the community, Dale City, VA, above their own needs and desires, not only performing their jobs, but going above and beyond the call of duty. These individuals have become role models to others in their professions and to other volunteers.

These citizens were honored on February 1, 1997 by the Dale City Civic Association, one of the largest, most active and accomplished citizens associations in the commonwealth of Virginia. The Dale City Civic Association was created 30 years ago and hosts an annual service awards banquet. In addition, the association offers a number of awards and scholarships for college bound students from Dale City, monitors development and serves as a sounding board for citizens and businesses.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the award recipients.

Catherine Spellane Citizen of the Year: Irene Dell. Ms. Dell is a member of the Dale City Civic Association and volunteers for the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department. She has made significant contributions in raising thousands of dollars for the fire department and has been instrumental in the success of kids programs run by the volunteer fire department. She has volunteered much of her time to organize and help the DCCA become the successful association that it is today.

Youth Citizen of the Year: Kiana Rene Trent. Ms. Trent is a sophomore at C.D. Hylton H.S. She is the Class President and has played a major role in drug awareness programs, Just Say No campaigns, and SADD. She is a member of the student council Model United Nations, the swim team, and the junior varsity cheerleading team, to name a few. In addition to these activities, she has also won the Martin Luther King oratory contest. She is a model student and an accomplished citizen.

Firefighters of the Year: Marc Sherman and Eric Wyatt. Capt. Sherman and Capt. Wyatt are both volunteer firefighters at the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department Station 13. They have progressed from recruits to their present positions as battalion captains. These two men are true heroes, role models for our youth to emulate. In a recent residence fire, the brave efforts of these men saved the life of a child. They truly perform above and beyond the call of duty and help make DCVFD second to none. They have both volunteered over 1000 hours each.

Emergency Medical Technician of the Year: Angela Goodwin. Lt. Goodwin has been a volunteer EMT with the Dale City Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department since 1992. She is a driving force in the fire department paramedic program, providing unsurpassed advanced life support to patients in life threatening situations. Lt. Goodwin is always available for public education, internal training for her crews, as well as maintaining EMS supplies for three stations. Additionally, she is responsible for the management of her battalion crew and must provide constant supervision to assure her personnel will be ready to meet any emergency situation.

Nurse of the Year: Nancy O'Shields. Ms. O'Shields is a nurse at Potomac Hospital. She has been a member of this nursing staff for 24 years and has served as a staff nurse with the medical-surgical unit until transferred to the emergency department where she worked for several years. Currently, she serves as the director of outpatient surgical services. In her spare time, Nancy is active in her church and sings in the choir. She is a member of the police wives association, and she was also very active in the Dale City Little League and the area schools when her children were young. She is a model citizen within the community.

Police Officer of the Year: First Sergeant Shari S. Williams. First Sergeant Williams developed the Police and Community Together Program which forms alliances with police officers and citizens in specific neighborhood watches to solve community problems. The object of this project is to keep an open dialogue to address concerns or needs that may arise in the community. She has also worked closely with the crime prevention bureau to make this program the success it is today.

Community Service Award: Earl Barnes. Mr. Barnes is a member and 2nd vice president of the DCCA. He is also a member of the P.W. County Board Audit Committee, a member of the P.W. County Arts Council and the American Legion Post, as well as the Treasurer of Westwind Forest HOA. He is one of the 24 students to graduate from the inaugural P.W. County Community Leadership Class and plays an important role as a member of the 11th District Congressional Federal Employee Working Group. He is always seen as a person that lends a helping hand, and always thinks of others before himself.

Elementary School Teacher of the Year: Mary Allen. Ms. Allen has been a teacher in Prince William County for the past 27 years, 10 years at Occoquan elementary and 17 years at Enterprise elementary. She is not just a classroom teacher, she has also been the grade level chairman, lead teacher and has served as an enhanced instructional process coach. Additionally, she has recently worked on two school review committees. She is always helping other teachers both in and out of school.

Middle School Teacher of the Year: Alan Graham. Mr. Graham has been a teacher for 20 years. Currently, he teaches computer science at Beville middle school. Additionally, he coaches the baseball team, edits the newsletter, and inspires young thespians. He teaches the immigrant students in ESOL class and has a willingness to adapt his instruction so that these limited English students can grasp the course content as well as improve their language skills. He always strives to make the lab he works in a better place for kids to learn.

High School Teacher of the Year: Jan Polk. Ms. Polk has been a teacher in Prince William County for 32 years. Currently, she teaches social studies at C.D. Hylton high school. Each year, Jan plans and organizes a mock election. Nearly 1000 people attend and participate in this most interesting exercise of civic responsibility. She is well respected by all of her students and colleagues at Hylton high school. Not only does she work with the most experienced educators, she also assists the newest first year teachers by sharing materials, strategies, and personal support.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent these outstanding citizens and I know my colleagues join with me in congratulating these individuals for their tireless efforts to make Dale City, VA a better place to live.

#### MAKE A COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN NOW

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today a bill to help low-income working fami-

lies buy health insurance for their uninsured children. Families who buy an individual children's health insurance policy will be given a 95 percent refundable tax credit against the cost of the policy.

Health insurance equals access to health care. Access to health care equals better health and a better quality of life. It is that simple.

Health insurance can mean the difference between life and death—and between a good quality life and a stunted life. A recent GAO report provides a concise summary of why the lack of insurance is so important.

Studies have shown that uninsured children are less likely than insured children to get needed health and preventive care. The lack of such care can adversely affect children's health status throughout their lives. Without health insurance, many families face difficulties getting preventive and basic care for their children. Children without health insurance or with gaps in coverage are less likely to have routine doctor visits or have a regular source of medical care. . . . They are also less likely to get care for injuries, see a physician if chronically ill, or get dental care. They are less likely to be appropriately immunized to prevent childhood illness—which is considered by health experts to be one of the most basic elements of preventive care.

Numerous studies have underscored the importance of access to health insurance. Despite the widespread recognition of the problem, there are 10 million children in the United States without health insurance. Said differently, 14.2 percent of all children are uninsured, according to the latest analysis of the Bureau of Census' March 1995 current population survey by the General Accounting Office (GAO).

Many analysts predict that this figure will continue to grow, mainly because private health insurance continues to decrease. Private coverage—employer-based and individually-purchased insurance—for children declined steadily between 1987 and 1993, from 73.6 percent down to 67.4 percent of all children. Currently 40 percent of children are not covered under their parents' employment based health insurance. According to experts at the Center for Health Policy Research at George Washington University, one child loses private coverage approximately every minute.

Health insurance for children in America is getting worse—not better. With the recent attack on welfare, and therefore Medicaid, it may get disastrously worse—fast. We desperately need to reverse the trend of rising uninsured rates for children. The General Accounting Office recently issued a report to Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD, dated June 17, 1996, entitled "Health Insurance for Children: Private Insurance Coverage Continues to Deteriorate." The report states

The number of children without health insurance coverage was greater in 1994 than at any time in the last 8 years. In 1994, the percentage of children under 18 years old without any health insurance coverage reached its highest level since 1987—14.2 percent or 10 million children who were uninsured. In addition, the percentage of children with private coverage has decreased every year since 1987, and in 1994 reached its lowest level in the past 8 years—65.6 percent \* \* \*.

Several States have built on existing programs to expand health insurance coverage

for uninsured children. At the State level, the current strategy to cover the uninsured is to fill in the gaps in insurance coverage. In July of 1996, Massachusetts adopted coverage expansions for children in Medicaid in the State's Children's Medical Security Plan; in New York and Florida as well funds were appropriated to extend children's health insurance programs to additional children. Although a few States have moved forward to expand health insurance coverage for children, it is not enough. We need to do more.

The bill I am introducing today is not a mandate; it does not require any individual to buy health insurance. It does, however, provide incentives for the sale and purchase of individual children's health insurance policies, and it does help families, especially very low income families, buy a policy of their choice.

The bill would create a refundable tax credit of 95 percent of the cost of the premium to buy health insurance for a child. The credit is available to families based on a computation of adjusted gross income plus an additional \$5,000 amount for each child covered.

This bill is a small, incremental step forward. It is by no means everything I would like. If I could waive a magic wand, I would make sure that everyone in America had high quality health insurance tomorrow morning. That isn't going to happen—but this small step, starting with children, could help millions of children grow up to be healthier, more productive citizens. Like my amendment which started the COBRA Health Continuation program which has been used by 40 million Americans, this bill could make a world of difference to millions of Americans in the years ahead.

We spend long hours debating whether there should be prayer in school, but no time discussing how much parents pray that their children don't get sick because the parents can't pay the bills. We spend days debating obscenity on the Internet, but little time debating how obscene it is for a society as rich as ours to have so many children and parents unable to seek adequate medical care. It's time to debate a critical issue—the health of our children.

To repeat, the bill is not a mandate, but a chance for the 99.99 percent of parents who care to have affordable health insurance for their children. It uses the private market exclusively. It is a first step. I welcome cosponsors for the bill, and comments and suggestions from the public on ways to improve the bill.

The following is a summary of the bill:

#### CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1997 SUMMARY

##### I. OFFERING OF POLICY

Group health plans must make available qualifying coverage for eligible children whose parent(s) has group health coverage under the plan. Group health plans must offer coverage at least annually. Each insurer that offers health insurance coverage must have available for purchase health insurance for eligible recipients under the age of 21. A health insurance policy must be reasonably priced (it is reasonably priced if the premium or other charge for the coverage does not exceed 150 percent of the average price for similar coverage offered in the same state).

##### II. BENEFIT PACKAGE

The benefit package must include benefits provided under Medicare (parts A and B) plus well child care benefits including newborn