

first and so forth. This is unpersuasive. Nothing in the real world is perfect. If the U.S. Navy had refused to buy any weapon unless it worked perfectly every time, we would have bought nothing and now would be disarmed. The question is not how this treaty compares with perfection. The question is not how this treaty compares with perfection. The question is how U.S. ratification compares with its absence.

If we refuse to ratify, some governments will use our refusal as an excuse to keep their chemical weapons. Worldwide availability of chemical weapons will be higher, and we will know less about other countries' chemical activities. The diplomatic credibility of our threat of retaliation against anyone who uses chemical weapons on our troops will be undermined by our lack of "clean hands." At the bottom line, our failure to ratify will substantially increase the risk of a chemical attack against American service personnel.

If such attack occurs, the news reports of its victims in our military hospitals will of course produce rapid ratification of the treaty and rapid replacement of senators who enabled the horror by opposing ratification. But for the victims, it will be too late.

Every man and woman who puts on a U.S. military uniform faces possible injury or death in the national interest. They don't complain; risk is part of their job description. But it is also part of the job description of every U.S. senator to see that this risk not be increased unnecessarily.

#### MAKING PROGRESS ON THE WAR ON DRUGS ABROAD

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 1997*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, late last month, the dedicated and courageous Colombian National Police elite antidrug unit DANTI raided a major cocaine processing laboratory in southeast Colombia. They made a startling find on that raid by uncovering a cocaine processing laboratory capable of producing more than 1 ton a day of deadly cocaine. Not many years ago, we used to talk in terms of kilos of cocaine seized, now we are talking in terms of tons per day. The drug threat grows more serious and challenging for all of us, both here and abroad.

Nearly 8 tons of cocaine already processed and ready to be shipped to our streets and communities was also seized that day. The destruction of the lab was a major blow to the drug cartels and their narco guerrilla allies in Colombia. Now, fewer American kids will be exposed to these drugs, due to high prices and less available cocaine from this police action in southeast Colombia last month. We all owe them a debt of gratitude.

On January 31, 1997, the Miami Herald reported the commanding Colombian National Police General's account of this impressive and historymaking major counternarcotics raid that, "Police swooping into the complex aboard six helicopters and an aircraft overheard drug traffickers frantically calling via two-way radios for leftist guerrillas to shoot down the mosquitos."

Those mosquitos the guerrillas wanted shot down were excess U.S. Army Huey helicopters, several of which had recently been delivered by the United States Government to

Colombia. The helicopters were provided to the police only after endless prodding and requests by myself and Representative DAN BURTON. We have long been concerned that the administration was neglecting our allies like the DANTI in the war on drugs in Colombia.

I was extremely proud to have one of these helicopters named *Big Ben* by the Colombian police. I am sure Mr. BURTON is also equally as proud of the chopper named *Dangerous Dan* by the Colombian National Police for his efforts in helping the DANTI take the law enforcement fight to the drug traffickers at its very source, before this scourge hits our streets and helps destroy our youth and communities.

These courageous police officers who dealt a severe blow to the drug trade in that raid not long ago in southeast Colombia, and their many other operations and eradication efforts, are constantly under fire from better armed traffickers on these missions. They have lost 3,500 police officers in the last 10 years in our common struggle against drugs and the drug trade.

We must continue our efforts to support these dedicated, courageous police officers with our helicopters, miniguns, spare parts and other necessary equipment to do the job. Together, we must rid both of our nations of those who would traffick in illicit drugs, which poison not only our youth, but our democratic institutions and very way of life.

#### GUATEMALA PEACE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 1997*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which congratulates the government and people of Guatemala for the extraordinary peace accords signed recently between the Government and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemala [UNRG].

With the signing of the accords on December 29, 1996, 36 years of civil strife ended and Guatemala embarked on a new era of reconciliation, reconstruction, democratization, and economic development.

The peace process, which culminated in the accords, was a comprehensive effort involving all sectors of the country. The development of the actual agreements took 11 years of tough negotiation and include some far reaching reforms of the political, economic, social, and judicial system in Guatemala.

Lasting peace in Guatemala is not only beneficial to the people of that nation, but it is in the best interest of all of the nations of the hemisphere, including the United States.

My resolution congratulates the government of President Alvaro Arzu for his efforts in negotiating a final end to the hostilities. It recognizes the commitment of the UNRG to end the warfare and to resolve their differences within the political arena. And, it commends all of the people of Guatemala for their strong commitment to democratic principles and social justice for all.

#### RECOGNIZING HOLMES REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER AS RECIPIENT OF 1997 NOVA AWARD

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 1997*

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Holmes Regional Medical Center which recently received the American Hospital Association's prestigious NOVA award on January 27, 1997. Holmes Regional Medical Center is very deserving of this great honor for its strong commitment to providing quality health care to needy residents in Brevard County, FL. Through its HOPE program, Holmes serves the needy in our community whose medical needs might otherwise go untreated. HOPE serves as a model program for hospitals across the United States.

Holmes is one of only five recipients across the United States and the only recipient from the State of Florida that received this year's NOVA award. Those who have dedicated themselves to ensuring HOPE's success deserve this honor for their commitment to increasing community health, expanding services, managing limited resources, and building community trust among the residents of Brevard County, FL.

HOPE's medical expertise and compassionate care are commendable. Their concern for and commitment to the welfare of the most needy in our community is apparent in their focus on health, outreach, prevention, and education. This is especially evident in HOPE's practice of providing free medical treatment to those without health insurance, Medicare, or other health care coverage. In addition to serving more than 5,000 adults a year, HOPE meets the needs of over 500 children on a daily basis. This is highly commendable and should be an example to all.

As a physician who has treated some of these same patient needs in our community, I know HOPE's unique approach in bringing various community agencies together to establish a multi-agency program for children with disabilities has had a powerful impact on our community. The program teaches and encourages intervention, and provides support to parents with children with disabilities by providing them with expert knowledge and services from community specialists. This is just one example of how HOPE is serving our community.

HOPE's commitment to serving and providing quality, low-cost, compassionate care to the needy is inspiring. We, in Brevard County, are grateful for the way in which Holmes Regional Medical Center's HOPE program has served the people of our county. HOPE has brought true hope to many of our friends and neighbors.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. ROBERT KELLY

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 1997*

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable accomplishment. On

January 29 Robert and Mildred Kelly celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. It is with great respect and admiration that I offer them my congratulations on reaching this glorious milestone.

It seems that Robert and Mildred understand devotion to one another, as well as, to family, friends and community. They are a shining example of all that is good in life. For 55 years, Robert worked as a union carpenter and is highly respected in his field. Mildred, Mimi to those close to her, is truly an angel. One is always delighted to see the two of them on one's doorstep, know that Mimi is delivering one of her special homemade angel-food cakes with her buttercream frosting and other homemade goodies. Their thoughtful acts of kindness are unlimited and they are always at the side of a family member, friend or neighbor in need of assistance.

I recall the day I met these fine folks. I was at a local shopping center where I had just purchased a large item. I was in the parking lot struggling with the item as I was trying to fit it into the trunk of my car. Robert and Mildred noticed my situation and offered to help. Robert and Mildred graciously loaded the item into their trunk and followed me to my home, some 15 miles out of their way. With smiles on their faces they said they were glad to be able to help me out. This gesture of kindness is just one example of what makes this couple so very special.

Mr. Speaker, Robert and Mildred Kelly's dedicated service to each other, to their family, and to their fellow citizens has set a tremendous example for the Nation. I wish them many more happy years of marriage and it is my great pleasure to represent them in the U.S. Congress.

#### BREAST IMPLANT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 1997*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in April 1994, an immense multibillion dollar class action suit was filed against the silicone breast implant manufacturers, possibly the largest in American history. Since the 1980s, about 400,000 cases have been filed in Federal court against 40 makers of breast implants and their components. Thousands of cases have been filed in State courts as well.

A \$4.2 billion compensation fund was established by Dow Corning, Baxter Healthcare Corp., Bristol Myers, and several other corporations. The settlement distributes compensation money to several designated funds: A general compensation program, a medical diagnostic fund to pay unreimbursed costs of exams for women with implants, and an explanation fund to cover unreimbursed costs associated with removal of implants. There is also a rupture fund to compensate women whose implants have broken as well as a fund to cover administration and attorney's fees.

At the time the settlement was negotiated, Dow Corning denied rumors of a bankruptcy filing. The women coplaintiffs agreed to bypass the court system and entered into the settlement in good faith, under the impression that Dow Corning would fully honor the agree-

ment. In May 1995, Dow Corning reversed its position and filed bankruptcy under chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

Dow Chemical, the parent company of Dow Corning, may be held directly liable for breast implant claims under a recent ruling by a Federal district court. In May 1995, Dow Chemical filed a cross-claim against Dow Corning. One week later Dow Corning—which is 50 percent owned by Dow Chemical and has interlocking boards of directors with Dow Chemical—filed for bankruptcy. Dow Chemical then claimed that, under an April 19, 1995 Supreme Court ruling, all litigation against them should be put on hold because of their cross-claim. I find it hard to believe that Dow Chemical, as the parent company of Dow Corning, was not aware of Dow Corning's pending bankruptcy filing when they filed their cross-claim.

I believe that there is strong evidence that Dow Chemical and Dow Corning colluded to manipulate the legal system to avoid the bulk of their liability in the \$4.2 billion settlement. In addition, there is documented evidence that Dow Chemical suppressed information they had in their possession from as early as the 1940's that silicone posed significant health hazards to humans. Despite knowledge of this information, Dow Chemical and its subsidiary, Dow Corning, sold hundreds of thousands of silicone breast implants to women.

On October 10, 1995, the \$4.23 billion global breast implant settlement collapsed, closing the door on 440,000 women who desperately need medical treatment. Of those 440,000 women who qualified for funding under the settlement, an estimated 75 percent of the women still have ruptured or leaking implants in their bodies with no financial means to pay for surgical explanation. While a few women will be fortunate enough to win exorbitant law suits, as evidenced by the recent \$10 billion Nevada case, this practice will eventually bankrupt the manufacturers, leaving hundreds of thousands of women with no recourse.

As a result, I have introduced H.R. 366, the Breast Implant Accountability Act, to provide a fair solution for all parties involved, and I invite you to join me by cosponsoring the legislation. The Breast Implant Accountability Act does the following:

First, requires silicone breast implant manufacturers to notify breast implant recipients that funds will be provided for the surgical removal of breast implants which were implanted before January 1, 1994. Patient participation is completely voluntary; explanation will be performed only at the request of the individual.

Second, allows the notice recipient to select the physician and hospital or surgery center for the explanation procedure. The provision would prevent manufacturers from forcing women to travel great distances or to one central location for the explanation.

Third, ensures that the explanted breast implants become the property of the individual from which it was removed. The implant shall be given to the individual in an appropriate condition.

Fourth, requires further research on the physiological, neurological, and immunological effects of silicone on the human body. Individuals in the class action suit shall be included in the research, should they volunteer.

Fifth, requires all future implant candidates to be informed of the health risks of implants and to sign a consent form stating that she has read and understands the risks involved.

Sixth, prohibits the donation of blood and organs by individuals with breast implants.

As with any faulty product that threatens the health or safety of consumers, the manufacturer should issue a recall of the product. The fact is, per woman, the cost of explanation provided for under H.R. 366 is generally far less than the settlement award. If you support a fair and equitable solution for your constituents, without bankrupting the manufacturers, I urge you to cosponsor H.R. 366.

#### MUSIC TO LIVE BY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 6, 1997*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Frankie Yankovic, America's Polka King, the Elvis of ethnic musical expression, ambassador of the great American melting pot, prolific composer, band leader, performer, and Cleveland.

Frankie Yankovic was born to Slovene immigrants in 1915. In their hardscrabble working lives, music expressed their hope and joy. Frankie began by playing accompaniment to the boarders in his family home.

He was an obvious talent and was instantly loved by all who heard his music. At age 23, Frankie had his first band and his first hit album. He began a lifetime of touring. Frequently, he made 300 appearances per year. Over the years, his bands have played in every major concert hall in America.

Frankie Yankovic heralded many polka tunes known widely to American listeners. In 1948, Frankie recorded "Just Because" with Columbia records. The tune was a breakthrough release, attracting both a polka and popular music audience. "Just Because" sold 1 million copies. In 1949, Frankie released the "Blue Skirt Waltz," which attained the coveted gold status even more quickly.

Frankie was also a great mentor. He discovered and cultivated the talent of the famous virtuoso, Joey Miskulin.

Frankie received many honors in his lifetime. He was inducted into the International Polka Association Polka Hall of Fame as well as the Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame. In 1986, Frankie received the first Grammy awarded for polka music.

Beyond being the consummate performer, Frankie was also a lifetime union member of Local 4, American Federation of Musicians, and a patriot. Married and the father of two, he nevertheless voluntarily enlisted in the U.S. infantry in World War II and fought at the Battle of the Bulge. There, under extreme weather conditions, Frankie contracted gangrene in his limbs. Against the advice of doctors, Frankie resisted amputation. With a great deal of courage and persistence, Frankie brought his fingers and hands back to life. How fortunate we all are.

I commend Frankie Yankovic for his skill, his energy, and his ability to make people happy through the sounds and rhythms of polka.