

adjourn on November 7, we have only 3 weeks remaining in the 1997 legislative session. We must move quickly to take action before we run out of time. I encourage the leadership to give the public what it desperately wants, campaign finance reform.

Mr. Speaker, during the next week I will be traveling throughout my district in western Wisconsin. I will have to tell the people I represent that we have failed to even consider any of the campaign finance bills we currently have pending before Congress. I know that the people of western Wisconsin will not accept this answer. The people are tired of Congress unwilling to clean up our own house. Please give us a vote on this issue.

#### TRIBUTE TO NORFOLK COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE SAM T. BARFIELD

#### HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Honorable Sam T. Barfield, who is retiring this year after serving as commissioner of the revenue of the city of Norfolk for the past 28 years.

Sam was born in Charleston, SC in 1917. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1941 and was discharged 5 years later with honors and the rank of major. He entered private business in Norfolk, VA following his service in the Marine Corps and has continued to live there until the present.

He began his public service work early in his business career by serving on the board of directors for the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce from 1949 until 1968. He also sought public office and was elected to the Norfolk City Council, where he served from 1959 to 1969. During the difficult period following the Supreme Court decision in 1954 abolishing segregation in public schools, Sam took a public stand in favor of integrating the Norfolk city schools in order to keep them open.

He has been instrumental in the planning and construction of many downtown Norfolk landmarks, including Scope, Chrysler Hall, and the City Hall Complex.

He was elected to the office of commissioner of the revenue in 1969. One of his first innovations was the introduction and use of paper decals on windshields in place of metal city plates which resulted in a considerable cost savings to the taxpayers.

As commissioner, Sam worked cooperatively with the State's Governors, general assembly, and congressional delegation to effect tax reform, obtain payments in-lie of taxes for federally-owned property, and protect the role of the commissioners of revenue under the Virginia Constitution. He also served as president of the commissioners of the Revenue Association and the Virginia Association of Locally Elected Constitutional Officers.

Sam was outspoken and colorful politician who enjoyed people and took great pride in his community and his work. I know that his many friends and admirers join me in saluting him for his long, dedicated, and loyal public service.

HONORING PROJECT INFO COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY, AND MOCTESUMA ESPARZA AND DR. NELBA CHAVEZ

#### HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding and invaluable community service organization, Project INFO, located in my congressional district. On Thursday, October 9, 1997, Project INFO will celebrate 25 years of dedicated community service.

Established in 1972 as a private nonprofit organization, Project INFO responded to the call for help from the Whittier Union High School District to assist in the prevention of student drug abuse. Since its inception, its purpose has been to strengthen the family unit by promoting mental health and well-being through proactive programs of education, prevention, and early intervention, and to strengthen the individual through personal development. Project INFO programs are particularly sensitive to the multicultural communities it serves.

Since 1972, Project INFO has expanded its services in a variety of areas to meet the needs challenging today's families. Most services are delivered by bilingual/bicultural staff. Project INFO offers eight different programs.

Windows/Ventanas is a program which works with families on developing communication skills. This program has been honored by State and national organizations for its effectiveness in the prevention of substance abuse through the strengthening of families.

Through drop-in centers located in the cities of El Monte, La Puente, and Glendora, Community Prevention and Recovery Programs [CPRP] offers a full range of alcohol prevention and recovery services. Each site has tailored a program to address its community's needs. At the El Monte site a domestic violence program for "batterers" called Domestic & Other Violence Education [DOVE] has been created to address the needs expressed by the judicial system and the community. The La Puente site initiated a Youth Federation to develop student leadership and Glendora has created a support group for middle school children.

Serving People In Recovery & In Transition [SPIRIT] is an outpatient drug free counseling program for recovering addicts and their families. This program is offered for both juveniles and adults. Counseling services are offered in all six schools of the Whittier Union High School District.

Building Employment Skills Training [BEST] is a program funded by the Job Training Partnership Act to provide job training and placement for economically disadvantaged individuals through partnerships with private employers.

Assistance with Alcohol and Sobriety Uniting Latinas [AASUL] is a media campaign designed to educate Latinas in California about alcohol abuse and related problems and offers a network of support services.

Child Abuse Risk Intervention and Neighborhood Outreach [CARINO], Spanish for "tender

affection", is a program that works with families to prevent and break the cycle of child abuse.

Challenging Latinos to Access Resource Opportunities [CLARO] uses positive role models and culturally appropriate support groups to challenge high-risk male youth to explore alternatives and prevent involvement in gang, alcohol and drug abuse, premature and/or irresponsible sexual activity and teen pregnancy. A pilot program, Self Empowerment Resources to Educate, Nurture and Advocate [SERENA], was developed to address, in a gender appropriate manner, the prevention strategies of CLARO for high-risk female youth.

Community Organizations Linking Optimum Resource Services [COLORS] is a family preservation program designed to provide a strong base of support for families dealing with abuse and neglect.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of Project INFO, a special dinner will be held tonight. The theme of this year's celebration is "Twenty-Five Years of Touching Lives." Through its outstanding programs, Project INFO has provided exemplary service, addressing the vast and difficult barriers that our young people and families confront each day. Fortunately for those youth and families in need of assistance and guidance, for 25 years Project INFO has remained solidly committed to reaching out and touching those lives.

Also, tonight, Project INFO will honor Moctesuma Esparza and Dr. Nelba Chavez for their contributions to Project INFO and its mission. Moctesuma Esparza, a well known talented movie producer, has dedicated his time as a guest speaker at the Project INFO youth conferences, leaving a lasting impression on the youth participants. Dr. Nelba Chavez, Administrator for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, has been a strong supporter of Project INFO and has spoken at several conferences for women sponsored by Project INFO.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise to recognize Project INFO for its 25 years of unwavering dedication to the needs of our youth and families and tonight's honorees, Moctesuma Esparza and Dr. Nelba Chavez. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this fine organization and sending our gratitude and congratulations to the honorees and Project INFO on its 25th anniversary.

#### THE SENIOR CITIZEN RESPIRATORY CARE ACT OF 1997

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to restore Medicare coverage for ultrasonic nebulizers—medical devices used to treat patients with severe asthma, cystic fibrosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD], and other respiratory diseases.

In April 1997, the Durable Medical Equipment Carriers [DMERC's], under the authority of the Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA], made a significant change in Medicare reimbursement policy that will put senior

citizens and disabled persons with respiratory illnesses at serious risk. My legislation is very simple. It restores Medicare coverage for ultrasonic nebulizers to the same terms and conditions that existed prior to this change.

The device in question uses ultrasonic sound waves to turn medicine into a fine mist that is inhaled by the patient into the lungs. Ultrasonic nebulizers are extremely efficient at delivering medication where it is needed—the lungs—and in the optimum particle sizes.

Without any clinical justification and without any public notice or comment, the DMERC's have either eliminated Medicare coverage for ultrasonic nebulizers entirely, or reduced reimbursement rates so drastically that suppliers will no longer provide them.

The DMERC's decision was made despite the fact that ultrasonic nebulizers have been considered safe, effective, and medically necessary for years, and notwithstanding a large body of evidence that ultrasonic nebulizers are more efficient at delivering medication than the most similar alternative, the jet nebulizer or pneumatic compressor.

Furthermore, beneficiaries are being forced to switch to a metered-dose inhaler [MDI], which is not covered by Medicare. This has led to a significant increase in the out-of-pocket-costs of Medicare beneficiaries. I am particularly concerned that the additional costs borne by senior citizens may cause some to forego needed treatments—an outcome which could put their lives in jeopardy.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the increased costs to seniors, the lack of openness and public accountability, the new "one-size fits all" Medicare respiratory care policy is downright dangerous. While metered-dose inhalers [MDI's] are wonderful devices, they are not the appropriate therapy for every person.

Indeed, a number of well-controlled studies suggests that up to 50 percent of senior citizens do not use MDI's properly—even after repeated instruction. What these studies imply is that if HCFA does not reverse the decision of the DMERC's and restore Medicare coverage for ultrasonic nebulizers, there will be seniors, forced to switch to MDI's, who could require hospitalization because they cannot use their MDI properly.

Asthma and cystic fibrosis are not diseases to be taken lightly—if a person does not have the proper medicine, they can die. It is that simple. In fact, of the nearly 5,000 people who die every year from asthma, most deaths resulted from patients who failed to take their medication.

For those with severe arthritis or poor hand-eye coordination, they cannot use an MDI at all. They will be the real victims of the new HCFA/DMERC policy on ultrasonic nebulizers. The HCFA/DMERC decision to deny ultrasonic nebulizer coverage is a clear case of a policy that is "penny wise and pound foolish." If a single inpatient hospital admission results from improper MDI usage, it will cost Medicare tens of thousands of dollars in increased costs.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the impact on seniors if the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] is allowed to begin banning metered-dose inhalers that contain chlorofluorocarbons [CFC's], as they proposed on March 6, 1997. If HCFA removes coverage for ultrasonic nebulizers, forcing seniors to use metered-dose inhalers, and FDA in turn removes most metered-dose inhalers from the market, seniors will be left with a dramatically

reduced range of therapeutic options at significantly higher prices.

This outcome is completely unacceptable, and that is why my good friend and colleague from Florida, Mr. CLIFF STEARNS, and I have joined in introducing the Senior Citizen Respiratory Care Act of 1997. Congress must act soon to reverse HCFA's "stealth" coverage change, and restore Medicare reimbursement to devices which are safe and effective therapeutic options for seniors with serious respiratory illnesses.

#### TRIBUTE TO JUDGE MANUEL REAL

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, California's 43d Congressional District has been extremely fortunate to have many dedicated citizens who have been willing to contribute their time and talents to help make our community an exceptionally good place in which to live and work. One of the most dedicated and active of these citizens has been Judge Manuel Real.

Manuel Real is a U.S. district judge for the Central District of California, a position he has held since being appointed by then-President Lyndon Johnson in 1966. On Friday, October 10, 1997, I will be honored to participate in the opening of a new elementary school in Mead Valley, CA named in honor of Judge Real for its many years of service to the great State of California.

Judge Real first began his distinguished legal career as an assistant U.S. attorney. He left for a short time to enter into private practice before rejoining U.S. Attorney's office until he was appointed a U.S. district judge. During his tenure with the central district court, Judge Real served as the chief judge of the court from 1982–1993.

The students of the new Manuel Real Elementary School should strive to emulate the accomplishments of their school's namesake as well as his dedication to improving the community and its overall quality of life. On behalf of the citizens of the 43d Congressional District, I want to add to this tribute my congratulations, and to wish Manuel, his wife Stella, and their four children best wishes for a happy and productive future.

#### TRIBUTE TO IRWIN ROSENBERG

#### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the spirit of volunteerism and community involvement and to honor Irwin Rosenberg as the recipient of the 1997 Nelle Reagan Award for Distinguished Community Service. This honor is bestowed upon Irwin for his extensive support for the Olive View-UCLA Medical Center Foundation and his long history of outstanding philanthropic and volunteer leadership in our community.

This prestigious award, named for President Ronald Reagan's mother, Nelle, was devel-

oped with the assistance of the Reagan family to honor dedicated community service. Long-term dedication has been a characteristic of Irwin Rosenberg's long volunteer career, which began at age 14 as a police explorer. By the age 17, he had received 22 commendations, including 1 for bravery.

Throughout his life, Irwin has developed relations with countless volunteer associations in our community. Some of these associations include the City Council for the Disabled, California Association of Physically Handicapped, and the Fair Housing Council of the San Fernando Valley. Irwin has also served as a board member for the United Way, Southern California Association of Governments, Granada Hills Little League and many other organizations. Currently, he serves as the vice-president and commissioner of the Los Angeles City Commission on Children, Youth and Their Families, commissioner of the Los Angeles County Private Industry Council, chairman-elect of New Directions for Youth, and vice-chair/board of managers of North Valley YMCA in addition to various other board memberships. This service represent a mere sampling of Irwin's involvement in our community and his commitment to all facets of helping people.

A former Nelle Reagan Award winner, Tim McBride, said "Irwin brought himself up to be somebody to be admired. He is a mentor and an example of someone who gives unselfishly of himself to help so many." It is this unselfish dedication that has earned Irwin the respect of our community and this award.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in recognizing Irwin Rosenberg for his dedication to our community and in congratulating him on receipt of the 1997 Nelle Reagan Award for Distinguished Community Service. His service stands for all to admire.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF ST. LOUIS CARDINAL MARK MCGWIRE

#### HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, the city of St. Louis and its baseball Cardinals have been blessed with great teams and great players over the years. Generations of baseball legends wearing the St. Louis Cardinals uniform—Dizzy Dean, Stan Musial, Bob Gibson, Lou Brock, and Ozzie Smith—all played before adoring crowds of St. Louis fans. This past year, we witnessed a legend-in-the-making when slugger Mark McGwire joined the Cardinals and chased baseball immortality. After hitting 58 home runs this season, Mark McGwire's name now joins the record books behind only Roger Maris and the legendary Babe Ruth on the all-time single season home run list.

Mark McGwire was embraced in St. Louis like few sports figures have in the city's history. But it was not only his tremendous feats on the baseball field that attracted fans but also his generous actions off the field. Mark McGwire stands as a role model for our children, teaching them that there are more important things in life than money and fame. His actions off the field show us the importance he places in the values we hold dear—