

Edgemar, Pacific Manor, Manor Village, Westview, Sharp Park, Fairway Park, Vallemar, Rockaway Beach, Linda Mar, and Pedro Point—were joined together and incorporated as the city of Pacifica.

The name given the new city is the Spanish word for “peace”—“pacific.” Although the area has a long and distinguished Spanish heritage, the name of the city does not derive from the early Spanish settlers or explorers of that area. It was the product of a contest held in 1957 to find an appropriate name for the newly incorporated city. The winning name was derived from an 80-foot statue by sculptor Ralph Stackpole, which was created as the theme symbol for the Golden Gate International Exposition held on Treasure Island in 1939–1940. Although the 80-foot statue was destroyed after the Exposition, two of the sculptor’s working models have been saved and both are now in Pacifica—one is over the front stairs of the Pacifica City Hall and the other is in the city council chambers.

“Wisdom in Progress” is the slogan adopted when the city was incorporated, and that phrase has indeed marked the development of Pacifica since its establishment. The city has constructed a fishing pier, an important facility for visitors and residents to enjoy the ocean. Pacifica has also fostered a number of important projects to establish and improve the outstanding quality of life its fortunate residents enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I invite the Congress to join with me today in extending congratulations and best wishes to the 40,000 residents of Pacifica on the important 40th anniversary of the founding of this excellent city.

VETERANS’ COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2367, a bill to increase the rates of compensation for veteran’s with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain veterans. This bill will strengthen our Nation’s efforts to continue to provide veterans with a suitable quality of life. I would like to commend Chairman STUMP, Congressman EVANS, and the Veteran’s Committee for continued dedication, leadership, and hard work on these measures and others affecting the veterans’ community.

America’s veterans have stood as the vanguards of freedom and prosperity. So many of them have put their lives in harm’s way so that the guiding principles that we hold so dear remain protected. Just as they fought on the front lines protecting the security of our great Nation, we must lead the charge in the battle for their well being and security.

This measure will direct the Secretary of Veteran’s Affairs to compute and provide increases in the monthly rates of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation, effective December 1, 1997. The rates will be increased by the same percentage as Social Security. This increase will

help our disabled veterans and their families offset the cost of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index. Since the COLA is assumed in the budget resolution baseline, the bill would have no budgetary effect relative to the baseline as modified by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

Again, I would like to commend the committee for its dedication, leadership, and vision in passing H.R. 2367. This bill will allow us to continue to fortify this Nation’s commitment to provide our veterans with a better quality of life. More importantly, we owe our veterans no less than the dedication and commitment that they have given to protecting the noble ideals and principles of this great Nation. Once more, I express my strong support for this bill, and I urge my colleagues to take a stand on behalf of veterans and support this important bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to the recent death of my father and my attendance at his funeral services, I was unable to cast votes on many issues considered during the week of October 27, 1997. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted as follows:

Tuesday, October 28, 1997: Rollcall 532, “No”; rollcall 533, “Yes”; rollcall 534, “Yes”.

Wednesday, October 29, 1997: Rollcall 535, “No”; rollcall 536, “Yes”; rollcall 537, “Yes”; rollcall 538, “Yes”; rollcall 539, “Yes”; rollcall 540, “Yes”; rollcall 541, “Yes”; rollcall 542, “Yes”; rollcall 543, “Yes”; rollcall 544, “Yes”.

Thursday, October 30, 1997: Rollcall 545, “Yes”; rollcall 546, “No”; rollcall 547, “No”; rollcall 548, “No”; rollcall 549, “Yes”; rollcall 550, “No”; rollcall 551, “No”; rollcall 552, “No”; rollcall 553, “No”; rollcall 554, “No”; rollcall 555, “Yes”; rollcall 556, “No”; rollcall 558, “Yes”; rollcall 559, “Yes”; rollcall 560, “Yes”; rollcall 561, “Yes”; rollcall 562, “Yes”; rollcall 563, “Yes”; rollcall 564, “Yes”; rollcall 565, “Yes”.

Friday, October 31, 1997: Rollcall 566, “Yes”; rollcall 567, “Yes”.

CHARTER SCHOOLS AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. “BUCK” McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2616) to amend titles VI and X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and expand charter schools:

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2616, the Charter Schools Amendments Act.

H.R. 2616 is one of a series of critical education bills House Republicans have scheduled for consideration during this Congress.

H.R. 2616 builds upon our goals of returning control to our local communities and increas-

ing parental choice by providing additional resources to assist States in creating new, innovative charter schools.

During the last year, I attended several hearings throughout the country on charter schools. During our visits, committee members heard from parents, teachers, administrators, and students who credited the success of their schools because they no longer operate under burdensome education rules regulations.

One principal stated her view of the charter school process as, “a waiver of all waivers. We don’t have to apply for waivers any more. We dream those big dreams, set those high standards, and we meet those missions.”

I was struck most, however, by the enthusiasm and interest shown by the parents and students.

Parents felt empowered by their newfound ability to fully participate in their children’s education. For example, many serve on decisionmaking boards, monitor and assist in classes, and help maintain school grounds.

Likewise, students expressed a new sense of responsibility and achievement not found at their old public schools. Many of the schools provided these students with individual attention, smaller classrooms, and original programs.

H.R. 2616 builds on these types of successes by carefully targeting funds to those States which emphasize autonomy, open the doors for new charter schools, and demand accountability.

In closing, I want to thank my colleague and fellow subcommittee chairman, Mr. Riggs, for his outstanding work in bringing this important legislation to the floor.

And, I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for the Charter Schools Amendments Act.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RESTRUCTURING AND REFORM ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, due to a technical error I was omitted as a cosponsor of H.R. 2676, the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1997, but wanted the fact that I was an early supporter of this legislation known as a matter of record.

I am a strong supporter of the IRS restructuring and reform bill. I think the time has come to significantly restructure the Internal Revenue Service [IRS]. Recently, incidents of abuse within the IRS have been spotlighted at congressional hearings proving what many of us have suspected all along: that certain divisions within the IRS believe that a taxpayer is guilty until proven innocent.

This bill is really quite historic. It will provide a major overhaul of the IRS, and give citizens who become involved in disputes with the IRS 28 new protections designed to enhance taxpayer rights. One of the most important things this bill will do is to strengthen the rights of taxpayers by placing the burden of proof in certain disputed cases, on the IRS, rather than on the taxpayer.

I am such a strong supporter of this legislation because, even in the relatively short time

I have been in office, I have already encountered dozens of constituents who are involved in disputes with the IRS. In a surprisingly large number of these cases, my constituents ended up seeking my assistance because they had cooperated fully with the IRS, but were getting nowhere. In fact, oftentimes their efforts to settle the problem were being stymied by the very agency with whom they were trying to comply.

I have one constituent by the name of Craig Dietz, a public school teacher in Denver, whose story is indicative of the kind of problems so many of us have had with the Internal Revenue Service. Earlier this year, Craig received a letter from the IRS stating that he owed over \$500 from income he received as a nonemployee of the Jewish Center in Columbus, OH. Not only has Craig never worked for the Jewish Center in Columbus, he has never even been to Ohio.

When he notified the IRS of their mistake, they responded with a very long and technical letter telling him it was his responsibility to contact the Jewish Center in Ohio, which he consequently did and received confirmation that there was no record of his employment. After receiving this information, the IRS still continued to pursue the case, and it was at this point that Craig contacted my office. Shortly after my office got involved, the IRS closed the case.

Throughout this entire ordeal, Craig was not able to speak to an actual person at the IRS in order to state his case in person because his repeated calls were never returned. It took 6 months of hassle and aggravation, and might have taken much longer without intervention, to settle what was a relatively simple mistake on the part of the IRS. This is just one example of the stories I have heard of honorable citizens who simply want to rectify a bad situation and move on.

We need to make sure that honest taxpayers are not unduly persecuted. This bill will provide some relief to a very serious problem and open the doors to a new era of taxpayer rights.

TRIBUTE TO MIRIAM JACKSON

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Miriam Jackson, an extraordinary woman who devoted her life to community service and social justice.

Miriam possessed an unusual combination of qualities. She was, first, a vigorous and forceful advocate, quick to stand up for principle, to express a point of view, and to fight for a cause.

It was this steely resolve in the face of challenge and adversity which allowed her to run for county-wide office despite overwhelming odds, to delve into campaigns, and to confront the most daunting community problems with an unflinching determination to succeed.

And it was undoubtedly this same resolve which enabled Miriam to become one of only two women ever to chair a major political party in Westchester County.

Miriam was also a profoundly tender woman. She forged deep and meaningful rela-

tionships with countless individuals, whom she treated almost as adopted children. With time, this circle of friends and admirers grew to cross every imaginable boundary. A proud and observant Jew, Miriam counted as her closest friend a Roman Catholic nun, Sister Miriam Therese Peppin. And Miriam delighted always in pulling young people under her wing, while preserving decades-old relationships with their elders.

There was no admission requirement to this privileged court, save for a warm heart, a ready laugh, and an engaging personality. And from her friends, Miriam would withhold nothing: neither love, nor support, nor effort—nor a bit of pointed, well-phrased, and somewhat more than friendly advice.

There was a great tenderness also at the heart of her politics. This was a woman who identified at the most basic level with the least fortunate among us—who struggled to uplift the downtrodden, to achieve fairness for the victims of prejudice, to bring peace in times of strife, and, in her later years, to secure dignity for the elderly.

Miriam stood instinctively at the side of the underdog and recognized always that our character as individuals and as a community was measured by our compassion.

Miriam's legacy includes a host of Westchester leaders, ranging from city council members to party officials to Members of Congress. It includes a stronger network of community services, especially Meals-on-Wheels of New Rochelle, which Miriam co-founded with her very close friend, Sister Miriam, and the Hugh Doyle Senior Center to which Miriam Jackson was totally devoted. It includes the city of New Rochelle itself, blessed by her presence since she moved there in 1931. And it includes two remarkable granddaughters whose lives honor Miriam's values and spirit.

Mr. Speaker, Miriam Jackson knew great tragedy in her life. More than 30 years ago, she lost her only child and, in 1992, she mourned the death of her beloved husband, Murray. But Miriam refused to surrender to grief.

Her heart was large enough to accept and draw meaning from even the most painful experience and generous enough to share that meaning with others. In the end, she was a source of unbridled joy and inspiration to those who knew her or knew of her.

We are poorer now for Miriam Jackson's passing, but forever richer for her life.

FDA'S "DOUBLE STANDARD" ON CFC INHALERS COULD LEAVE ASTHMA PATIENTS GASPING FOR AIR

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, when most of us think about the Food and Drug Administration [FDA], we envision an agency that works diligently to expand the universe of safe and effective medications. So when I discovered that the FDA was actually proposing to reduce the number of proven medicines available to treat asthma and cystic fibrosis patients, I knew Congress had to act on behalf of patients. As a legislator rep-

resenting thousands of asthma patients, and as a father of two daughters with asthma, I am appalled that FDA might ban medicines patients need to survive.

On March 6, 1997, the FDA initiated the first stage of a plan to phase-out the use of chlorofluorocarbons [CFC's] in metered-dose inhalers [MDI's], which are used by asthma and cystic fibrosis patients to breathe. This action was taken ostensibly to protect the ozone layer, despite the fact that less than 1 percent of all ozone-depleting substances in the atmosphere are caused by metered-dose inhalers.

In fact, the amount of CFC's that the EPA allows to be released from automobile air conditions over 1 year is about the same as 14 years of metered-dose inhaler emissions. If you combined all sources of CFCs allowed by the EPA in 1 year, it would equal 64 years of MDI emissions. And yet the only CFC products targeted for elimination this year are inhalers.

It is also interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that while the FDA and EPA are rushing to eliminate CFC inhalers, they continue to allow the use of variety of CFC products, including bear-repellent pepper sprays, document preservation sprays, and certain fire extinguishers. This is clearly a case of misplaced priorities—how can historical document sprays be considered more essential than products that protect our children's lives? And while American children and senior citizens will have their treatment regimens disrupted by the FDA's plan, nations like China and Indonesia will be pumping tons of CFC's into the atmosphere from hair sprays and air conditioners until the year 2010.

Not surprisingly, the FDA's plan has generated a fire storm of opposition from patients, respiratory therapists, and physicians: nearly 10,000 letters in opposition have been received to date by the FDA. A coalition of stakeholder organizations reviewed the FDA proposal in May and concluded that the FDA's approach banning therapeutic classes was "flawed and must be re-evaluated." The patient and provider organizations also stated that the FDA plan "has the potential to disrupt therapeutic regimens * * * and limit physician treatment options."

It is important to institute a transition strategy that will eventually eliminate the use of CFC's. However, the FDA's proposal is deeply flawed and should be scrapped in favor of a plan that puts patients—not international bureaucrats—first.

To ensure that the interests of patients are upheld throughout the formation of our country's MDI transition strategy, my colleague and friend from Florida, Congressman CLIFF STEARNS and I introduced legislation—H.R. 2221—that will temporarily suspend the FDA's proposed framework until a new proposal can be crafted. We have also urged the conferees working on the FDA reform bill—H.R. 1411—to include legislative language protecting the rights of 30 million respiratory patients to maintain access to the medications they need to survive.

Earlier today, I was honored to meet Tommy Farese. Tommy, who is 9 years old, and lives in Spring Lake, NJ., has had asthma since the age of 2. One of the asthma inhalers Tommy uses to breathe—Proventil—would be eliminated under the FDA plan in favor of a non-CFC version that has not been approved