

Aikman Pacesetters program is designed to orient new employees—from hourly wage earners to top level management—in the company. The outdoor adventure program builds team work, respect, and problemsolving skills. During my tour, I learned that this program broke down barriers for employees, making them feel part of a team and company right away.

A second educational effort within Collins and Aikman is its continuous, internal GED program. The company decided that instead of sending employees out to classes, it would bring the classes to the employees. Like Pacesetters, this program has helped develop an empowered, creative work force. Teachers conduct classes in a room set on the factory floor. Classes are held 2 days a week in 2-hour shifts, and participants go to class on the clock during work hours.

Since the company started this program 5 years ago, 115 employees—25 percent of the Collins and Aikman hourly work force—have earned high school equivalences. They have become part of the central core of trained employees who manage high-technology equipment and make daily, critical decisions that companies depend upon to stay competitive. Going back to school has been made easier for employees, and the resulting self-esteem and pride are immeasurable. Productivity and quality of work have improved yearly, and the trained work force has been instrumental in breakthrough discoveries such as the closed loop carpet recycling program.

As testament to these successes, Collins and Aikman Floorcoverings has recently been awarded the Success Track Outstanding Employer Award from the Georgia Department of Labor. I am pleased to bring these innovative examples in corporate leadership to your attention. Such environmental and educational practices help prepare our country for the challenges of the 21st century.

CONGRATULATING THE TIMES NEWSPAPER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate The Times newspaper as it celebrates its receipt of two first-place and two third-place honors in the Hoosier Press Association's 1996-97 Ad Award Contest. The Times has also been named the Hoosier State Press Association's "Blue Ribbon Newspaper of the Year" for 4 consecutive years.

In the highly competitive field of newspaper advertising, garnering two first-place and two third-place honors serves as a testament to the outstanding quality of The Times, its close-knit relationship to the community, and the high caliber of its staff. The award winning Times staff includes: Betty Durochik, Lisa Tatina, Dan Lavin, Kathy Campbell, Mary Alexander, Cindy Carstenson, and Mike Scamihorn. Betty Durochik and Lisa Tatina took first-place honors in the miscellaneous category of the Hoosier Press Association's contest for their work on the "Home for the Holidays" advertisement section. Dan Lavin and Kathy Campbell received first-place hon-

ors in the Special Projects, Promotion or Special Sections that have one common theme category for "Calumet City's Retail Dining Directory." Cindy Carstenson and Mike Scamihorn received third-place honors for "Taste of Chocolate" Recipe Cards in the best Non-Inserted Promotion category. Betty Durochik, Lisa Tatina, and Mary Alexander placed third for "Welcome to Schererville" in the Downtown Council, Shopping Center or Community-wide Group of Merchants category. The Times was judged in the division for newspapers with a circulation of greater than 10,000 by members of the Ohio Newspaper Advertising Executives Association.

The Hoosier Press Association's 1996-97 Ad Award Contest demonstrates a continuation of the proud and outstanding journalistic tradition upon which The Times was founded. The newspaper's maintenance of this strong tradition is especially evident in its receipt of the Hoosier State Press Association's "Blue Ribbon Newspaper of the Year Award" for 4 consecutive years. Earning this award has given The Times the distinction of being one of Indiana's finest newspapers.

Founded in June of 1906, The Times was established by Canadian stock and grain operations industrialist, Sidmon McHie, to serve as a vital source of local information for Northwest Indiana. Originally called the "Lake County Times," the newspaper was based in downtown Hammond on Fayette Street and Hohman Avenue. The paper grew and prospered over the years, and its name was changed to The Hammond Times in 1933. In 1967, with the addition of a bureau in South Lake County, the paper's name was changed to The Times. Ownership of The Times continued in the McHie family trust until May, 1962, when the paper was sold to Robert S. Howard, President and founder of Howard Publication, Inc. Under the direction of Howard Publication, The Times relocated to Munster, IN, in 1989, and currently publishes seven uniquely zoned editions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other esteemed colleagues join me in commending The Times on its award winning performance. Through the hard work and dedication of its employees, past and present, The Times has remained true to its mission of being a vital source of information for the communities of Northwest Indiana.

THE TAMPON SAFETY AND RESEARCH ACT OF 1997

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an important piece of women's health legislation—The Tampon Safety and Research Act of 1997. The research called for in this bipartisan bill will finally give women the accurate information they need to make informed decisions about their health as it relates to tampon use.

Why is this issue important? Because tampons and other related products often contain additives, synthetic fibers, and dioxin. Dioxin is a toxic byproduct of the paper manufacturing process. Wood pulp, as well as the rayon used in nearly all tampons, undergoes several

production processes; a common method is chlorine bleaching, a process which results in the formation of dioxin and other contaminants. As a result, trace amounts of dioxin is present in most paper products, from toilet paper to tampons.

Dioxins are also found in varying levels throughout the environment, but are women being subjected to additional and potentially avoidable exposures to dioxin through tampon use? Let me put dioxin in perspective, because we only have to consult recent history to know of the potentially disastrous effects of this substance. Dioxin is a member of the organochlorine group, which includes the contaminants found in agent orange, the Vietnam war-era defoliant, and at Love Canal.

But let's consult the experts, too. According to a 1994 report issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, dioxins are a known animal cancer-causing agent as well as a probable human carcinogen. My bill is specifically concerned with the possible links between dioxin in tampons and ovarian, cervical, and breast cancers, as well as other potential hazards.

A 1996 EPA study has also linked dioxin exposure with increased risks for endometriosis, an often painful menstrual-related condition that is a leading cause of infertility. Further, the EPA has concluded that people with high exposure to dioxins may be at risk for other effects that could suppress the immune system, increase the risk of pelvic inflammatory disease, reduce fertility, and possibly interfere with normal fetal and childhood development.

The EPA conclusions regarding dioxin exposure are particularly alarming in light of a 1989 Food and Drug Administration report, which stated that "possible exposures from all other medical device sources would be dwarfed by the potential tampon exposure." Why? Because tampons are used by up to 70 percent of menstruating women in the United States, and the average woman may use as many as 11,400 tampons during her lifetime. If dioxin is putting women at risk, could the long-term use of tampons increase that risk?

What makes these toxic residues in tampons even more disturbing is that they come in direct contact with some of the most absorbent tissue in a woman's body. According to Dr. Phillip Tierno, Jr., director of microbiology and immunology at New York University Medical Center, almost anything placed on this tissue—including dioxin—gets absorbed into the body.

According to researchers, dioxin is stored in fatty tissue—just like that found in the vagina. And the fact is that women have more body fat than men, possibly allowing them to more efficiently store dioxins from all sources, not just tampons. Worse yet, the effects of dioxin are cumulative, and can be measured as much as 20 or 30 years after exposure. This accumulation is cause for particular concern, because a woman may be exposed to dioxin in tampons for approximately 40 years over the course of her reproductive life.

The question, of course, is why it is acceptable to have this toxic substance in tampons—despite the advice of an FDA scientist to the contrary. A 1989 agency document reported that "the most effective risk management strategy would be to assure that tampons, and menstrual pads for good measure, contain no dioxin." And why has there been far more testing on the possible health effects of chlorine-bleached coffee filters than on chlorine-

bleached tampons and related products? My bill seeks to address this inadequacy, and finally give women the most accurate, up-to-date information available regarding this critical health concern.

Although the FDA currently requires tampon manufacturers to monitor dioxin levels in their finished products, the results are not available to the public. When I—as a Member of Congress—requested the information, the FDA told me it was proprietary information and therefore could not be released. It should be noted that the dioxin tests relied upon by the FDA are done by the manufacturers themselves, who do not surprisingly insist their products are safe. Some of my constituents say this is the equivalent of the fox guarding the hen house.

How much dioxin exposure is considered safe for humans? And does the fact that tampons are in direct contact with absorbent tissue, and for extended periods of time, make whatever levels of dioxin tampons possess even more dangerous? Is this the equivalent of a ticking time bomb, capable of increasing women's risks for several life-threatening or fertility-threatening diseases? Unfortunately there are no easy answers. We simply don't have instructive, persuasive evidence either way.

Many experts believe, however, that if the slightest possibility exists that dioxin residues in tampons could harm women, the dioxin should simply be eliminated. I also believe we should err on the side of protecting women's health. Tampon manufacturers are not required to disclose ingredients to consumers, although many have taken the positive step of voluntarily disclosing this information. However, women are still being forced to take the word of the industry-sponsored research that their products are completely safe.

My bill also addresses the many other potentially harmful additives in tampons, including chlorine compounds, absorbency enhancers, and synthetic fibers, as well as deodorants and fragrances. Most people are surprised to learn that these additives are commonly found in these products.

We do not really know enough about the potential risks associated with such additives. Independent research has already shown that synthetic fiber additives in tampons amplify toxins, which are associated with toxic shock. Toxic shock syndrome is a rare bacterial illness that caused over 50 deaths between 1979 and 1980, when the link between tampons and toxic shock was first established. According to a 1994 study, of the toxic shock cases occurring in menstruating women, up to 99 percent were using tampons. Obviously toxic shock syndrome is still a woman's health concern, and its link to tampons has become more clear.

The fact is, women do not have the information they need to make sound decisions about their health. For the sake of women's well-being, we need accurate, independent information. American women have a right to know about any potential hazards associated with tampons and other related products. It is only when women fully understand the consequences that they can make truly informed decisions about their reproductive health.

I also note that my bill is not the first time a Member of Congress has expressed concern about this issue. In 1992, the late Representative Ted Weiss of New York brought

the issue up on a subcommittee hearing of the Committee on Government Operations. He did this after his staff had uncovered internal FDA documents which suggested the agency had not adequately investigated the danger of dioxin in tampons.

My bill would direct the National Institutes of Health to conduct research to determine the extent to which the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, and other additives in tampons and related menstruation products pose any health risks to women. An NIH study, would mean that American women could depend on independent research, and not on the word of research funded by tampon manufacturers.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in this fight to get accurate health information to the women of America. Their future fertility, and perhaps their lives, may depend on it.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAN RUPP

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Dan Rupp, a distinguished citizen from my home town of Hays, KS. Dr. Rupp has displayed a serious commitment to the welfare of his local community, spending his entire adult life in public service and education. Dr. Rupp has been a member of the Hays City Commission for 24 years and served as mayor for six terms.

Dr. Rupp is the longest serving commissioner in the history of the city of Hays, KS, but his active role in the community goes beyond service in local government. His career in higher education as a college professor commenced immediately after he graduated from college. Most of that career was spent as an economics professor at Fort Hays State University. Dr. Rupp also leads a life of volunteerism. He has been a part of many community service projects over the years, including serving as the president of the Volga German Association from 1974 through the present and as a long time member of the Ellis County Historical Society. He was recently recognized for his activity in the local senior companion program, a service he has been involved in since its inception in 1974. Dr. Rupp and his family are also active members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Earlier this year Dr. Rupp was diagnosed with a cancerous lung tumor. He is one of the 1 percent of people with lung cancer who are nonsmokers. Since his diagnosis, he has undergone radiation treatment for his disease. Dr. Rupp is not fighting this disease alone. He has a wonderful, supportive wife and two daughters with him every step of the way, as well as the town of Hays, a community of people who have come to know him well over the years.

While Dr. Rupp decided to not seek reelection to the city commission in 1996, his service to the community has continued. This summer he taught graduate courses and volunteered as a city tour guide, all of this while undergoing his cancer treatment. He has continued to be positive, active, and upbeat. At 61 years old, Dr. Rupp continues as a role model for others in our community, a dedicated educator

who has inspired his many students, and one who knows the supreme importance of family. I join the people of Hays, KS hoping and praying for Dan's healthy and speedy recovery.

NATIONAL HOSPICE MONTH

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Hospice Month, I would like to take a moment to recognize the two hospices which serve the communities in my district, Big Bend Hospice and the Hospice of Northwest Florida-Panama City, and thank them for their invaluable contributions to North Florida's families.

Hospice care involves a team of professionals, including physicians, nurses, therapists, home care aides, counselors and volunteers who help terminally ill patients and their families share their final days at home in peace, comfort and dignity. These hospice caregivers help patients, as well as their family members, with one of the toughest transitions in life. The hospice program, primarily based in the home, treats the person, not the disease; focuses on the family, not the individual; and emphasizes the quality of life. Hospice care ensures that the patient's life is as fulfilling and satisfying as possible, right up to the last moment.

Hospice care has played an important role in my life. Two years ago, I lost my father to cancer. I do not know what my mother and my family would have done without the care that Big Bend Hospice provided. The hospice allowed my father to die at home, in dignity, surrounded by the people who love him. I want to thank the caregivers who helped my family through a very difficult time. My family and I will never forget their commitment and compassion.

NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to broaden the public's appreciation and understanding of America's lighthouse heritage, I have introduced legislation to establish a national lighthouse museum.

Currently, there is no single site in our country where one can go to learn the complete history of American lighthouse development, to learn about the different types of lighthouses, the how and why they were built, who operated them, and their successes and failures. A national lighthouse museum would provide such a learning opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation would establish a national lighthouse museum commission to develop a fundraising plan, secure a site, draft an operational proposal and establish a national lighthouse museum corporation. The commission would be comprised of 19 members who represent both public and private interests. The national lighthouse museum corporation would be run as a tax exempt, non-profit 501 C(3) organization.