

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.

The national lighthouse museum will hold a collection of artifacts known as the national lighthouse collection. It will also provide support to other museums that interpret the history of aids to navigation in the United States.

Although the national lighthouse museum commission would choose the site, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that Michigan has more lighthouses than any other State in the Union.

TRIBUTE TO MATTIEBELLE WOODS

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute today to Mattie Belle Woods, on the occasion of her 95th birthday. Her many years of community service and dedication to making a difference in the lives of people of Milwaukee, are truly notable and merit our appreciation and acclaim.

Mattie Belle was born in Milwaukee on Halloween Day, in 1902. And Milwaukee is where she has lived for nearly a century.

Described as the community's ageless wonder, by the Milwaukee Community Journal, Mattie Belle has seen her city through wartime, women's suffrage, prohibition, a great depression, a midcentury industrial boom, civil rights endeavors, recession, and recovery.

Mattie Belle is fiercely committed to bringing along generations of young women. As the founder the Wisconsin Black Teen Pageant, she has ensured that scores of young, black women will have opportunities which may never have surfaced without the pageant as a vehicle.

Today, Mattie Belle remains a director of that pageant, continues in her work as a committeewoman, is active in her church, chairs her area voter registration efforts, and volunteers regularly at the Clinton Rose Senior Center.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in a salute to Mattie Belle Woods, and to join me in sending her best wishes as she begins her 96th year. Recently, when Mattie Belle was asked by a newspaper reporter just how she continues to do all she does, Mattie Belle responded with "I'll be OK. God is looking out for me." Mr. Speaker, I would like Mattie Belle to know that we are looking out for her, too.

RETIREMENT OF COL. GIULIANO M. TONEATTO

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my good friend, Giuliano Toneatto on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Army Reserves and to recognize his contributions to his community. Mr. Toneatto is a man of great substance whose service to his country exemplified honor and distinction.

Upon his retirement, Giuliano was given the Legion of Merit award by the U.S. Army Re-

serves. His military career has consistently exceeded the high standards set by the service, and his exceptional knowledge and expertise will be sorely missed. A U.S. Military Academy graduate, he continued his career in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and later received two Bronze Star medals and an Army Commendation Medal for his service in the Republic of Vietnam. His commitment to military education continued when he returned to USMA to teach honors courses in civil engineering.

Giuliano Toneatto has been instrumental to the nomination process for candidates to the U.S. Military Academy from the city of Philadelphia. He is a public servant who has gone above and beyond the call of duty. For 10 years Giuliano has served on the 3d Congressional District Academy Board, which screens candidates for nominations to West Point. He also has served as a Liaison Officer for USMA, recruiting top notch nominees from Philadelphia.

A role model for young men and women, he has provided a meaningful experience for many young people in Philadelphia by introducing them to the USMA and opening that wonderful door of opportunity of opportunity. Giuliano's time, talents, and energy are appreciated by the community and Nation. I would like to thank him for his efforts and commend him for his good work.

Giuliano Toneatto has provided outstanding leadership to the city of Philadelphia. I am proud of his achievements and contributions to our country. Mr. Speaker, please join me as I extend my congratulations and best wishes to a truly amazing man. May he enjoy continued success in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING THAT OSHA PROVIDE ADEQUATE NOTICE AND INFORMATION FOR INDUSTRIES AFFECTED BY RULEMAKING

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, one of President Clinton's promises for reinventing OSHA in 1995 was that OSHA regulations would be made "as simple and sensible and flexible as they can be." That is a good goal. Unfortunately, the administration and OSHA have done little to implement it.

One of the ways that OSHA standards become nonsensical is when these standards are enforced and applied to industries—industries had little notice that they were covered by the standard. As a result, the industry must often spend millions of dollars, either in trying to comply with a standard that is not feasible or necessary in their workplaces, or in legal fees, in order to get the courts to overturn OSHA's rule.

Recently, for example, the court of appeals ruled against OSHA with regard to inclusion of the roof coatings industry under the asbestos standard. The court found that "there is no evidence in the record that asbestos fibers can ever escape from roofing sealants and become airborne" (*Asbestos Information Assn/ North America v. Secretary of Labor*, 7/24/97). Yet, OSHA insisted on covering the industry with the standard until the court ruled other-

wise. Fixing the problem caused by an overreaching OSHA cost the industry thousands of dollars in litigation fees.

Similarly, the airplane maintenance industry is now faced with coverage under OSHA's Methylene Chloride standard, even though OSHA itself acknowledged in testimony before my subcommittee that it did not thoroughly analyze the impact of the rule on that industry.

In contrast, OSHA's recent proposal on tuberculosis does list the specific industries to which the standard would apply. So, the requirements of my bill are not unique or radical. They simply assure that the practice of notifying the specific industries, and analyzing the effect of the standard on them, is consistently followed in OSHA rulemakings.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of several changes which would help to fulfill the President's promise to make OSHA's rules "as simple and sensible and flexible as they can be." I invite my colleagues to cosponsor and support this change.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP "FLIP" SMITH

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to Philip "Flip" Smith who has been nominated for the prestigious Fernando Award for outstanding voluntarism.

President Kennedy once said, "For of those to whom much is given, much is required." The Fernando Award was created to honor individuals who have exemplified leadership, voluntarism and dedication and it is recognized as the leading award for civic accomplishment in the San Fernando Valley. Each year, the chambers of commerce in the San Fernando Valley and other community organizations and leaders nominate candidates they feel demonstrate these characteristics. Philip Smith is a worthy candidate for this award.

As a high school student, Flip worked in the General Tire store alongside his father and grandfather. This experience encouraged him to open his own business, and in 1972 he opened Flip's Tire Store. The values and lessons he learned as a child have served Flip well: 24 years later he owns one of the most successful tire and automotive operations in the valley, and is a leader in the economic development of our community. His appointment as initiative leader of the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley's Business/Police Crime Reduction Committee has led to the expansion of his highly successful Sepulveda Boulevard Business Watch Program to seven other communities in the San Fernando Valley. This program has become a model for the city of Los Angeles.

Flip is not only an outstanding role model for our business community, he has initiated several programs to work with children, the disadvantaged and senior citizens throughout the valley. These include the Rotary Youth Leadership Conference, Dodger Day for disadvantaged children, seniors and handicapped, and the San Fernando Valleywide track meet for lower achieving athletes. He has also been involved in mentoring and education counseling assistance programs for youth and uneducated adults.