

rise and pay tribute to the Flanders Elementary School in celebration of 30 years of unwavering service and dedication to the children and families of Southington, CT. The school's commitment to the education and well-being of children is worthy of distinction.

On May 2, 1997, the Flanders Elementary School celebrated its 30th anniversary in its current building. The school, its students, their parents and the Flanders School PTA celebrated this joyous occasion and I am proud to recognize their achievement.

For the past 30 years, the faculty of the Flanders Elementary School have excelled in their efforts to educate the children of Southington, CT. They have helped to create a foundation of learning that will stay with the children throughout their lives. It is a testament to the enduring values of education and 30 years have passed and the school has not wavered from its original mission. The teachers have forged ahead with the same commitment and dedication as when the school was founded. They deserve our appreciation and admiration, for it is the continuing success of their students that makes us all proud. I would like to commend the Flanders Elementary School for its service and wish it continued success in the years to come.

HONORING HEBRON VOLUNTEER
FIRE COMPANY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, this is a very special year for the Hebron Volunteer Fire Company in the southern part of Washington County in upstate New York.

Earlier this year, the company celebrated its 50th anniversary. On August 29, the Hebron Fireman's Auxiliary will celebrate its own 20th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I'm an old volunteer firefighter myself, having served with Queensbury Central in my hometown for 20 years. Volunteer firefighters are special people to me. In my rural areas like ours, they save countless lives and billions of dollars worth of property every year. They're increasingly well-trained and dedicated to the protection of their neighbors. They come from all walks of life, and make many sacrifices and run many risks. This, Mr. Speaker, is the American spirit of voluntarism at its finest.

And the Hebron Volunteer Fire Company is typical in this regard. I've had a chance to meet many of their members, and they are real heroes. So are the women involved in the auxiliary, who offer vital support in a number of ways. Under the leadership of Alice Coldwell, auxiliary president, working closely with fire company president David Getty, the people of Hebron continue to be well-served.

Mr. Speaker, today let us rise to wish both the firefighters and auxiliary of Hebron a happy anniversary and many more years of outstanding service.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH E. SCOTT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kenneth E. Scott, a Kiowa, CO, rancher and farmer who made many contributions to his community before passing away at the age of 93.

Ken was born in Missouri and came to Colorado as a young man where he met and married Lyndall Deming. They ranched and farmed on Comanche Creek for over 50 years, raised their four children there and also ran a family owned truck company.

Ken took a lifetime interest in education and served on the local school board. He was vice president of the Elbert County Historical Society and was very active in agriculture organizations. He was a member of the Comanche Creek Grange, the Elbert County and Colorado Farm Bureaus, the Elbert County Livestock Association, Colorado Cattlemens Association, and the Wheat Growers Association.

Additionally, Ken cared very much about this great country and its politics. Because he believed in protecting the many freedoms Americans enjoy, he became actively involved in the Republican Party and served as Elbert County chairman for more than 20 years. He worked tirelessly to elect good people who would protect those freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to this very hardworking, humble man who gave so much to his family, the many friends he made over the years, and the community in which he lived. He embodied the true American spirit.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE LINTON
LEWIS AS A HERO

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. NEY Mr. Speaker, in a historic decision, the Ohio Supreme Court recently upheld the Perry County court case in which Perry County common pleas judge, Linton Lewis, ruled that Ohio's current education financing system is unconstitutional due to the inequity of funding between wealthy and poor school districts.

The court gave the Ohio General Assembly 1 year to enact a better and constitutional system of providing funding for public schools. The court also gave Judge Lewis responsibility for, and veto power over, the final legislative product. Judge Lewis did not ask for the job he was assigned and the State's top judges anticipated the criticism he would receive. In his concurring opinion, Justice Andrew Douglas praised Lewis for the magnificent job he did handling the case and credited him with being "unswayed by partisan interests, public clamor, or fear of criticism."

Mr. Speaker, I have a long personal history of supporting the Perry County court case, and I am extremely pleased with the Ohio Supreme Court's ruling upholding Judge Lewis' decision. However, after reading what some news sources from Ohio had to say about the ruling, it is obvious that not everyone agrees

on the court's decision or the school funding issue. One news source stated that "education policy for 11 million Ohio residents will be dictated in a rural fly speck on the State map—by a county judge who answers to less than one-thousandth of our population."

Mr. Speaker, I take strong exception to these comments. Ohio's children from poorer areas in the State deserve the same educational opportunities as the children in wealthier school districts, and it is about time that Ohio address the inequities that exist in the current school funding formula. This formula was challenged by a student in Perry County who was forced to sit on the floor to take a test because his school could not afford enough chairs for all of its students. There was an elementary school which is in my district that did not have running water. For the longest period of time, the students had to walk across the street to a gas station when they needed to use the restroom.

This list of funding inequities could go on. When you have a situation where children in wealthy school districts receive up to three times as much funding for education as those in poor school districts, something needs to be done to rectify the situation, and I applaud Judge Lewis and the supreme court's courage in making this ruling and standing by Ohio's less fortunate children.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that Judge Linton Lewis is a hero for Ohio's schoolchildren and should, therefore, be recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives for his heroic stance on behalf of Ohio's children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 102, a Jackson amendment to H.R. 2. Had I been present, I would have voted "no," and I would like the record to show that I would have voted against the amendment.

PROGRESS REPORT ON WOMEN'S
HEALTH

SPEECH OF

MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank Representative CONNIE MORELLA, Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER, and the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues for holding this special order on women's health and for raising the awareness of women's health issues through the past 20 years.

I also come to you today to address issues of great concern to me as a husband, father of two sons and two daughters, concerned citizen, and diligent representative of east Texans. We have made tremendous strides in the area of women's health this century, but we have far to go. Women's health is more vulnerable than men's health for a number of

reasons, ranging from demographics to specific diseases, and we must continue to recognize that women have special health care needs.

While health care costs are soaring for the entire population, women earn, on the whole, less than men. Women of reproductive age pay 68 percent more out-of-pocket health care costs than men, a larger percentage of women hold part time and clerical jobs without health insurance, and women tend to live longer than men. As a result, women are disproportionately affected by rising health care costs. Pregnant women in particular face significant costs and high risks. In 1991, only two-thirds of black, Hispanic, and American Indian women received early prenatal care.

Because this segment of the population is so vulnerable, Congress created the supplemental nutrition program for women, children, and infants, called the WIC Program, 23 years ago. Since then, WIC has proven very effective at improving women's health and reducing health care costs. Pregnant women on Medicaid who participate have better health, are more likely to receive prenatal care, and have children with better learning abilities, higher rates of immunization, and better weight. The General Accounting Office has calculated that every dollar spent in the WIC Program saves \$3.50 in Social Security and Medicaid benefits.

Congress has threatened to reduce funding for this essential program below the President's request. The proposed budget cuts of \$36 million could cut 180,000 women and children out of the program, leaving women with improper nutrition and potentially impairing the development of as many children. We will soon be voting on this issue, so let us make this commitment now to save money for the Government and show compassion for this vulnerable group in our population.

In addition to economic vulnerability, women face unique risks simply because of their gender. Though awareness of breast cancer risks has risen for years, the death rate has not fallen and the incidence rate has risen steadily. Now, one in eight women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime; 2.6 million women are estimated to have the disease, and economic costs from medical expenses and lost productivity due to breast cancer have risen to \$6 billion annually.

These women are daughters, sisters, mothers, grandmothers, friends, and colleagues, and we owe it to them to redouble our efforts to detect, treat, and prevent this devastating disease. We must extend our efforts to educate and reach out to those women who are not now receiving regular mammograms, especially lower income women who have been proven to be less likely to receive a mammogram. And we can extend coverage of Medicare to cover more frequent and earlier mammograms to detect and remove breast cancer at a lower cost and with less damage.

We have to make this commitment to the women of America. What is good for the women of this country is good for the country as a whole. We cannot allow these health

risks to go unchallenged, and we must make improving the health of women a goal for this Congress.

TRIBUTE TO CANTOR ISAAC
BEHAR

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Cantor Isaac Behar, who is retiring from Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel after serving for 27 dedicated years.

Cantor Behar was born in Shumen, Bulgaria. He studied both religion and music at the Yeshiva in Sophia, Bulgaria, and later graduated from the Musical Academy in Bucharest, Romania.

In 1959 Cantor Behar moved to Israel, where he served as a music teacher and musical adviser at a school in Tel Aviv. In 1962 he was appointed as cantor of Congregation Yehuda Halevi in Mexico City, where he also served as the director of the Choir de Union Sefardi.

Then in 1969 he was invited to Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel in Los Angeles, where he served as the senior cantor until his recent retirement on December 31, 1996. During his many years at Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel, Cantor Behar has been an inspiration to the entire congregation, but particularly to the young people. He was regarded not only as their cantor, but also as a teacher, mentor, and adviser.

Cantor Behar educated and entertained his congregation with his original compositions of Sephardic sacred music and music for Shabbat and for the Yamin Noraim. His lyrical voice and knowledge of Judaism have been shared with a wider audience through his two albums, the first of which was recorded in Mexico City, and the second in Los Angeles entitled "Songs of the Sephardic People." The congregation of Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel owes a great debt of gratitude to Cantor Behar for his long and successful tenure as cantor.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Cantor Isaac Behar for his dedicated service and record of achievement and in wishing him great happiness and success in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF PRESCRIPTION
DRUG BENEFIT EQUITY ACT

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced the Prescription Drug Benefit Equity Act—Federal legislation that would ensure that Americans are free to obtain their prescription

drugs from a neighborhood pharmacy rather than through the mail.

This bill will protect consumers' choice and help keep local pharmacists in business. It will put a stop to an emerging trend that has forced some individuals to obtain their medications through the mail.

Mr. Speaker, some health coverage policies require patients to pay significantly more to use their local pharmacist. A few have eliminated that option altogether. That's not right.

Hard-working Americans should not be forced to entrust their health to pharmacists working at a firm thousands of miles away. They deserve the right to continue seeing the neighborhood pharmacists they've grown to trust.

While most plans do not require beneficiaries to purchase medication through the mail, a growing number of plans are now charging consumers substantially more for the privilege of using their neighborhood pharmacist. That includes the Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan, which charges Federal employees nothing for mail order prescriptions, but a 20-percent copay for medications purchased through their neighborhood pharmacist.

In an era when health care costs are eating away at the earnings and savings of too many Americans, especially our seniors, forcing them to pay significantly more to use their trusted pharmacist really means no choice at all. My bill will eliminate this cost discrepancy and give Americans a real choice.

Mr. Speaker, the Prescription Drug Benefit Equity Act will give consumers peace of mind. Purchasing medication through the mail means no face-to-face interaction with a pharmacist. This one-on-one relationship is critical to consumers who rely on their pharmacist to ensure that a prescribed drug not only is right for them, but that they can obtain the product without the fear that it will be damaged, delayed, or lost in the mail.

Many people are satisfied with their mail order service. That's great. This bill is not designed to eliminate the mail order industry. It is simply designed to give customers a choice, and through that choice—peace of mind. Under my bill, those who are happy with their mail order can continue using it. However, those who prefer the trip to their neighborhood drug store would have that option as well—no extra charge.

There is an equally important benefit of this legislation. The Prescription Drug Benefit Equity Act will help keep community pharmacists in business. Neighborhood pharmacies have played an important role in our communities for as long as any of us can remember. My bill will ensure that local pharmacists can compete on a level playing field with large mail order firms. That's good news for pharmacists and good news for patients.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Prescription Drug Benefit Equity Act and invite my colleagues to join me in support of this sensible measure.