

our allies. To approve any of these measures would send a message to our troops, allies and enemies that the United States is not unified or committed to ending the tragedy in Kosovo.

The final resolution the House considered was Senate Concurrent Resolution 21. This resolution authorized the use of United States air forces to participate in the NATO action in Kosovo. I voted in favor of this resolution. The United States is already involved in the air operation in Kosovo and refusing to support that ongoing operation is, in effect, telling our air crews that we are not behind them and this operation. Mr. Speaker, I know that every member of this House supports our men and women in the military but refusing to support this resolution sends mixed messages to them. We must be united in our support of them and must let them know that.

A SALUTE TO OWEN MARRON

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor and profound respect that I rise today to salute Owen A. Marron, one of the most exemplary longtime leaders in the U.S. labor movement. Brother Marron was appointed to the Alameda County Central Labor Council in 1982 after a two-year stint in the U.S. Army and a long affiliation in the local United Steel Workers Union and SEIU. He rose up the ranks of leadership after his appointment to the Labor Council and was at the helm as Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the past decade. He was also elected vice president of the California Labor Federation.

Brother Marron will be honored as Unionist of the Year on June 17, 1999 in Oakland, California. His numerous contributions and achievements will be applauded and well wishes will be extended as he retires. He will leave a legacy of commitment, strong leadership, unbending advocacy for affirmative action and for the rights of the disabled community, and tenacity in organizing and fighting for working people.

Brother Marron's forty plus years in the labor movement will be long remembered and his leadership will be missed. I join his friends and colleagues in thanking him for his untiring efforts. Brother Owen Marron has indeed made a positive difference in the lives of many individuals.

CONGRATULATING THE LEUKEMIA SOCIETY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Leukemia Society of America on its 50th anniversary. The Leukemia Society has led the fight to end this terrible disease and many individuals are alive today thanks to its work. This organization possesses not only the scientific and medical expertise needed for

such a task, but also the understanding and sensitivity to lend support to the patients and families faced with the challenge of leukemia.

I am personally active with the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Leukemia Society, and dedicate all my work to the memory of our son, Todd Richard Roukema, who was taken from us by the tragedy of leukemia. I take this opportunity to thank Dr. Richard W. Zahn, our chapter's president, for his dedication and hard work. Dr. Zahn is one of the many people who make the Leukemia Society a success and is bringing hope to all those families who are facing this disease.

In August 1944, 16-year-Robbie deVilliers was diagnosed with acute leukemia. Three months later he died, as did 96 percent of the children diagnosed with leukemia that year. In 1950, as a memorial to their son's brief life, Robbie's parents established the Robert Roesler deVilliers Foundation in an effort to support scientific research into their son's disorder. In 1951, with an income of \$11,700, the foundation approved its first research grant. With the hiring of a medical consultant, the foundation established its principle of awarding research grants to young scientists over the next few years. In 1955, it changed its name to the Leukemia Society, eventually becoming known as the Leukemia Society of America to reflect its national stature.

During its half-century of operation, the Leukemia Society has grown tremendously, expanding its scope and developing a wealth of expertise and knowledge. With an income of more than \$83 million a year, the Society now funds research into the blood-related cancers of lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma as well as leukemia. Under the Leukemia Society's leadership, new chemotherapy drugs combined with radiation treatment have increased survival rates. Today, 80 percent of children under 15 survive leukemia and certain types of leukemia can be cured.

While the past 50 years of accomplishment brings great hope, one adult or child still dies from blood-related cancers every nine minutes. Leukemia and lymphoma are the leading fatal cancers in men and women under 35. Cures for these diseases must be found. Research challenges remain and the Leukemia Society valiantly pursues its mission.

As I have stated, we know personally the tragedy of cancer: My husband, Dr. Richard W. Roukema, M.D., and I lost our son, Todd, to leukemia in 1976 at the age of 17. At that time, bone marrow transplants and other techniques that offered hope were only in their experimental stages. Since then, many advances have been made that have spared thousands of other parents the heartbreak we faced. It is thanks to the brilliant researchers and physicians supported by the Leukemia Society that hope can be maintained.

Today, we are within grasp of a cure for many forms of cancer but much research remains to be done. I thank God for those who are willing to labor toward this goal and pray that with their help a cure can be found and that no one will ever again have to suffer from this terrible disease.

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate the extraordinary accomplishments of two schools which are located in my home district. Concordia Elementary and Moulton Elementary recently were selected to receive the Blue Ribbon Schools award.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program was established by the U.S. Secretary of Education in 1982. Since its establishment, more than 3,500 schools have been recognized for their excellence.

Blue Ribbon status is awarded to schools that have strong leadership, a clear vision, a sense of mission, and most importantly, solid evidence of family involvement. Through exceptional academics, athletics and after-school programs, these schools have set themselves apart from other schools. Concordia and Moulton have achieved the recognition of a Blue Ribbon School that comes from their outstanding level of excellence. Teachers, administrators, parents, volunteers and students should be applauded for their efforts.

I would like to express my congratulations to these schools. Concordia Elementary and Moulton Elementary should be proud of their accomplishment. Nothing is of more importance to our families, our communities and our country than the quality of education in America.

RETIREMENT SECURITY ACT OF 1999

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the Retirement Security Act of 1999. This bill, nearly identical to legislation I introduced in the last Congress, would help put the Social Security system on a better financial footing while providing future Americans with the peace of mind that comes with their own personal retirement accounts.

Under my bill, the government will establish a retirement account for each newborn American citizen, initially worthy \$1,000. The money for the initial \$1,000 will come from income taxes on that portion of Social Security income currently subject to the income tax. This amount is to be invested in the same funds available in the Federal employees' Thrift Savings Plan two of which promise higher rates of return than the Social Security Trust Fund. The investment decisions among the funds are to be made by the parent or guardian until the account holder reaches the age of majority when he or she is able to make such decisions. The account holder, or his or her parent, can add to the principal of the account, up to \$2,000 per year tax free. But even if that ever happens the \$1,000, if invested in the common stock index fund, at the historical real rate of return of 7 percent, would grow to \$89,000 in 1999 dollars. This happens to be just enough to cover the current average Social Security benefit.

Since the initial \$1,000 comes from the Government, Social Security payments owed to the account holder would come out of this account first. Only after it is exhausted would the individual begin to draw on the Social Security Trust Fund. Therefore the financial problems of Social Security would be solved starting 67 years after enactment. This would make it easier to deal with the problems we face before that date.

If my plan is adopted, future workers will not have to worry so much whether or not the government will keep its promises or that the Social Security system might go bankrupt because each will have an account which is his or her personal property. I don't claim that this program will solve all of the financial problems of Social Security but it will certainly help.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN A. OREMUS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant in my district, John A. Oremus. John Oremus has recently retired after serving as mayor of Bridgeview, Illinois for a total of four decades.

Mr. Oremus learned the value of a strong work ethic early on, as he helped out with his father's tanning business and held a job at a gas station. In 1948, he started his own business. All of his children and grandchildren are now very involved with the business. Mr. Oremus began his career in politics when he was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals. In 1955, John Oremus became the Mayor of the village of Bridgeview. He retained the position until 1963. In 1967, John Oremus was again elected mayor and has held the position ever since.

Mr. Oremus continued his hard work as mayor, seeing to it that his vision of "A Well Balanced Community" became a reality. This concept was that the Bridgeview community of fine homes and families would have low municipal taxes and many places in town to work and shop. As Mayor, Mr. Oremus also encouraged business and industry by offering co-operation and strong Village support services, such as fire and police protection.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to John Oremus. I am certain that the community of Bridgeview, Illinois will miss his presence as a public servant. It is my hope that John Oremus enjoys good health and good memories in his retirement.

HONORING WYCKOFF HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTER

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center located in Brooklyn, New York which is celebrating its 10th Anniversary. For 10 years, the Wyckoff Heights Medical Center has been helping women and children in communities throughout Brooklyn. It has contributed many

positive things to the quality of life in our neighborhoods, and I would like to thank its leadership and the many others involved in its success.

The Wyckoff Heights Medical Center is the hub of the WIC program in our area. Along with its satellite clinics at the LaMarca Family Health Center in East New York, Queensbridge Family Health Center in Long Island City, Park Slope WIC in Park Slope, and the Red Hook WIC in Red Hook, Wyckoff serves an average of 5,800 women, infants and children a year.

Like the National WIC program, which this year celebrates its 25th Anniversary, the Wyckoff WIC program has been enormously successful. Nationally, WIC has helped provide nutrition education, health care referral, breastfeeding support and supplemental nutritious foods to nearly 7.5 million women, infants and children through 10,000 clinics nationwide.

In addition to its success implementing the mandated WIC services, the Wyckoff WIC program has sought to enhance its outreach by conducting seminars and workshops throughout Brooklyn. These efforts have included breastfeeding promotion and immunization screening seminars.

These initiatives have also been enhanced by the work of Mr. William F. Green, Vice President of Ambulatory Services, who is being honored by the Wyckoff WIC this week. Mr. Green has been a strong supporter of the Wyckoff WIC program since its inception in 1989, and he has helped initiate some unique programs. For example, Mr. Green created a monthly Mother's Day which helps create a consistent outreach to women and children. He also has been supportive of the Wyckoff's special holiday programs, which during the major holidays, makes an extra effort to reach out to the women and children of our communities who are in need of vital services. Mr. Green has made a good WIC program great and on behalf of the community, I thank him and congratulate him on his special award.

I would also like to congratulate the fifty WIC children who are graduating this week. These children, all who recently turned five years old, are being honored in a very special way because they have successfully completed their participation in the Wyckoff WIC program. They represent the future—a future of strong, healthy children and mothers who have the chance to realize the American dream.

I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding the Wyckoff WIC program on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary, Mr. Green for his long-time support of the Wyckoff WIC, and most importantly the 50 young WIC graduates and their mothers for a healthy future—congratulations and continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE CENTRAL NEW JERSEY DISTRICT BEST UPS OPERATING DISTRICT IN WORLDWIDE ORGANIZATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Central New Jersey District of

United Parcel Service, which has been named the best operating district within the UPS worldwide organization.

This district was chosen because of its effective balance in regard to customers, employees, shareholders, and internal practices. UPS employs over 13,000 people in New Jersey and services approximately 99,000 New Jersey customers.

The Central District serves much of my 12th Congressional District, including all or part of Monmouth, Middlesex, Mercer, and Hunterdon Counties.

The district will be presented with the Chairman's Award for excellence at a celebration on May 21, 1999, in Edison, NJ.

Mr. Speaker, the Central New Jersey District of UPS is an excellent example for all New Jersey businesses. I hope all my colleagues will join me in recognizing their accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO ASHBURTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to the faculty, parents, and students of Ashburton Elementary School in Montgomery County, MD for winning the Blue Ribbon Excellence in Education Award from the Department of Education.

Ashburton Elementary has a large international student population that represents 38 countries and 20 different languages. The fact that the majority of the international students do not speak English when they arrive presents challenges to the faculty that have been met with great success.

Academics are the primary focus tempered with learning other lifelong values. There is a school wide commitment to helping the students develop respect and responsibility for themselves, their schoolmates, the staff, and the school. Ten years ago the school implemented The SHINE Program. The program, which was established to help stress the qualities of being Successful, Helpful, Imaginative, Neighborly, and Enthusiastic, recognizes students who contribute to the school's community in a positive manner.

Students at Ashburton are exposed to the field of technology. The school has a 29 station Macintosh computer lab, and a Macintosh computer in each classroom. All computers are on a local network (LAN) and are connected to the Montgomery County Public Schools wide area network (WAN). Students learn keyboarding, word processing, digital imaging, and how to use the Internet.

In addition to a dedicated principal, staff, and willing students, Ashburton Elementary is supported by an active, interested, and committed parent community.

As a former teacher, I wish to congratulate Ashburton Elementary School for creating the right atmosphere for learning. I am proud of their well trained staff, their supportive parents, and their excellent students. I wish them continued success in creating the excellence in education needed for tomorrow's schools.