

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.

HONORING DANIEL J. BADER, RECIPIENT OF THE 1999 COMMUNITY SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel J. Bader, recipient of the 1999 Community Service Human Relations Award from the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

Mr. Bader is president of the Helen Bader Foundation, which has awarded more than \$50 million in grants since 1992 with the express aim of advancing the well-being of people and promoting successful relationships with their families and communities. As president, Mr. Bader leads the foundation's day-to-day interaction with projects and programs in the United States, mainly in Wisconsin, and also Israel.

He is a member of the foundation's seven-member board of directors, which evaluates grant proposals and provides strategic oversight of the foundation's grants programs, mainly in the areas of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, early childhood development in Israel, economic development, education, Jewish life, and learning and supporting programs for central city children and youth.

It is noteworthy to recognize the leadership of Mr. Bader and the foundation in the establishment of the American Jewish Committee's Hands Across the Campus program, which was given its "jump-start" in Milwaukee. The program's innovative curriculum and leadership development program now operates in five school districts in southeastern Wisconsin. Each year hundreds of high school students are given hands-on experience in bridge building, conflict resolution, anti-bias activities and the deconstruction of prejudice. The Bader Foundation enabled the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Jewish Committee to provide teacher training for practitioners of the Hands program.

Mr. Bader is partner in Granite Microsystems, Inc., a Mequon-based computer hardware firm. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the Rochester Institute of Technology. A Milwaukee native, he and his wife, Linda, reside with their son on Milwaukee's east side.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I commend Daniel J. Bader for his outstanding and innovative contributions to the community, and congratulate him as a most deserving recipient of the 1999 Community Service Human Relations Award from the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. PAULETTE DALE OF MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Paulette Dale of

Miami-Dade Community College in Miami, Florida, for her contributions as a speech-pathology professor towards the emotional betterment of all people. Dr. Dale is the director of the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Miami-Dade Community College's Kendall Campus, where she has taught for 23 years.

Previously, Dr. Dale was a bilingual speech pathologist in Dade and Broward County public schools. She holds a Ph.D. in speech pathology and linguistics.

Recently, Dr. Dale published a book on assertiveness which she hopes will help women to develop self-esteem. Dr. Dale believes that low self-esteem is far too pervasive in America, particularly among women. Based on anecdotes from her own life, the book is titled, "Did You Say Something, Susan? How Any Woman Can Gain Confidence with Assertive Communication."

It is a privilege to pay tribute to Dr. Paulette Dale, who uses her vast knowledge and her own life experiences to help others.

HONORING MISS AFTON STANFORD

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to honor Miss Afton Stanford of Poplarville, MS. Miss Stanford is the Mississippi winner of the 1999 Voice of Democracy broadcast script-writing contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As reward for her script, she received a VFW scholarship and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC to compete with other national finalists.

The VFW's Voice of Democracy Program is a national essay competition that allows high school students the opportunity to share their opinions on service, sacrifice and responsibility to their country. The 1998-99 competition theme was "My Service to America," in which students reflected on their individual involvement in local communities. Out of the 80,000 participants, Miss Stanford was one of fifty-four finalists, and it gives me great pride to share her winning essay with you.

MY SERVICE TO AMERICA

(By Afton Stanford)

As I stand looking through the thick glass protecting the faded blue uniform, and the yellowed photograph I wonder how old this boy was. If it were not for the fact that he was in the military, I'd say he were my age. He looks like a boy in my chemistry class, you know the silent type that grins a lot but really never says much. I'm not sure if that is what he really was like, but I'd like to think so. Who would ever believe that this young kid would ever have the chance to save others. When I look into his eyes, I don't see a kid who wants to be a hero, I see a kid ready to experience life. Maybe he was a little uncertain about his future, or even wondering if he made the right decision in joining the military, whatever it was I can imagine a mixture of emotions swirling through his dark eyes. At 18, many people might think a kid knows nothing about sacrifice. But this boy, this young boy, made the ultimate sacrifice.

A few summers ago, I volunteered for a women's crisis shelter. At the time I thought it was fun, meeting new people, helping oth-

ers in the process. But, only after it was all over did I grasp the concept of "service." Service to my God, service to my country. When I got home I found other places to volunteer; I help Red Cross, if any disasters happen and they need help collecting food or handing out blankets, I'll be there. I also help at the food bank, sorting cans that people donate so the families less fortunate can eat. Giving up Saturdays and spending a week helping others seems trivial, in comparison to this boy who gave his life to save others, but it's a beginning.

I got a great start at home. My parents have instilled in me the desire to help other people improve their lives. My parents stressed the need for helping others, because in helping others everyone lives better. They also taught me to take pride in what I do, the jobs I hold and what I believe. National pride is something sacred. All Americans have lost family and friends to have these rights, and the least I can do is maintain the life they fought for.

Sometimes my life gets too hectic and chaotic to think about anyone but myself. That's why every day I try to make it a point to do something, however little for someone else. From sweeping leaves for an elderly neighbor to working at the food bank I try to pitch in. Helping is contagious. When I have volunteered, my friends have seen how much I loved the people I helped and the work and they have begun to volunteer too. If each American has this attitude it will make a big difference. Part of my service to America is encouraging others to help in any way they can and knowing that every kindness honors the people who've gone before us.

I believe that being an American citizen means helping others in need. This is one of the strongest values of Americans. For a young man to throw himself on a land mine to save his platoon exemplifies the ideals of self-sacrifice and service that is the corner stone of America. While I'm standing here looking at this display of congressional honor, I wonder how his mother felt. The last time she ironed his uniform and picked off the little stray threads for this display, was she aware of how much I appreciate what her son gave up and what she gave up through him? I only hope that my little sacrifices and services will be able to honor his death and all deaths that make the quality of life that I enjoy possible. I can only hope that one day I'll be able to give a service of this magnitude to my country.

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." (John 15:13) As I walk away I hope to take a little inspiration from this boy who selflessly embodied these values.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on May 13, 1999, I was unavoidably detained during a rollcall vote: number 129, on the Sanders of Vermont amendment, as amended, to H.R. 1555, Intelligence Authorization. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no."