

when serious depression or other psychiatric disorders may be present. Too often in these situations psychotropic medicines in large doses may be administered with unnecessary toxic side effects.

Let me tell one short story that exemplifies this unfortunate situation. A forty-year-old woman with moderate mental retardation in an institution in a state not far from here was very heavily sedated because of severe aggressive behavior. Because of one well-trained clinician this woman's life was completely turned around. He diagnosed her as having a bi-polar affective disorder and treated her with Lithium. Shortly thereafter, she returned to her community, obtained a job and is now a productive member of society in contact with family and friends.

Another unfortunate example is when a non-retarded child is hyperactive he is often diagnosed as having an attention deficit disorder and treated properly. But when a child with mental retardation is hyperactive that behavior is typically attributed to his mental retardation and not adequately diagnosed or treated. We do know that children with attention deficit were very very rarely included into "Federal studies" on attention deficit disorder.

What can we do to improve these dreadful situations?

First, all psychiatric training should include exposure to children and adults with mental retardation and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology should require such experiences for certification.

Secondly, most of us agree that the earlier treatment is started, the more effective it is. Therefore, when a young child with mental retardation attends primary grades and acts up that shouldn't be automatically attributed to his mental retardation. The child should be referred to the school psychologist for proper diagnosis and treatment.

To accomplish all these goals, basic and clinical research that can benefit people with mental retardation and mental illness should be a priority at the National Institute of Mental Health working cooperatively with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and mentally retarded must be included in new research.

Finally, we must remember that persons with mental retardation are finding their own voice, telling their own stories, reminding the world that they are not to be pitied nor neglected, but rather individuals with ideas and feelings and dreams for their future. They stand with us today announcing their abilities and proclaiming that their time has come. From the Special Olympics Movement I have seen over and over again their promise, their potential and their unbridled human spirit.

I am confident that this conference and Mrs. Gore's leadership will forcefully move us into the next millennium where the mental health needs of those with mental retardation will be fully studied and addressed. I look forward to hearing others' thoughts and comments on this critical issue.

I thank you for this opportunity to talk on behalf of these wonderful human beings.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I missed 3 recorded votes because I was unavoidably delayed on June 7. I missed rollcall vote numbers: 167 on approving the Journal; 168 (H.R.

435); and 169 (H.R. 1915). Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on each of the three votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House Chamber for rollcall votes held the evening of Monday, June 7th. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 167, 168, and 169.

GUN CRIME PROSECUTION ACT OF 1999

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today, I along with Congresswoman MCCARTHY and Congressman MOORE and other co-sponsors introduce a bill that will put at least one Federal prosecutor in every State to focus upon prosecuting gun crimes.

There is no question that our nation is facing a growing scourge of gun violence that is holding an increasing number of our communities under siege. Crimes committed with firearms are among the most heinous, and should be prosecuted as quickly and forcefully as possible.

While the federal government has, in the past, approached the problem of gun violence by passing new federal laws and putting more cops on the beat, there is nothing that can be done to attack the problem if our prosecutors do not have the resources they need to enforce these existing laws.

Simply put, we must give them the resources they need to fully enforce existing gun laws. That is why we have introduced the Gun Crime Prosecution Act of 1999.

This legislation will give every United States Attorney for each judicial district an additional Assistant US Attorney position whose sole purpose would be the prosecution of crimes committed with a firearm. Specifically, each new prosecutor position would give priority to violent crimes and crimes committed by felons. By committing a full-time position within each US Attorney's office to prosecuting gun crimes, we will be giving our prosecutors the tools they need to enforce the laws that already exist in statute.

We hope you will join us in this effort by signing on to the Gun Crime Prosecution Act of 1999, and giving our prosecutors the help they need to make our communities safer.

The National Fraternal Order of Police endorses this bill. The National President, Mr. Gilbert Gallegos, states that this bill "addresses a key component of crime control which has been overlooked in much of the debate about new firearms law—the need to provide the resources to prosecute offenders."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE,
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM,
Washington, DC, 27 May 1999

Hon. TOM UDALL,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Dear CONGRESSMAN UDALL. I am writing on behalf of the 277,000 members of the National Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support of legislation you intend to introduce in the House of Representatives today.

The bill provides for an additional prosecutor in each U.S. Attorney's office who will devote his or her time exclusively to the prosecution of firearms crimes. Your legislation addresses a key component of crime control which has been overlooked in much of the debate about new firearms law—the need to provide the resources to prosecute offenders. We believe that a more vigorous prosecution of the laws already on the books will dramatically impact violent crime in our nation, and we further believe that this legislation will put our most dangerous criminals—those who use guns—behind bars.

I salute your leadership on this issue and want to thank you for reaching out to the Fraternal Order of Police on this issue. If there is anything we can do to help move this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco through my Washington office.

Sincerely,

GILBERT G. GALLEGOS,
National President.

SHELLEY KENNEDY: A POSITIVE INFLUENCE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, our communities grow and succeed when there are strong leaders who have a sense of loyalty to the community. I rise today to pay tribute to one such person who made it her life's work to provide her students, who needed a helping hand with the tumultuousness of growing up, the extra attention and support to be able to succeed. I would like to commend Shelley Kennedy for her years of dedication and service to the thousands of young adults whose lives she has profoundly touched.

Shelley, a native of Pennsylvania, moved to Michigan to pursue a teaching degree at Michigan State University. She epitomizes the soul of caring and giving for youngsters and began her lifelong career of teaching children with special needs in the Detroit public schools. She moved to my hometown of Bay City, Michigan, in 1975 and continued her work of making a positive and tremendous impact on her students.

While teaching students at the Bay County Juvenile Home, she realized that many of her students returned to the home because they continuously engaged in the same troubling acts. In response, she and a colleague established Bay County's only charter school in 1986 to provide more individual attention to the students who needed extra guidance and encouragement to keep them focused on the importance of good education.

By lending a helping hand to the entire spectrum of students, from teenaged parents to juvenile offenders, Shelley Kennedy has given many students a new beginning and a new outlook on life. By teaching them these

important life skills necessary to succeed, she has provided a tremendous service to society as a whole. Her legacy is written in the students she supported and provided for, and that legacy is immeasurable.

She could not have made such a tremendous impact and achieved her great accomplishments without the support of her family including her loving husband, Brian, and her daughter Shannon. While Shelley has retired from teaching, she continues her steadfast mission to improve her community by remaining active with Hospice, the Literacy Council and numerous other nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Shelley Kennedy has reached out to students with unique challenges and has motivated countless individuals to pursue a better and brighter future. We wish her all the best, and give her a heartfelt thank you. I ask you, and all of my colleagues, to join me in commending her outstanding accomplishments and wishing her all the best in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY DYER

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who was a dear friend of mine, Jerry Dyer.

Jerry was a devoted and loving husband, father, son, brother and friend. His love was unconditional, just because you were there. He had his priorities in order. He was a good businessman but he knew that was not at the top of the list.

He always greeted life and business with great good humor. He enriched every life he touched, especially children. Jerry was a good citizen, and it is appropriate that he was honored as "Citizen of the Year" by his community. It is the highest honor to be recognized by your friends and neighbors.

I will always remember two stories Jerry loved to tell on himself. One about a man in Gillett that he loaned some money to buy some cows. The man bought the cows and they got out of the pasture one night, onto the highway and were destroyed by a truck. The man come in the bank the next morning and walked into Jerry's office and said "banker they done run over our collateral." Jerry just laughed his special chuckle and said "well let's see what we can do."

Jerry always worked hard to make his community a better place to live, work, and raise a family. We had been working together to improve main street in Gillett and one of the towns "characters" named "Doc" purchased a vacant lot right in the middle of the business section of the street and put a rather dilapidated trailer there. Then he took the bath tub out of the trailer and set it in the front yard. Every one that drove by saw this. Doc was in the bank one day and Jerry, in his diplomatic way said to Doc (part of Doc's charm was lack of personal hygiene) ;"Doc what are you going to do with your bath tub?" Doc says, "I need that space to store my spare tires in, but if I was going to take a bath, I would want a bigger tub than that."

Again Jerry just laughed and started trying to improve things in another way.

My friend Jim Ed Wampler said it best and it is the way we describe our very best in the wonderful place we call home, "he was a good man."

I think that says it all.

HONORING MADELEINE APPEL

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Madeleine Appel, who is this year's recipient of the Houston Chapter of The American Jewish Committee's Helene Susman Woman of Prominence Award. Helene Susman was a widowed mother of two who became the first woman from Texas admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. When she died in 1978, she left a legacy of a commitment of Judaism, a belief in the importance of contributing to the community, and the need for individuals to act responsibly and with integrity at all times.

Madeleine Appel has demonstrated her commitment to her profession, community, and family in such a manner as to distinguish herself as a role model for other women to follow.

Madeleine Appel presently serves as Division Manager Administration in the City Controller's Office for the City of Houston. Her work experience with the City of Houston has included a number of positions: Administrator/Senior Council Aide, Mayor Pro-Tem Office Houston City Council from 1996-1997; Senior Council Aide, Houston City Council Member Eleanor Tinsley 1980-1995; and Administrator, Election Central, ICOSA, Rice University.

She began her career as a journalist working as an Assistant Women's Editor and Reporter at The Corpus Christi Caller and Times. Additionally, she worked as the Women's Editor and Assistant Editor for The Insider's Newsletter and as a reporter for The Houston Chronicle where she won the "Headliners Award." She received her B.A. from Smith College in political science and graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Madeleine Appel's community involvement includes Scenic America, League of Women Voters of Texas and the United States, Houston Achievement Place, Jewish Family Service, League of Women Voters of Houston, Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism, Houston Architecture Foundation, American Jewish Committee, City of Houston Affirmative Action Commission, and Leadership Houston Class XII.

Madeleine Appel has been married for 36 years to Dr. Michael F. Appel and she is the proud mother of two sons and two daughters-in-law.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Madeleine Appel for her service to her community and to Houston. She is the best of public servants and an inspiration to others who want to engage in public service.

A BILL TO PERMANENTLY EXTEND THE WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT AND MAKE CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PROGRAM

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my colleague from New York, Mr. RANGEL, together with a number of other colleagues, in introducing our bill, The Work Opportunity Tax Credit Reform and Improvement Act of 1999. The bill would permanently extend the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and make other changes discussed below.

After a number of improvements over the past few years, the program is being well received in providing employment, with training, for our disadvantaged. We believe the WOTC and Welfare to Work Credit (WTWC) programs have been very important in helping individuals become employed and make the transition from welfare to work. Such training can be costly and the credits provide an incentive to employers to hire the disadvantaged and provide the needed training while offsetting costs associated with the latter effort.

Of course, many believe that the program would be even more successful if it could be extended indefinitely. Employers, both large and small, could depend on the program and would be more likely to seek out potentially qualified employees. That change would benefit everyone.

We have proposed several other changes in the bill which would streamline and simplify the program. First, the Welfare to Work Credit program would be merged into WOTC, by establishing an additional category for WTWC. The separate Section 51A for WTWC would be repealed.

The bill would also standardize the definition of wages based on the current law WTWC definition. This change broadens the definition by including benefits paid to the employee. The bill would also apply the same 40% credit rate for both the WOTC categories (first year wages of \$6,000) and for the WTWC category (first and second year wages of \$10,000) in the interests of simplification.

Lastly, the bill would add "Section 501(c)(3)" organizations as a qualifying employer. The credit would be treated as an offset against employment tax liabilities otherwise due. It is believed that these organizations could hire and train many of the disadvantaged, and the credit would provide an incentive for such organizations to seek out these individuals. This provision would add a new avenue for moving individuals from welfare to work. Because this is a new change to the program, even though included in proposed legislation in the past, it is being proposed as a three year pilot project. This period will allow a period of time to determine if this feature of the overall WOTC program is effective and produces the desired result.

We urge our colleagues to join us in co-sponsoring this important legislation to extend and improve the Work Opportunity Tax Credit program.