

less. The Bond Market Price Competition Act of 1999 is an important piece of legislation that will preserve this country's place as a leader of bond market transaction in the international marketplace.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
OUTPATIENT PRESERVATION ACT

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was (and still am) a proud supporter of the Balanced Budget Act and its attempts to bring about greater fiscal discipline to save Medicare from bankruptcy. However, when we passed this bill, we did so with the understanding that Medicare services to seniors would not be harmed.

Sadly, the current form of the prospective payment system (PPS) for hospital outpatient services such as surgery, radiology, clinical services, emergency room care, chemotherapy, and psychotherapy makes drastic cuts in payments so that many hospitals may be forced to limit or discontinue outpatient services that patients depend on. Initial projections show that when the PPS is fully implemented, some hospitals stand to lose between 40 and 50 percent of their revenue. This could have a devastating effect on the availability of certain services. For many individuals, outpatient care is a safer, more convenient, and less costly alternative to being admitted overnight to a hospital for a minor procedure. I do not want to see patients' choice of health services and care settings limited.

Today, I am introducing the Hospital Outpatient Preservation Act. This legislation will put a limit on the Medicare payment reductions hospitals receive under the outpatient PPS for the first three years it is in place. This bill will allow hospitals to gradually reorganize their budgets and operational structures in order to smoothly transition to the new payment system without having to eliminate services. It is my intention that this bill will preserve the intent of the Balanced Budget Act to enforce fiscal responsibility in the Medicare system, while preventing any negative consequences that drastic revenue reductions would have on hospitals and their patients.

IN HONOR OF CELESTICA OF
COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Celestica, a Ft. Collins company determined to provide total customer satisfaction, superior value, quality, and technological leadership through designing electronic memory solutions and manufacturing printed circuit boards. This prosperous corporation has not only benefited itself, but its community as well. Celestica currently employs 1,000 Colorado citizens, and has grown strong enough to add 500 new jobs to the Ft. Collins

area. Celestica workers provide jobs in nine countries and employment opportunities for over 15,000 worldwide while generating economic growth and health benefits.

Mr. Speaker, Celestica is successful because it strives to meet its customers' needs, guarantee long-term value and have innovative ideas for products. For this reason, it is obvious why Celestica is the third-largest electronics manufacturing company in the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Ms. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 187, the Souder amendment—to "prohibit any fiscal year 2000 funding for military operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia," I was absent for the above-referenced vote because I was in North Carolina attending the funeral services for the father of my District Office Director. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING JOSHUA VANDIVER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Joshua Vandiver of Swink, Colorado, a student at Swink Junior-Senior High School. He has received an outstanding recognition of being a Presidential Scholar. I am pleased to take a moment and extend Joshua congratulations for his phenomenal academic prowess, artistic success, scholarship, leadership, and involvement in school and community. He possesses the key to success because the attributes of his personality, hard work and perseverance are strong and long lasting. With these skills Joshua Vandiver will prosper in the future.

HONORING SYLVIA LASK

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Sylvia Lask, a tireless advocate for her community and a woman who has worked with me for all of my elected life, is celebrating her 65th birthday, an occasion to celebrate her and all the wonderful things she has done. She has worked with me from my start in the New York State Assembly, but even more, she has been a great friend. She developed a specialty in the area of mental health while at my Assembly office and her dedication led her to join me in late night visits to State psychiatric hospitals to check on the care of the patients. Currently she is Chair of the New York State Board of Visitors of Psychiatric Hospitals and is a member of the Board of Bronx Municipal Hospital. She also led her building in the Co-op City rent strike. Her caring and concern have won

her the affection and appreciation of virtually everyone she has come in contact with. She is also a State Committeewoman for the 82nd A.D. She is a committed Zionist and Jewish causes are her passion. She is an ardent supporter of the Kibbutz movement. She dearly loves her two children, Marc and Vicki. When I picture Sylvia in my mind I see her dancing around a campfire at a Kibbutz. She is a very dear friend and I join all in wishing her a very special birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 189, the Skelton amendment—"prohibiting any funding for combat or peacekeeping operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia," I was absent for the above-referenced vote because I was in North Carolina attending the funeral services for the father of my District Office Director. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING DONNA WHEELER
TEACHER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend the work of an extraordinary teacher from the Fourth District of Colorado, Ms. Donna Wheeler. Ms. Wheeler teaches at Swink Junior-Senior High School in Swink, CO. Teachers provide one of the most valuable services to society educating students. By promoting integrity, knowledge, proficiency, and wholehearted interest in her students, Ms. Wheeler has proven her ability as an educator. Caring and talented teachers are of immense worth in our society and proficient teachers are the backbone of the Republic. It takes a very dedicated person to encourage children. Ms. Wheeler has set an example each of us can follow to nurture our nation's youth in becoming responsible adults. I congratulate Ms. Wheeler.

HONORING MOUNT VERNON
HEIGHTS CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this year, the good parishioners of the Mount Vernon Heights Congregational Church celebrate the church's 100th anniversary. The history of the church is actually longer when we remember that it was in 1892 that its meetings began in the Garden Avenue School. The church became fully organized in 1896 with the Rev. F.B. Kellogg named pastor of the new church. By the following year the congregation had

grown so large that it moved to a barn on Bedford Avenue and, on July 4th of that year, the new church was dedicated.

By 1910 the church has become self-supporting and in 1916 construction on the current building was started. The church, a New England colonial design reflecting a post Civil War spirit of unity and self determination, was completed by 1922. Subsequently a sanctuary was added as well as tower chime.

The Mount Vernon Heights Congregational Church has always practiced community activism as well as charitable works and community projects, such as its youth seminars and elderly centers.

The church also is part of the annual pulpit exchanges in which ministers from 19 churches deliver sermons at sister churches.

The church is justly proud of its fellowship of many denominations and its ministers of many differing ethnic and social backgrounds. The Rev. Maximilian Bernard Surjadinata, pastor since 1988, was born in Indonesia. I warmly congratulate the Mount Vernon Heights Congregational Church on its centenary and for its wonderful accomplishments in those hundred years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 190, the Shays amendment—"to reduce troop levels in Europe from 100,000 to 25,000 by fiscal year 2002; excludes troops assigned to Greenland, Iceland, Azores, and those serving for more than 179 days under a military-to-military program; and does not apply in the event of war or attack on NATO member nation," I was absent for the above-referenced vote because I was in North Carolina attending the funeral services for the father of my District Office Director. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

THANK YOU BUFORD RICE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Buford Rice, administrator and executive vice president of the Colorado Farm Bureau. Mr. Rice has announced his plans to retire September 1, 1999, after 38 years of distinguished service to the agriculture industry.

Raised on an irrigated farm in the Yellowstone River Valley of eastern Montana and later graduating from Montana State University, Rice began his career with the Montana Farm Bureau in 1961 as an area field services director. In 1972, he became the executive secretary for the North Dakota Farm Bureau and in 1976 he accepted the offer to serve as public affairs director for the Colorado Farm Bureau. Rice was named manager of the Colorado Farm Bureau in 1979 and was promoted to administrator/executive vice president in 1990.

Rice and I first met and quickly became friends while I was serving in the Colorado State Senate. Through our professional relationship, I gained tremendous respect for his knowledge of agriculture issues and dedication to the survival of the farm and ranch industry. Because of his passion for the tradition of farming, Rice has always looked forward to going to work every morning these many years.

Currently, Rice serves on various public and private councils and advisory committees. Some of those include the Colorado Public Expenditures Council Board of Directors, Colorado Extension Advisory Committee, CSU Livestock Leaders Council, External Committee—CSU Institute on Environment and Natural Resources and the Colorado Public Lands Multiple Use Coalition.

He and his wife Darlyne reside in Littleton, CO, and have two children, four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Buford Rice is a man who embodies the western tradition of what is good about this great country—sound land and water conservation practices, private property rights, and most importantly, preservation of the family farm. The state of Colorado owes Buford Rice a great debt of gratitude for his life-long work on behalf of the agriculture community. Thank you Buford.

HONORING RHONDA (RANDI) WEINGARTEN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to praise a woman who has accomplished much. Rhonda (Randi) Weingarten is the new president of the 130,000-member United Federation of Teachers, the largest local union in the United States. She is also vice president of the 960,000 member American Federation of Teachers, the UFT's national affiliate and is a member of the Board of Directors of both the New York State United Teachers and the New York City Central Labor Council.

From 1986 to 1998 Randi served as counsel to UFT President Sandra Feldman, taking a lead role in contract negotiations for teachers and other school employees. When Ms. Feldman became president of the American Federation of Teachers, Randi was selected to serve as president. She has a B.S. from Cornell and graduated cum laude from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. She was also an adjunct professor at Cardozo from 1986-91. She first became affiliated with the UFT when working for a prestigious law firm which had the union as a client.

She has served as legislative assistant for the New York State Senate Labor Committee and as a mediator on disputes originating in the New York Criminal Court. She has served as a member of the board and then as chairperson of the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York. She is also a certified teacher of social studies and American History.

Randi continues to advance the cause of education in New York. I look forward to working with her to keep that education of our youth as the highest priority of the people and our governments at every level.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 188, the Weldon amendment—to "provide \$7.3 million for the operation and maintenance of space launch facilities and require a study of space launch ranges and requirements," I was absent for the above-referenced vote because I was in North Carolina attending the funeral services for the father of my District Office Director. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN MEMORY OF BETTY DESANTO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of Cleveland's greatest softball players, Betty DeSanto.

Betty DeSanto has been a dedicated sports-woman all her life. She has been a part of many softball teams and has won countless city titles. She was even inducted into the Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame in 1984 and the Greater Cleveland Slow Pitch Hall of Fame in 1991.

Betty DeSanto was a person who not only played the sport well, she exemplified great sportsmanship. As the assistant manager and later as the manager of the Cudell Recreation Center, she organized various sports teams and encouraged both boys and girls in their athletic pursuits. She is an inspiration to all who participate in sports and with a little dedication, love and heart you can go on to achieve greatness.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring this great sportswoman, Betty DeSanto. She was a very talented athlete and she will be greatly missed.

HONORING DR. GARY SCHNEIDER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gary Schneider, one of the foremost experts on forestry at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is retiring this year.

Dr. Schneider has been an asset to the University for many years, having served as a Professor and Head of the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries. Currently, he serves as the Associate Dean of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at UT.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Schneider has also served as a consultant for many organizations including, the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Agency for International Development and many others. Additionally, he has published several academic articles.

Dr. Schneider has advanced the study of forestry and related fields during his tenure at