

Tom DiLorenzo, Loyola College in Maryland; Paul Evans, Ohio State University; R. Richard Geddes, Fordham University; Lino A. Graglia, University of Texas; John Heineke, Santa Clara University; David Henderson, Hoover Institution, Stanford University; Melvin J. Hinich, University of Texas, Austin; Lester H. Hunt, University of Wisconsin-Madison; James Kau, University of Georgia; Kenneth N. Klee, UCLA; David Kopel, New York University; Stanley Liebowitz, University of Texas at Dallas; Luis Locay, University of Miami; John R. Lott, Jr., University of Chicago; Geoffrey A. Manne, University of Virginia; John Matsusaka, University of Southern California; Fred McChesney, Cornell University; Jeffrey A. Miron, Boston University; Carlisle E. Moody College of William and Mary; Craig M. Newark, North Carolina State University; Jeffrey S. Parker, George Mason University; Dan Polsby, Northwestern University; Keith T. Poole, Carnegie-Mellon University; Douglas B. Rasmussen, St. John's University; Glenn Reynolds, University of Tennessee; John R. Rice, Duke University; Russell Roberts, Washington University; Randall W. Roth, Univ. of Hawaii; Charles Rowley, George Mason University; Allen R. Sanderson, University of Chicago; William F. Shughart II, University of Mississippi; Thomas Sowell, Stanford University; Richard Stroup, Montana State University; Robert D. Tollison, University of Mississippi; Eugene Volokh, UCLA; Michael R. Ward, University of Illinois; Benjamin Zycher, UCLA; Todd Zywicki, George Mason University.

CROP INSURANCE EQUALIZATION ACT OF 1999

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Crop Insurance Equalization Act of 1999. I am honored to have Representative MARION BERRY, Representative CHIP PICKERING, and Representative SANFORD BISHOP joining me as original cosponsors of this comprehensive crop insurance reform legislation.

The need for an effective safety net could not be more obvious. It is imperative that we provide our nation's farmers with a federal crop insurance program that is affordable and workable. Our farmers cannot and should not become dependent on annual disaster bills; in the past nine years, the federal government has spent over \$9.5 billion in emergency farm funds. By crafting a strong program that will both increase participation in the program and increase affordability to farmers across the nation, we have sought to eliminate the need for such yearly crop loss disaster aid.

Back in February, Georgia's Eighth District hosted the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Risk Management, Research, and Specialty Crops for hearings on the federal crop insurance program. During those hearings, I personally witnessed how frustrated farmers and agents are with the program. Simply put, the program does not work for them.

The Crop Insurance Equalization Act of 1999 addresses concerns that have been voiced to the extent possible. This reform package significantly improves the program not only for farmers in the Southeastern

United States, but for those across the entire nation. This bill does not simply make cosmetic changes to the program; it focuses attention on the root of the problem by seeking to restore an improved, updated rating system. Beyond reform for the crop insurance program, this bill expands the non-insured assistance program for those who cannot participate in crop insurance.

Crop insurance reform is a top priority for this Congress, and the Crop Insurance Equalization Act of 1999 is a sufficient vehicle for achieving appropriate reform.

TRIBUTE TO JONAS BRONCK APARTMENTS

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy and pride that I rise to pay tribute to Jonas Bronck Apartments for Senior Citizens, which will celebrate its 25th Anniversary of services to seniors and the Bronx community on Wednesday, June 15, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, the history of Jonas Bronck Apartments begins with the merger of one nearly-defunct Lutheran congregation and one small but vibrant Lutheran congregation in the Tremont section of the Bronx 32 years ago. In June of 1967, Pr. Albert O. Wollert, the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church on East 178th Street, was called to serve concurrently as pastor of St. Thomas English Lutheran Church on Topping Avenue. St. Thomas English Lutheran Church had had a short but fruitful life of 59 years, but due to radical demographic changes in the neighborhood after the Second World War it has dwindled to a remnant of old members.

The young and visionary Pr. Wollert, then 39, saw an opportunity to bring life and service out of the death of a church. Within months Pr. Wollert managed to convince the "old St. Thomas" members to formally join with Trinity. He also managed to convince the members of Trinity to receive the small remnant of "old Saint Thomas" members into Trinity Church, and to name the merged congregation "Saint Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church of The Bronx." The entire operation was finalized on December 12, 1967, and on Christmas Eve the two congregations worshiped together for the first time. From this time forward the church on East 178th Street, the current location, would be known simply as "St. Thomas Lutheran Church."

On June 3, 1968, the "old Saint Thomas" building, which is still standing at its original location, was sold to Bethany Church and Missionary Alliance. For over a year, the St. Thomas Congregation considered investing the proceeds in different types of projects.

After many adjustments and readjustments, and some help from then-Governor Nelson Rockefeller, the plans for a building to be called Jonas Bronck Apartments for Senior Citizens were approved, and a combination of state and federal funding was secured. Final approval was received on April 24, 1970, from the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

Mr. Speaker, on May 5, 1974, Jonas Bronck Apartments for Senior Citizens was formally

dedicated and opened its doors to the senior citizens of our Bronx community and the larger New York metropolitan area. Though Jonas Bronck Apartments was the brainchild of a former pastor and the parishioners of St. Thomas Lutheran Church of The Bronx, the 216 unit, 16 story facility for seniors is a success story of cooperation between the private and governmental sectors.

I applaud the commitment and the efforts of everyone involved with Jonas Bronck Apartments for Senior Citizens, its board, staff, and supporters for the assistance they provide to the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jonas Bronck Apartments for Senior Citizens and the individuals who have made 25 years of service possible.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday returning from my congressional district. Had I been present for rollcall Vote No. 204, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 1400, the Bond Price Competition Improvement Act of 1999.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI RICHARD A. BLOCK

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rabbi Richard Block, an outstanding leader of the 14th Congressional District and senior rabbi at the Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills, California for the last twelve years. Rabbi Block steps down as head of this remarkable congregation this weekend to accept the post of President and Chief Executive of the World Union for Progressive Judaism in Jerusalem, the world's largest organization of religiously affiliated Jews.

Rabbi Block was ordained and awarded a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1982. During his academic career, Rabbi Block earned numerous awards for academic distinction, writing and sermonic excellence.

Upon ordination, he was chosen Rabbi of Greenwich Reform Synagogue in Riverside, Connecticut and in 1987 came to Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills, California.

As senior rabbi he helped create a variety of programs aimed at advancing Jewish education and congregational life. His achievements include: Experiment in Congregation, a unique national partnership aimed at reinvigorating Jewish education and congregational life; the creation of a nationally recognized program to integrate émigrés from the former Soviet Union in Jewish life; the Koret Synagogue Initiative, a collaboration between synagogues, the Koret Foundation and the Jewish Community Federation. Rabbi Block was honored by the Jewish Family and Children's

Services of San Francisco with their prestigious 1999 "FAMMY Award", in appreciation and recognition of his extraordinary caring and dedicated community service.

Prior to his rabbinical studies, this remarkable man graduated from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as the Yale Law School. He served as Editor of the Law Review and as a law clerk to a U.S. District Court Judge. Rabbi Block served in the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps, including a term as Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in San Diego.

Rabbi Block and his wife Susan have been married over thirty years and have two exceptional and loving sons, Joshua and Zachary.

Our community will miss Rabbi Block immensely. At the same time, we are extremely proud of the important work he will take on as President of the World Union.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his remarkable career, Rabbi Richard Block has preached a message of compassion, justice and service to others. Every day of his life he has served as a shining example of these values. It is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this noble man of faith and this passionate community leader for his inspired leadership of Congregation Beth Am. We honor him for his eloquent voice for good and his having made our community and our country infinitely better.

HONORING MRS. DORIS SPAIN ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Doris Spain and her service to the Tennessee Department of Health and the State of Tennessee.

Mrs. Spain will retire from the Tennessee Department of Health after 33 years of faithful service on June 30, 1999. She will be greatly missed.

Mrs. Spain, a native Tennessean, began her career with the Tennessee Department of Health in September of 1966 as a stenographer in the Division of Statistical Services. She now serves as Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Health Services, the department's largest bureau, with overall management responsibility for approximately 3,000 employees and an annual budget of \$264 million. As Assistant Commissioner, Mrs. Spain directs the delivery of public health services to the citizens of Tennessee through 95 county health departments and 13 central office programs.

Mrs. Spain is a lifetime member of the Tennessee Public Health Association and has served that organization as co-chairperson of the Program Committee, chairperson of the Arrangements Committee, chairperson of the Awards Committee, board member, vice-president, and, in 1985, as president. In 1995, Mrs. Spain served as chairperson of the Awards Committee of the Rural Health Association of Tennessee. In addition, she is a member of

the Southern Health Association, the Middle Tennessee Area Health Education Council, the Graduate Medical Program/Public Health Residency Advisory Committee of Meharry Medical College, the Board of Directors of the National Association of City and County Health Officials, the Board of Directors of the Rural Health Association of Tennessee, and the Board of Directors of the Comprehensive Care Center.

Mrs. Spain has been honored numerous times by her peers throughout her career. These awards include: the Distinguished Service Award, Area Health Education Center, 1987; the Distinguished Service Award, Tennessee Public Health Association, 1987; the Alex B. Shipley, MD Award, Tennessee Public Health Association, 1987; the Presidential Award, Rural Health Association of Tennessee, 1995; the Distinguished Service Award, Tennessee Public Health Association, 1997; and in 1990, she was selected to attend the Tennessee Government Executive Institute.

Mrs. Spain has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of public health in the State of Tennessee and has unselfishly served its citizens for over 33 years. Her caring and leadership have benefited not only the Department of Health, but all Tennesseans. She has served as an example to her peers, her friends and her family. For these reasons I honor Mrs. Doris Spain today and wish her the best in her retirement. God bless.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN D.L. "PAPPY" HICKS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a true American hero, Captain D.L. "Pappy" Hicks. In a recent trip to Washington, Pappy was honored by Congress for his dedication and service in the Secret Army, which operated in Laos during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Pappy was a deep, covert operator in clandestine operations in South Asia from 1959 until 1982. Many of these operations have remained concealed over the years as a result of their top secret nature. American citizens and U.S. troops, alike, were unaware that any fighting was occurring in Laos during the Vietnam War, hence the operations have often been called the "Secret War". The Secret Army was comprised of Hmong and other Laotian Mountain people in cooperation with the Royal Laotian Army and American advisors such as the CIA, U.S. Army Special Forces, and U.S. Army covert operators. Yet, as a result of the covert nature of their service, the men who gave their lives serving in the Secret Army in Laos are not recognized on the Vietnam War Memorial. Their mission was to find potential enemies of the United States operating within the Laotian borders with the North Vietnamese. Reportedly, these men saved thousands of American lives through their efforts; thus, their recent Washington tribute was an emotional one for Pappy.

At the ceremony, Pappy was given a pa'ndua, a ritualistic cloth used to tell the history of the Hmong people, by General Vang

Pao, his Laos commanding officer. In his speech, Pappy struggled to fight back tears as he recollected his time in Laos and the injuries he sustained while operating in that area. As he spoke to his fellow soldiers, Pappy remarked, "Ever so often, years after the fact, when we become old men, we who worked in the dark are let out in the light for a moment of glory. For me, this is the day".

Captain Hicks, from the Fourth District of Texas, currently resides in Troup, Texas, with his lovely wife of forty-five years, Marjorie Ann Tupa. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of this true American hero—Captain D.L. "Pappy" Hicks.

UPON INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL PRESERVATION ACT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Community Hospital Preservation Act. The purpose of this legislation is to provide a financial lifeline to those community hospitals that are struggling for survival.

Hospitals in general are under significant financial pressure from a number of sources, which include Medicare and Medicaid cuts, reductions in managed care reimbursements, and a significant increase in the number of uninsured patients.

Small, non-profit community hospitals are particularly at risk. As non-profits, they lack the access to equity capital that for-profit hospitals have. As smaller hospitals, they lack the economies of scale and negotiating leverage that larger hospitals or chains have in dealing with suppliers, insurers, and managed care firms. In my district, statewide, and nationwide, we are seeing community hospitals cutting health care services, laying off employees, and in too many cases, fighting for survival.

The Community Hospital Preservation Act would help stabilize the finances of these hospitals and keep them operational, by authorizing up to \$1 billion a year in capital loans over five years for non-profit community hospitals in financial distress.

Under the legislation, community hospitals are eligible for forgivable capital loans if they are non-profit, have assets of less than \$75 million, are experiencing financial difficulties, and are an "essential source of basic hospital health care services" in the local community. The forgivable loans may range from \$100,000 to \$2.5 million per hospital. Each loan must be matched dollar for dollar with a state, local, or private grant or loan. If the hospital continues to meet annual eligibility criteria, including operational efficiencies, the capital loan will be forgiven over time, and thereby converted into a grant.

Non-profit community hospitals serve an essential public purpose in their local communities. Hospital closures or service reductions adversely affect the families and individuals who rely on that hospital for life-saving care. Hospital closure also undermine the broader economic health of a community. There is clearly a public purpose in maintaining and enhancing these institutions.

Two years ago, as part of the Balanced Budget Act, Congress reduced Medicare and