

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 undermines 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

Medicaid reimbursements to hospitals. The same federal government that has taken such actions should be prepared to step in to soften the blow of these cuts for those hospitals most at risk. Both political parties have pledged to set aside trillions to save Social Security for our senior citizens. It is not too much to set aside a tiny fraction of that to save the hospitals that provide essential health security for those same seniors, as well as so many others.

A SALUTE TO RICHARD UMANSKY,
MD, DIRECTOR OF THE CHILD
DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OAKLAND

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Richard Umansky's service to children and their families in the East Bay and Northern California. Dr. Umansky is the Director of the Child Development Center of Children's Hospital Oakland and will be retiring at the end of June 1999 after 34 years of dedicated service.

Dr. Umansky has dedicated his career to the provision of quality health care services for infants and children with developmental disabilities and for those with the risk of developmental disabilities.

Throughout his 34 year career with Children's Hospital Oakland, Dr. Umansky has displayed strong and passionate leadership. His highlights include developing and realizing a vision of comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic services of the highest quality for the child with developmental disabilities; establishing and directing the Children's Hospital Oakland Child Development Center from 1965 to the present with the mission of providing diagnostic, treatment and prevention services for children with or at risk for disabilities, and their families; providing leadership in developing a wide range of service organizations for persons with disabilities, including the Regional Center of the East Bay; working collaboratively with community organizations to effectively link health care with other services for children with disabilities, such as the schools; training hundreds of health care providers, including physicians, public health nurses, NICU nurses, infant development specialists, therapists, nutritionists, psychologists and others; serving as a community and state advocate for improved services and funding for individual children and groups of children with disabilities; conducting and collaborating on basic and clinical research in the areas of child development, medication, behavioral therapies, and nutritional management of children with specific disorders.

Dr. Umansky has made a positive and profound impact on the lives of many individuals and organizations in our community. His leadership skills and dedication will be sorely missed. I proudly join his many friends and colleagues in thanking and honoring him for his remarkable career with Children's Hospital Oakland and extending to him my best wishes on his upcoming retirement.

EAGLE SCOUTS HONORED

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues, sixteen outstanding young individuals from the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois, who have completed a major goal in their scouting career.

The following young men of the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois have earned the high rank of Eagle Scout in the past months: George C. Hollich, Jason Staidl, Scott Joschko, Edward A. Distel, Joseph Jania, Erik A. Koster, Robert J. Landers, Jr., Thomas X. Polanski, Geoffrey Nikiel, Daniel S. Kantorski, Steve A. Debnar, Marc T. Sands, David Kantorski, Kyle Rusnak, Mark Dries, and Brian E. Backstrom. These young men have demonstrated their commitment to their communities, and have perpetuated the principles of scouting. It is important to note that less than two percent of all young men in America attain the rank of Eagle Scout. This high honor can only be earned by those scouts demonstrating extraordinary leadership abilities.

In light of the commendable leadership and courageous activities performed by these fine young men, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the above scouts for attaining the highest honor in Scouting—the Rank of Eagle. Let us wish them the very best in all of their future endeavors.

VERN STOVER RECOGNIZED FOR
LONGTIME COMMITMENT TO BOY
SCOUTING

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute an outstanding community leader who has devoted himself to public service throughout his life: Mr. Vern Stover of Mansfield, Ohio. His dedication in volunteering his time to the Boy Scouts of America has led to his being honored with the Heart of Ohio Council's Good Scout Award.

The Good Scout Award is presented to civic and community leaders who commit to living by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law, and who demonstrate a longstanding commitment to Scouting. In his 14 years as an active Scouting volunteer, Vern has more than proven his commitment and dedication to the Boy Scouts, serving in numerous capacities on various boards and committees. He is currently the chairman of the Council Advisory Board, and is a member of the Council Executive Board and the Council Long-Range Plan Properties Committee. Vern is also a Past Council Commissioner and Past National Council Representative.

Vern is a retired agent of the Federal Bureau of investigation, and currently serves as a common pleas court bailiff. In addition to his extensive work with the Boy Scouts, he also has an active record of community service with SCORE and Rotary.

As a fellow former FBI agent, I am honored to recognize my friend Vern for his exemplary

record of public service, and to add my congratulations to that of many others as he receives the Good Scout Award.

A TRIBUTE TO AN OUTSTANDING
PAGE, MS. KAREN RENE SCHULIEN

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Karen Rene Schulien who has served with distinction as a House Page from September of last year until the afternoon of Friday June 11, 1999. Karen carried out her duties with a smiling face and a good attitude. She provided near-flawless service, emerging as one of only a handful of pages to not receive a single demerit the entire year! Indeed, on many days, she performed her assignments with such speed that the page directors let her leave early because she had finished all the work they could find for her! Her dedication and hard work, coupled with a friendly demeanor, serve as an example we would all be better for following.

Karen's successes speak to the strengths of the page program. Karen and her fellow pages have had the opportunity to watch historic proceedings in these chambers, including a presidential impeachment, debate on the declaration of war, and the deliberations of the budget process. Without the page program, these exceptional young people would not be able to have such learning experiences. This is a wonderful program, and I am happy to be a part of it.

Mr. Speaker, Karen served with distinction and poise, making all our jobs easier and more enjoyable. I heartily congratulate Karen on her service, and officially thank her for the time and friendship she has offered in service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO DR. E. NEAL
ROBERTS

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, for a number of years now, my colleague Mr. LEWIS of California and I have shared the distinct honor of representing the City of San Bernardino in the House of Representatives. It is a diverse, every-growing and ever-changing community with unique challenges and residents dedicated to working together and to making our local quality of life the best it can be. Today, we wish to recognize the outstanding achievements of a gentleman who has seen the city through a myriad of changes and who has influenced countless lives through several generations. He has served the heart of this city—its public education system—for 45 years.

Dr. E. Neal Roberts has been with the San Bernardino City Unified School District since 1954. He began as a teacher, then served as