

As a matter of fact, I conducted a study, which conclusively proves that senior citizens in Mississippi pay outrageous amounts of money for much needed prescription drugs. Let me illustrate this by highlighting the story of one of my constituents—Ms. Lucille Bruce.

Ms. Bruce lived in Federation Towers in Clinton, Mississippi. She enjoyed all the freedoms and dignities that should come with being a senior citizen. That is until the cost of her prescription medicine forced her to move in with her daughter. She pays \$200 a month for prescription medicine and has a fixed income. Ms. Bruce told me that without her daughter she would have no money to stay healthy. She wonders how many senior Americans there are that don't have the family support she receives. She often feels she is a burden on her daughter, and recent hospital visits may result in more prescribed medicine and costs.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no other issue that deserves being addressed more than the cost of medicine our senior citizens have to pay. That is why I cosponsored the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act. It is time to do right by our seniors and make them favored customers just like the large HMO's and Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, schedule this crucial issue today for floor debate and a vote. Folks like Ms. Bruce need us.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FAREWELL RECEPTION HONORING CHARLES N. DUNCAN

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, friends, family and co-workers will gather in the Indian Treaty Room at the White House to honor a Son of the South, a Native North Carolinian, Mr. Charles N. Duncan.

Charles is leaving his position as Special Assistant to the President and Associate Director of Presidential Personnel. He will be greatly missed.

Since graduating from Howard University some two and a half decades ago, he has devoted his life to a career in public service and politics. Yet, Charles is more than a public servant. He is more than a political consultant as his resume presents him. He is an ordinary person who is special, and a special person who is ordinary. He has worked with those on the lowest rungs of the ladder. He has sat with Presidents and served the homeless. More than anything else, Charles cares.

Mr. Speaker, Public service and politics requires the best and brightest, the most dedicated and committed, the cream of the crop, the pick of the pack, the faithful, the loyal, the steadfast. Charles Duncan has reflected those qualities in all that he has done, over the years. It is hard to imagine a Democratic Administration or a Democratic political campaign, without Charles in the picture.

He represents what is good about North Carolina and our Nation. He understands that little happens when one stands alone. He works to ensure that the families and children of America have a future that is worthy of our past. In his deeds, Charles has always made

the right choice. The right choice between communities that are average and those that are exceptional. The right choice between individual comfort and functioning families.

Charles has taken his tasks and won them well, no matter how large or small. And while unselfishly giving of his time and energy, he has never neglected those things most important—family and church. It is rare these days, indeed, when we find a person of talent and humility, one who is capable and modest, common yet exceptional. The White House is losing a person with a ready smile, a friendly disposition, a concern for all. I do not know what Charles Duncan will do next, but if he returns home, the Nation's loss will be North Carolina's gain.

TRIBUTE TO LAURIE A. GOMER

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate Laurie A. Gomer, the Kentucky winner of the National 1999 Voice of Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Contest.

Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the contest. The theme this year was "My Service to America." Ms. Gomer's winning essay creatively depicts a flight attendant describing different aspect of American patriotism to passengers during a flight into America's future. Ms. Gomer succinctly describes four different citizen forums dealing with education, community activism, participation in elections and the exhibition of national pride.

Ms. Gomer is the daughter of Larry and Mary Ann Gomer of Franklin, Kentucky. She is a senior at Franklin-Simpson High School, who has been highly involved within numerous student organizations. This well-rounded young lady will be attending either Center College, Emory University, Vanderbilt University or Georgetown University in the fall with hopes of pursuing a career in Pediatrics.

The VFW's Voice of Democracy Program is a National Audio/Essay Competition designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country. The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary became involved in assisting the National Association of Broadcasters in the 1950's and took over primary sponsorship in 1961.

The National Finals take place in Washington, D.C. when the finals judges listen to the fifty-four tapes representing winners from each of our fifty states, the District of Columbia, Pacific Areas, Latin America/Caribbean and Europe. This year's program involved more than 6,700 schools and 80,000 students participated while over 4,200 VFW Posts and over 3,400 Auxiliaries sponsored the program.

The VFW provides fifty-six fully-funded scholarships totaling \$132,000. The overall first-place winner receives a \$20,000 scholarship and all national finalists receive at least a \$1,000 scholarship. The total monetary value of scholarships, bonds, and awards provided by VFW Posts, Auxiliaries, Districts, County Councils, Departments and National amount to over \$2.6 million this past year. Ms. Gomer is a recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Ms. Gomer for her impressive achievement and wish her the best of luck in the future.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES EDUCATOR JEAN G. LARSON

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Jean G. Larson, Ed.D., a member of the Freehold Township Schools' Child Study Team. Dr. Larson will be retiring this month after serving our public school system for 30 years as a teacher and learning consultant.

Dr. Larson's colleagues describe her as a "constant and tireless advocate for the children and for good, effective teachers and teaching methods." She began her career as a reading teacher, and went on to work primarily with elementary school children who have learning and/or other disabilities. In addition, Dr. Larson assisted in curriculum development as a consultant to other teachers within the district.

For the last 27 years, Dr. Larson has been on staff at Freehold Township School District in several capacities. During that time, she received her doctorate in education from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Her commitment to the district and to her students has been complete and unwavering.

Teachers are our nation's greatest commodities because of their instrumental role in shaping the future of America. Skilled and dedicated educators like Dr. Larson make it possible for students to succeed and become productive, knowledgeable citizens.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Larson for her many achievements and for her contribution to the education of our children. I wish her well in future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SANDRA SOPAK

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a constituent of mine, Sandra Sopak. Sandy is the County Clerk for Chautauqua County, New York and recently won the National Genealogical Society's Award of Merit. It reads:

Sandra Sopak receives the NGS Award of Merit for her willingness to cooperate with the Chautauqua County Genealogical Society in order to make records more available to the public. Her latest efforts include arranging to have photocopies made of all county tax lists, many of which date from 1850 and before, so the Society's publications committee can extract, index, and ultimately publish this valuable historical information. The Society, in turn, donated a set of their genealogical indexes to aid the county clerk when she is asked for vital record information. This is a fine example of record-keepers and record-seekers working together for the benefit of both.

This is the first time that this award has been given to a County Clerk—and a popular County Clerk at that. Sandy was elected in 1993, and was re-elected in 1997 overwhelmingly. In praise of her contribution, a friend and coworker of Sandra writes, "She is a thoughtful leader within Chautauqua County government, a former town supervisor, a former hospital nurse, as well as a dedicated mother and wife. Her example should be recognized by Americans from not only New York but from all across America."

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to spread that recognition across America. Thank you, Sandy, for your hard work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I was granted a leave of absence for Friday, June 18, 1999 after 12 noon. At that time, I received word of a family emergency at home in New Jersey and immediately left Washington D.C. Following are the votes I missed and how I would have voted:

Representatives Sessions and Frost amendment (No. 8) to H.R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act: On rollcall No. 239, I would have voted "nay".

Representative Goode Amendment (No. 9) to H.R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act: On rollcall No. 240, I would have voted "nay".

Representative Hunter Amendment (No. 10) to H.R. 2111, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act: On rollcall No. 241, I would have voted "nay".

Representative Rogan Amendment (No. 11) to H.R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act: On rollcall No. 242, I would have voted "yea".

Representatives Conyers and Campbell Amendment (No. 12) to H.R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act: On rollcall No. 243, I would have voted "yea".

On Passage of H.R. 2122: On rollcall vote No. 244, I would have voted "nay".

COMMENDING TAIWANESE AMERICANS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, last month I joined people throughout Colorado and across the nation in celebrating Pacific American Heritage Month. The Pacific American community represents an important foundation of America's future and I commend their proud celebration of heritage and community.

Taiwanese American Heritage Week of Pacific American Heritage Month celebrates the unique and diverse contributions of the more than 500,000 Taiwanese Americans in the United States. This portion of the population has made countless significant achievements in this country and their accomplishments can be found in every facet of American life. For

instance, Taiwanese Americans have succeeded as successful and notable artists, Nobel Laureate scientists, researchers, human rights activists, and business leaders.

In addition to recognizing these contributions, this is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the success of democracy on the island of Taiwan. Since 1987, the Taiwanese people have possessed the rights to select their own leaders, practice the religion of their choice, and express their thoughts openly and freely. Taiwan is a vibrant and democratic participant in the family of nations.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, Taiwanese American Heritage Week recognizes the longstanding friendship between the United States and Taiwan. Earlier this year, I joined my Congressional colleagues in proudly celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) into law. The TRA is an important reminder of the strong bond of friendship between our two nations.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the great accomplishments and contributions of the Taiwanese American community.

MANDATORY GUN SHOW BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2122) to require background checks at gun shows, and for other purposes:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to this amendment. Many of us here in Congress are working to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. But if this amendment is approved, it will do just the opposite because it will give law enforcement officials less time to complete background checks at gun shows. It is a step backward.

This amendment is ineffective and is riddled with loopholes. It would weaken existing laws and put the safety of law enforcement officials and every person in this nation at risk. It is no coincidence that the gun lobby supports this measure.

It would be a sad commentary on the state of Congress if the gun lobby is successful in strong-arming members of Congress to support this measure. Should this amendment pass, American families will soon find out that the gun lobby, with its deep pockets, calls the shots in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and support the McCarthy/Roukema/Blagojevich amendment and other measures that will be offered during this debate. We must put the safety and security of our children ahead of the interests of the gun lobby.

These measures include the sale of child-safety locks with each handgun, instant background checks at gun shows, and the importation ban of ammunition magazines with a capacity of ten or more rounds of ammunition.

This is what a majority of our constituents want and it is the duty of Congress to respond to their outcry.

THE STANLEY CUP CHAMPION DALLAS STARS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, instead of being relegated to a long and cold life in Buffalo, the Stanley Cup will be deep in the warm heart of Texas, specifically the great city of Dallas.

We have the Dallas Stars to thank for bringing the cup to us after coming close to winning the cup in the semifinals last year. However, we cannot say we thank our lucky stars, for they defeated Buffalo with skill, determination and hard work. That was not luck.

This determination was exemplified by the play of Dallas Stars goaltender Eddie Belfour, who made 53 saves in the winning game of the Stanley Cup series.

The result of their defeating the Buffalo Sabers means more than a Stanley Cup coming to the best city in the world. The victory by the Dallas Stars has made a proud city even more proud.

Mr. Speaker, this was evident yesterday morning in Dallas as thousands of her citizens and Stars fans joined the team in downtown Dallas to honor our Stanley Cup champions.

Mr. Speaker, the Stars truly shine bright "deep in the heart of Texas." Green and black are the colors of the National Hockey League and, I will wager that next year, they will shine even brighter.

Mr. Speaker, what makes this victory even sweeter is the fact that for 3 years, the Stars have won the President's trophy that goes to the team with the best record in the National Hockey League. At the same time, the Stanley Cup was out of the reach of such a deserving team during those years.

Mr. Speaker, I join the constituents of the 30th Congressional District and the residents of Dallas who are Stars fans in congratulating the 1999 Stanley Cup Champions, the Dallas Stars. Thank you for bringing the cup home to our proud city.

HUNGER RELIEF IS CONFLICT PREVENTION

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call my colleagues' attention to an OpEd by President Jimmy Carter ("First Step Toward Peace is Eradicating Hunger," International Herald Tribune, June 17, 1999). I ask that the text of this article be entered into the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to heed its wise message: that where there is mass hunger and poverty there is fertile ground for tyranny, civil strife, internal displacement, and social upheaval. Our own economic and security interests are threatened by the fact that one-fifth of the world's people lives in extreme poverty, struggling to survive on incomes equivalent to less than a dollar a day. And we know that an ounce of crisis prevention through well-spent poverty relief is worth a pound of cure, in the form of massive humanitarian operations, military intervention, and post-war reconstruction.