

course upon his trustworthy horse, Trigger. The second part of this cartoon shows another young and impressionable child in 1998 with a nose-ring and his baseball cap on sideways. In his ignorance, the child of 1998 thinks of Roy Rogers as the fast food chain out east, not as the great American hero. Oh, and when it comes to "Trigger" all he can think of is the next drive-by shooting.

Now it seems the creator of this cartoon has captured the essence of what makes my service to America so important. For young people like this poster-boy of 1998—nationalism has been replaced by an individualism that is self-indulgent. Too many of my peers remain blissfully ignorant of what their allegiance to America really means. An allegiance that requires an informed electorate. But more and more we are less and less informed. One survey revealed that a 1/3 of all college students firmly believed in ghosts, Atlantis, flying saucers, and yes even Big Foot.

Similarly on a quiz of general knowledge, answers came back saying that the Great Gatsby was a magician in the 1930's, and that Socrates was an American Indian Chieftain.

While this ignorance might seem some what amusing at first, Gertrude Himmelfarb, a writer for Commentary magazine, argues that this society, which is devaluing virtues like ambition, leadership and heroism, is in danger of losing the character of the people and their sense of nationality and spirit of patriotism. But there is still hope for the future . . . and it begins with my service to America. And with your service. And with the service of every American. We are all responsible for reducing the ignorance and apathy that challenge our "nation indivisible". If we are to make the pledge of allegiance meaningful, then we must give full meaning to every word. And that's my service, my pledge of allegiance, my pledge to America. A pledge worth remembering.

FOLIC ACID PROMOTION AND
BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION
ACT OF 1999

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with my colleague Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON, am introducing the Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1999. This bipartisan bill, with 102 Democratic and Republican original cosponsors, is being introduced in the Senate by Senators ABRAHAM, KOHL, and BOND.

The Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1999 will provide for a national folic acid education program to prevent birth defects.

Each year an estimated 2,500 babies are born in the United States with serious birth defects of the brain and spine, called neural tube defects. These neural tube defects cause crippling lifelong physical disabilities and at times, even death.

However, up to 70 percent of neural tube defects could be prevented if women of child-bearing age consumed 400 micrograms of folic acid daily. That means women need to eat a healthy diet and take a daily multivitamin. It's that simple.

Women need to be taking folic acid before and during their first trimester of pregnancy because these neural tube defects occur very

early in pregnancy, before most women know that they are pregnant and because roughly 50 percent of all pregnancies in the United States are unplanned.

The problem is that the majority of women are not aware of the benefits of folic acid. A 1997 March of Dimes national survey found that only 30 percent of women take a multivitamin with folic acid before pregnancy. There is an urgent need to teach women about the importance of increasing their consumption of folic acid by taking a daily vitamin pill, eating more fortified cereal grain products, and eating food naturally rich in folic acid.

Nationwide, Hispanic women have the highest rates of neural tube defects. In fact, in my home State of California, Hispanic mothers have the highest number of cases of neural tube defects than any other racial group and Mexican-born mothers have twice the risk of having babies with neural tube defects compared to United States-born mothers.

The Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1999 will amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national folic acid education program to prevent birth defects. This bill authorizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in partnership with states and local public and private entities, to launch an education and public awareness campaign, conduct research to identify effective strategies for increasing folic acid consumption by women of reproductive capacity, and evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies.

The Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1999 is supported by leading health organization, including the March of Dimes Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners, Council for Responsible Nutrition, American Association of University Affiliated Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Nurse-Midwives, American Public Health Association, Council of Women's and Infants' Specialty Hospitals, Easter Seals, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Women's Health Network, and the Spina Bifida Association of America.

I would like to recognize the March of Dimes, the National Council on Folic Acid and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for their leadership and steadfast commitment to this issue. I would especially like to thank Jody Adams and here daughter, the March of Dimes Ambassador Kelsey Adams, for their hard work in publicizing this simple, yet highly effective, prevention strategy.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues, Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON, as well as Senators ABRAHAM, KOHL, and BOND for their hard work in raising awareness about this vitally important issue. By getting the message out, we can help families across the country have healthy babies and save the lives of thousands of babies each year.

RECOGNIZING PELCO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pelco, a world leader in the

design, development and manufacture of advanced closed circuit television systems and supporting equipment.

Pelco has a long prestigious history of offering high quality products and exceptional customer service. Pelco has become the most sought after product supplier in the industry.

Pelco operates from the largest CCTV manufacturing complex in the world. They produce a steady stream of enclosures, domes, mounts, pan/tilt units, matrix systems, and other CCTV electronic products in a never-ending pursuit of achieving 100 percent off-the-shelf-availability for its customers. Pelco is respected as a major product innovator. They manufacture a large number of special equipment item including explosion-proof and water-cooled camera enclosures, high security housing, and a series of award-winning microwave control/video systems. Pelco also produces the industry-acclaimed Legacy and Intercept product lines, each designed around Pelco's revolutionary Coaxitron video/control platform of single coax operation.

Pelco constantly strives to maintain its position as the most reliable supplier of CCTV systems in the industry. The company has established an impressive array of customers service programs including: Guaranteed Ship Dates, 24-hour Technical Assistance and 24-hour Turnaround on Replacement Parts and Repairs.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Pelco for their achievements in becoming a world leader in the closed circuit video market. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Pelco many more years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on July 19, 1999, I was unavoidably detained at LaGuardia Airport in New York due to poor weather conditions. The weather delays caused me to miss rollcall votes 308, 309, and 310. I would like the RECORD to reflect that had I been present, I would have voted in the affirmative on all three rollcall votes, numbers 308, 309, and 310.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRONX PUERTO
RICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, once again it is with pride that I rise to pay tribute to the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade, on its eleventh year of celebrating the culture and contributions of the Puerto Rican community to our nation.

The Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade will be held on Sunday, August 1 in my South Bronx Congressional District. The event is the culmination of a series of activities surrounding Puerto Rican Week in the Bronx. This year's parade is dedicated to our children.

Under the leadership of its founder, Mr. Angel L. Rosario, and its president, Mr. Francisco Gonzalez, the Parade has grown into

one of the most colorful and important festivals of Puerto Rican culture in the five Boroughs of New York City and beyond.

The Parade brings together people from all ethnic backgrounds, including Puerto Ricans from the island and all across the nation.

It is an honor for me to join once again the hundreds of thousands of people who will march with pride from Mount Eden to 161st Street along the Grand Concourse in celebration of our Puerto Rican heritage. The Puerto Rican flag and other ornaments in the flag's red, white, and blue will decorate the festival.

As one who has participated in the parade in the past, I can attest that the excitement it generates brings the entire City together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It feels wonderful that so many people can have this experience, which will change the lives of many of them. There's no better way to see our Bronx community.

The event will feature a wide variety of entertainment for all age groups. The Parade ends at 161st and the Grand Concourse, where live music, Puerto Rican food, crafts, and other entertainments await partakers. It is expected that this year's Parade will surpass last year's half-million visitors.

In addition to the parade, the many organizers will provide the community with nearly a week of activities to commemorate the contributions of the Puerto Rican community, its culture and history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful celebration of Puerto Rican culture, which has brought pride to the Bronx community.

HONORING DANIEL T. FLAHERTY
OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a friend and constituent, Daniel T. Flaherty. This year Dan Flaherty celebrates his 50th Anniversary as a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin. Dan, a native of West Bend, Wisconsin, graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1949. He immediately joined the law firm of Johns, Roraff and Coleman in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. In Dan's early days at the law firm, he worked under contract as an Assistant District Attorney for La Crosse County. Over the years Dan developed a particular expertise doing medical malpractice work for La Crosse's growing medical centers. Today, the law firm that Dan helped build bears his name; Johns, Flaherty and Rice.

Dan was also an active member of the La Crosse community and leader in the State of Wisconsin. Dan, a lifelong environmental activist, was appointed in 1975 to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. He served with distinction on that board until 1981, including a year as Chairman. Dan also served as President of the La Crosse Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Third Congressional District Democratic Party.

Dan has been happily married to his wife Lorraine for fifty-two years. They are the proud

parents of four children and have ten grandchildren.

For fifty years, Dan Flaherty has been an outstanding lawyer, partner and community leader. At a time when there are a growing number of people who are uninterested in or feel disconnected from the democratic process, Dan maintains an active interest in public policy matters at the local, state and national levels. The City of La Crosse and the State of Wisconsin are better places to live because of Dan's wisdom, leadership and community service. It is with great pride and admiration that I rise today before the United States House of Representatives to pay tribute to and congratulate, a friend, a great citizen, and a wonderful person, Daniel T. Flaherty.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE
WILLARD MUNGER

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, although liver cancer took him from us at age 88, Willard Munger will not merely go down in history as the longest serving member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. Far more importantly, he will be remembered forever as "Mr. Environment."

In 1954, Willard Munger began his career in the Minnesota House where he remained the leading contributor to Minnesota's environmental legislation for four decades. Through his service and dedication to the people of Minnesota, Willard Munger truly exemplified what it means to be a public servant.

Willard Munger's contributions were made through his deep concern for the lives of future generations he will never know. His tireless advocacy for environmental protection, stewardship of our resources, and sustainability was often confrontational and controversial. But this is truly a badge of honor considering the causes he championed. Often his heroic efforts went without any reward whatsoever as he took on powerful vested interests on behalf of the public interest.

It was Willard Munger's vision of ensuring a pristine environment for future generations that fueled his passion. His legacy will endure for years to come, especially for those who have the opportunity to travel the almost 70 miles of biking trails stretching from Duluth to Hinckley, Minnesota, aptly named the "Willard Munger Trail."

As a friend and mentor to me and others, Willard Munger will be missed, but he will never be forgotten. His accomplishments are far too great. His life reminds all of us of the simple truth that anything is possible when one truly stands up for one's beliefs. Thank you, Mr. Environment, for making the world a better place for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall 323, I was engaged in a meeting

with a colleague regarding legislation affecting Colorado, and did not hear the bells in time to be recorded. Had I been able to respond in time, I would have voted "aye."

IRELAND'S INTERESTS WELL REPRESENTED IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, peace may well come soon to Northern Ireland. As intense as the remaining obstacles may be, the closeness of an agreement which leads to an elected Assembly makes us hopeful. But as we fervently pray and work for peace with our counterparts in Belfast, London and Dublin, we must also attend to other American-Ireland business which makes our bonds so strong.

During this time, over the last four years to be exact, those of us in the United States who have been staunch supporters of the peace talks and closer ties between Ireland and the United States recognize well the name of Patrick Hennessy. Mr. Hennessy has served his country as Counsellor at the Irish Embassy in Washington and now has been reassigned, according to the practice of the Irish Foreign Service Department, to Dublin.

Pat Hennessy has done an exemplary job. He is an outstanding and reliable resource. As Chairman of the Friends of Ireland and as Co-chair with Representative BEN GILMAN of New York of the U.S.-Irish Interparliamentary Group, I have come to value Pat's many abilities.

Indeed, the Irish Government's official presence in our country is well represented by the high-caliber professionalism of Pat Hennessy.

His good humor, his intelligence and his love of Ireland—as well as his evident respect for our shared values and aspirations—make him the "diplomat's diplomat."

I will miss Pat's insight and assistance. I am comforted that, being a young man, he will remain in public service and I look forward to a time when we find ourselves working together again.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, due to the wedding of my daughter Leslie, I was not here on Friday, June 25 and subsequently missed rollcall vote No. 256. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

On Monday, July 12, a delayed flight from Syracuse to Washington forced me to miss rollcall vote 277, 278 and 279. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" to each of those votes.