

It is especially fitting that today's remarks coincide with the opening of the Manatee County Veterans' Clinic. While Harold cannot be on hand for the grand opening of the clinic, his legacy will be evident in the service provided to the deserving veterans of the area.

Harold Rouse was a gentleman, a friend, a family man and a truly dedicated patriot. He is sorely missed and I consider it a personal honor to have known him.

CHILDREN'S ASTHMA RELIEF ACT  
OF 1999

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 1999*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 2840, Children's Asthma Relief Act of 1999, legislation providing a comprehensive, community-based response to the increasingly serious incidence of childhood asthma. I am pleased that my colleague, HENRY WAXMAN, is the original cosponsor of this bill.

Chronic asthma is a serious and growing health problem confronting our nation, and particularly our nation's children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 6.4 percent of our population report having asthma—a dramatic 75-percent increase over the last two decades. Childhood asthma has increased even more dramatically—over 160 percent since 1980—and is the most common childhood chronic disease. It is particularly prevalent among the urban poor, in all likelihood because of lack of access to health care and the high number of allergens in the environment. Asthma deaths have tripled over the past two decades, despite improvements in clinical treatment. In my own state, 5.7 percent of the population, or 542,300 Michiganders suffer from asthma.

The legislation we are introducing today will help us marshal and coordinate our resources to much more effectively wage war against this significant threat to our nation's health. First, the bill creates a \$50 million program within the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant program to assist communities in areas with a high prevalence of childhood asthma and a lack of access to medical care to establish treatment centers. In addition to providing medical care on site and in various areas of the community through "breathmobiles," the centers will also provide education to parents, children, health providers and others on recognizing the signs and symptoms of asthma, provide medications, and provide training in the use of these medications. The centers will also provide other services, such as smoking cessation programs and home modifications to reduce exposure to allergens.

In order to be eligible to receive grants under this program, applicants will be required to demonstrate that they will coordinate the services they are offering with other federal, state and local programs that may be serving these children and their families. Further, grantees are required to demonstrate that they are getting results and making progress in improving the health status of children in the program.

The bill encourages coordination of services in several other ways. First, it establishes a \$5

million matching grant program to encourage states to incorporate asthma prevention and treatment services in their state Child Health Insurance Programs. Second, it makes reducing the prevalence of asthma and asthma-related illnesses among urban populations an explicitly allowable activity under the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant program. Third, it requires the director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, acting through the National Asthma Education Prevention Program Coordinating Committee, to identify all federal programs that carry out asthma-related activities and develop, in consultation with these agencies and voluntary health organizations, a federal plan for responding to asthma. Finally, it requires the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct surveillance activities that will help us get a better handle on the prevalence and severity of asthma and the quality of asthma management.

With these provisions in place, I am convinced that we can significantly advance our efforts to reduce the prevalence and severity of asthma in communities across the nation. I encourage you to sign on as a cosponsor and work with Representative WAXMAN and me for the passage of this law.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 1999*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2684) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Nadley/Crowley/Shays amendment to restore HOPWA funding to its FY99 level—so that AIDS patients are not forced to choose between having a home and having their medication.

In my district alone, 130 fewer homeless and people with AIDS will be served without the amendment.

HOPWA allows communities to design local-based, cost-effective housing programs for people living with AIDS.

It supports patients with rent and mortgage assistance and provides information on low-income housing opportunities.

While basic housing is a necessity for everyone, it is even more critical for people living with AIDS. Many AIDS patients rely on complex medical regimens and have special dietary needs. Lack of a stable housing situation can greatly complicate their treatment.

We must not forget that while medical science has made important advances in treating AIDS, a cure remains elusive. Projections of the number of new cases during FY00 indicate that seven additional jurisdictions may

become eligible for HOPWA funding next year. Without the funds in the Nadley/Crowley/Shays amendment, jurisdictions already participating in the program will face even greater cuts in order to accommodate the newly eligible participants.

I urge you to vote for this bipartisan amendment in support of the 75,000 people across the country, in 100 communities, who currently benefit from HOPWA.

TRIBUTE TO VERA LILLARD-YOUNG

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 1999*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District, Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young, of Gary, Indiana. After forty years of dedicated public service, Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young announced her retirement from the Child Welfare Unit of the Lake County Office of the Division of Family and Children on Friday, August 27, 1999. Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young, along with her friends and family, will celebrate her retirement at a reception on September 18, 1999, at St. Timothy's Community Church Fellowship Hall in Gary, Indiana.

Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young has dedicated a substantial portion of her life to the betterment of the people and families of Northwest Indiana. Her distinguished career with the Lake County Division of Family and Children has had a positive impact on our community. For more than forty years, she has served as an important figure within the Division of Family and Children. She has held several positions throughout her tenure, but none as important as Division Manager with the Child Welfare Unit, the position from which she retired in August of this year.

A 1945 graduate of Wendell Phillips High School in Chicago, Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young enrolled as a student at Woodrow Wilson Junior College, which she attended for two years. In 1950, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from De Paul University. Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young continued her education by taking graduate courses at Indiana University Northwest with an emphasis in social work. Additionally, she has attended several social work seminars in Chicago as well as at the University of Georgia.

In 1958, Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young began her career in social work as a caseworker at what was formerly called the Lake County Department of Public Welfare, which is today known as the Lake County Division of Family and Children. She has held several positions while employed with the Lake County Division of Family and Children, including: Caseworker with the Aid to Dependent Children Unit in Hammond, Indiana; Supervisor with the Child Welfare Unit in Hammond, Indiana; Assistant Division Head with the Child Welfare Unit in Hammond, Indiana; Assistant Division Head with the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Unit in Gary, Indiana; Assistant Division Director with the Child Welfare Unit in Gary, Indiana; and Division Manager with the Child Welfare Unit in Gary, Indiana.

After forty years of dedicated service, Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young is retiring as Division Manager with the Child Welfare Unit of the Lake

County Division of Family and Children. During her tenure with the Lake County Division of Family and Children, she instituted and organized a foster parent recognition dinner, served on the Corrective Action Committee which initiated new policies and procedures within the Lake County Division of Family and Children, and chaired the foster parent training committee. Additionally, she is an active member of St. Timothy's Community Church.

On this special day, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young. Her large circle of family and friends can be proud of the contributions this prominent individual has made. Her exceptional work with the Lake County Division of Family and Children will be greatly missed. I sincerely wish Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young a long, happy, and productive retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO BILL MEDEIROS

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 1999*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a beloved and fondly remembered man. Bill Medeiros, a native of San Benito County, was a longtime rancher and cattleman who embraced the rural lifestyle of the county and helped to shape its image during his life-long residence. Mr. Medeiros passed away in August at the age of 76.

Bill Medeiros was noted for his active interest in the history and traditions of our community. Born and raised in the rural community of San Benito County, he served as the director of the San Benito Saddle Horse Show for 46 years, always embracing and upholding the county's historical traditions. His devotion to maintaining the rural roots of the county was a life-long pursuit of Bill's that was only interrupted by his service in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II as a pilot in the 389th Bomber Group.

After his heroic tour of duty, including many hazardous missions over Europe, Bill Medeiros returned to his cherished county and his rural lifestyle as a cattleman and rancher. Bill was a member of the San Benito County Cattleman's Association for which he was also elected president.

In the San Benito County, an original cowboy and local hero is lost. My thoughts remain with his family.

#### HONORING FATHER DAJAD DAVIDIAN

### HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 1999*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of the most honorable and well-respected individuals in the 8th Congressional District of Massachusetts, Father Dajad Davidian. This past Sunday, September 12, marks the thirty-first anniversary of Father Davidian's arrival to the St. James Armenian Apostolic Church in Watertown, Massachusetts. Sadly, however, it also marked his retirement, and the end of a remarkable career

of a man who unselfishly dedicated his life to serving his parishioners and his community.

The son of Rose Davidian, an Armenian Genocide survivor, Father Davidian has been a courageous voice in the Armenian-American community for many decades. For the last thirty years, he has provided his parishioners with strong leadership that has resulted in the church playing an active role in various projects to aid the people of Armenia. During his tenure, the people of St. James have regularly held food drives and other activities that have raised money for the Armenian Relief Fund.

Father Davidian is a man of great tolerance, respect and integrity. His strong conviction to love his fellow man is a model that all should follow. It is a principle that Father Davidian taught wherever he went. Recently, he spoke to students at Watertown High School. The theme was "Respect for Differences Day" and Father Davidian, reflecting on his personal experiences with discrimination, set the tone by telling students to "judge the individual, not the group".

Father Davidian has dedicated his life to helping others discover goodness and the spirit of generosity. He is a man of vision and a man of compassion. The impact of his work has traveled well beyond Watertown and is felt by countless people around the world. His work was truly a labor of love.

Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous gratitude that I stand before Congress today to honor such a man, and I want to sincerely thank Father Davidian for all his service to the community and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

#### THE POCKET PARKS PROGRAM IN PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA

### HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 1999*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the City of Paramount, California, and its Pocket Parks Program for winning the U.S. Conference of Mayors' City Livability Awards competition. The program led 17 semifinalists nationwide to win this very prestigious honor, which was presented by Andrew Cuomo, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The Pocket Parks Program is yet another innovative approach that Paramount has taken to improve the quality of life for its residents. In 1996, the City began the program as a way to make unsightly vacant lots into safe, attractive public spaces for residents. These lots are privately owned and located on major boulevards. Not only were the vacant lots eyesores, they posed potential public safety problems.

The City entered into a partnership with the private owners of the lots and assumed responsibility for landscaping the lots. As a result of the Pocket Parks Program, Paramount has increased its park space by two acres at a fraction of what it would have cost to acquire the land for open space. Today, more children in Paramount have safe, well-kept places to play. Residents have more park spaces within walking distance. And Paramount's appearance more closely matches the reality that it is a great place in which to work and live.

The award won by the Pocket Parks Program is simply the latest example of

Paramount's innovative, successful efforts to revitalize itself. By forging a partnership with the private sector in the Pocket Parks Program, Paramount showed its willingness to find innovative solutions that do not rely entirely on government. Because of the optimism and hard work of its residents, Paramount has turned itself around in the past two decades. The City Livability Award is well-deserved recognition of Paramount's latest success. I praise the people of Paramount and their progressive City Council and city management.

Trees and parks help make a city. Keep going, Paramount.

#### CITY OF BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA SHELTER PLUS CARE CURRENT RENEWAL CRISIS

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 1999*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to your attention a grave housing situation in my congressional district the 9th of California and all across the Nation. Funding for renewals of the Shelter Plus Care Programs is in a state of crisis, and unfortunately, the fiscal year 2000 Veterans, Housing and Independent Agencies bill does not address this critical funding situation.

By the way of background, the City of Berkeley, which I represent, administers a HUD-supported Shelter Plus Care Program which currently provides permanent, supportive housing to 145 households, involving 105 formerly homeless individuals and 40 formerly homeless families. All of the individuals and families served by this program are disabled, either by severe mental illness (34 percent), chronic substance abuse (23 percent), dually diagnosed (both severe mental illness and chronic substance abuse) and/or by AIDS/HIV-related diseases (5 percent).

The Shelter Plus Care Program has been key in moving these individuals and families from chronic homelessness to self-sufficiency. All of the City of Berkeley's Shelter Plus Care participants are now living in private market housing with a range of needed support services (mental health, primary health care and social services).

The current lack of available McKinney Act funding to renew the City of Berkeley's existing Shelter Plus Care Program threatens these households that have made such significant strides with displacement to homelessness. This result is both unnecessary and potentially a major impact to the more costly emergency and safety net systems of care in the Berkeley and Oakland community.

Let me tell you about two individuals who are currently participants in the City of Berkeley Shelter Plus Care Program.

Killian is a 54-year-old male veteran who served in the United States Air Force from 1963-67. In the fall of 1989 he was hospitalized in the VA Hospital with severe symptoms of mental illness; he has been seriously disabled and homeless since then. Three years ago, the Shelter Plus Care Program provided him with housing and needed mental health services in the Berkeley community. Killian has achieved a level of stability in terms of both his housing and mental health issues