

Unfortunately, impairment is common and frequently permanent. Disability occurs when impairment has serious functional consequences. Our governmental programs should promote the realization of the full potential of the impaired individual, thereby minimizing disability. Health-promoting legislation provides incentives to return to the marketplace, providing a secure safety net for those who require it.

The Work Incentive Improvement Act is one step in the right direction—empowering individuals with impairments by emphasizing new possibilities rather than lost potential. The Ways and Means Social Security and Health Subcommittees have lost their way if we do not grasp this important opportunity to acknowledge the value of disabled Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE STUDENTS OF YOUTH TOGETHER AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR "WEEK OF UNITY: ONE LAND, ONE PEOPLE"

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the students of the Ninth Congressional District as they return to their classrooms for the 1999–2000 school year. In particular, I wish to highlight a group of students who are working diligently to ensure peace and harmony in our schools.

Throughout the week of September 7 through 13, 1999, students from Berkeley, Castlemont, Fremont, Richmond, and Skyline High Schools, celebrated a "Week of Unity: One Land, One People." These students are members of the Youth Together Project, a multiracial violence prevention and social justice project which operates in each of the five high schools. The event is an attempt by Youth Together students and their allies—students, teachers, parents, and community leaders—to unite students of all races together to promote unity and peace on their school campuses. It is a concept of unity, reconnecting us to our ancestors and homelands, reminding us that we are all native/tribal people struggling in an urban environment. It is based upon the creation belief held by our Native American foremothers and fathers that we are all descendants of one land and one people.

The theme for this year's event was eloquently taken from a quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, "True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice." Some of the many activities and initiatives held during the "Week of Unity" included: The Castlemont Unity Mural, honoring 17 Americans who have come to represent the struggle for recognition and inclusion in the ideal of a united community. The "Commitment To Peace Banner" which involved students and adults asking all students to sign a banner committing themselves to peaceful conflict resolution. In addition, a mentoring program has been proposed that would connect seniors and juniors with incoming ninth graders to help promote a safe and comfortable transition for new students.

The students hope to establish the "Week of Unity: One Land, One People" as an an-

nual event at each of their campuses. The main objectives of the event are to prevent outbreaks of violence and to set a positive tone that will determine the environment for the rest of the school year. By taking leadership and ownership of their schools, students are demonstrating through action the vision of a united community based upon principles of respect, justice and peace. These and many other initiatives stand as incontrovertible evidence that the young people of Oakland, Berkeley, and Richmond have a clear understanding of the multicultural issues that exist in their communities and are not afraid to stand up and take the lead in combating problems where they exist.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say how proud I am that the students of Youth Together understand that Native Americans, African Americans, Latinos, Asian Pacific Islanders and whites must come together to work for peace and justice in our schools and communities. In addition, I believe that the work being done by students in my district proves to the world that our young people are for real in seeking peace and justice and are living and working each and every day the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

TRIBUTE TO JOSÉ CHARFAUROS NEDEDOG

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sense of sadness that I acknowledge the passing of one of Guam's leaders. The Honorable José Charfauros Nededog, a member of the 4th Guam Legislature, recently passed away at the age of 79.

Senator Nededog was born on January 31, 1920, in the village of Agat—the son of Emilio Nededog and Carmen Charfauros Nededog. He attended Bishop Olaiz Elementary School in Agat and graduated from Seaton Schroeder High School in Agana. Prior to enlisting in the United States Navy, he attended Phillip Commercial School in Honolulu, HI. Having enlisted in the Navy, Senator Nededog took personnel supervision courses in Brooklyn, NY, and Naval Intelligence Courses at Pearl Harbor, HI. He served during World War II, attaining the rank of Chief Petty Officer in the Naval Reserve.

He was elected to represent the people of Guam and serve in the 4th Guam Legislature. His experience as a senator enabled him to further serve the people as a member of several governmental councils. He was a member of the Territorial Planning Commission, the Bureau of Planning Council, the Manpower Resource and Development Council, the Seashore Protection Agency, and the First Constitutional Convention. At various times, he served as Center Director, Program Director, and Executive Director of the Government of Guam's Office of Economic Opportunity. He also served as Executive Director of the 17th Guam Legislature.

In addition to his government service, Senator Nededog also worked in the private sector. He was the general manager of the Kaneohe Venetian Manufacturing Co. in Hawaii, the sales and promotion manager of the

Marianas Electric and Supply Co., and the general manager of Universal Insurance and Realty Co.

The Senator was also active in community organizations. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post at Pearl Harbor, HI. In addition, he was active with the Kaneohe Welfare Association and OEO, 9th District. In his desire to help the youth and be a role model, he worked with the Boy Scouts Committee, Troop 5 at Mount Carmel Parish in the village of Agat. He also served as Scout Master for Troop 113, St. Ann's Parish at Kaneohe, HI.

The passing of the late Senator José Charfauros Nededog is a loss felt by the whole island. On behalf of the people of Guam, I offer my condolences and join his widow, the former Josefina Torres, and their children, Joseph, George, Melvin, Franklin, Kathleen, and Jocelyn, in mourning the loss of a husband, a father, and fellow legislator and servant to the people of Guam. Adios, Senator Nededog.

INTERNET CONSUMER INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT

**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, the age of the Internet has put more and more Americans on-line and is evolving faster than we could have ever imagined. Each day new companies and industries form out of the constant technological innovation that has come to symbolize this information superhighway. It has allowed average people sitting in their living rooms the opportunity to connect with a myriad of businesses and services. However, with this convenience there comes a growing concern that private information is being misused. Today, I am introducing the Internet Consumer Information Protection Act in an effort to address this problem.

The Internet Consumer Information Protection Act will allow people to regain control over their own personal information without unnecessarily hindering those services which collect data for legitimate purposes. Under this legislation, any customer data gathered by an entity could not be passed on to a third party unless: notice is provided, consumers are allowed an opportunity to direct that the information not be shared; and are given the opportunity, at no charge, to review, verify or correct any data compiled. Internet services would still be allowed to share information with affiliates and would also be allowed to supply data to third parties for the purpose of performing services or functions except for marketing purposes, provided that such entity would have an affirmative responsibility barring the use or sharing of such data.

Obviously, issues involving the internet are complex and constantly changing, and therefore deserve careful and thoughtful consideration. It is important to note that the focus of this legislation is not to stop the accumulation and transactional use of data, but to give consumers a sense of understanding and effective control over their own information. Also, such policy would function to ensure that such entities take responsibility to maintain the integrity of the information being used for intended purposes.

As the Internet becomes an integral part of our daily lives, it is imperative that we in Congress take a common sense approach, like this proposed legislation, to ensure that businesses are able to benefit from this technology while citizens are able to retain a voice and aren't asked to involuntarily sacrifice their own personal privacy in the name of an undefined information age. The preservation of privacy is a cherished freedom which unchecked technology must not be allowed to circumvent or exploit.

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TRIBUTE TO MERVYN MOSBACKER

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**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding young man and American who has dedicated his life to the pursuit of justice, Mervyn Mosbacker.

Mervyn is the new U.S. attorney for the Southern Judicial District of Texas. He is a native of Brownsville, TX, and an eminently qualified lawyer. Last year, Mervyn was recommended unanimously, by members of the Texas Delegation who represent congressional districts in the Southern Judicial District of Texas, to fill the vacancy for the position of U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Texas in Houston.

The White House nominated him, and the Senate confirmed him in short order. Mervyn was an attractive candidate to us for his position for many reasons, not the least of which was the ease with which this clean-cut young lawyer already working in the U.S. Attorney's Office already would glide through the vetting process.

Mervyn was born in Mexico and his mother, who currently lives in Brownsville, is from Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas. He will bring a very unique understanding of the needs of this judicial district to the U.S. Attorney's Office. He knows what is important to us here in South Texas because of our shared experiences.

He is familiar with the issues that bring cases to the courts along the border such as drugs, trade law, international law, and illegal immigration. His tenure of service in the U.S. Attorney's Office brings a history of knowledge of how the office works.

The position of U.S. attorney is a sacred position of the public trust. This is the advocate of the interests of the taxpayers of South Texas. The U.S. attorney is the Federal representative for the interests of justice under our laws in local areas. It is an honor to hold this position, but it entails an enormous responsibility as well.

I am enormously confident that Mervyn Mosbacker will bring South Texas common sense to the Office of United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Mervyn today as he takes the oath of office as U.S. attorney.

TRIBUTE TO SHEET METAL WORKERS

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most dedicated and skilled workers in northwest Indiana. On September 17, 1999, in a salute to their workers' durability and longevity, the Sheet Metal Workers Local #20, of Gary, Indiana, will honor their members with sixty, fifty, forty, and twenty-five years of continuous service. These individuals, in addition to the other Local #20 members who have served northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long time, are a testament to the prototypical American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hard-working.

The men and women of Local #20 are a fine representation of America's working families. I am proud to represent such dedicated men and women in Congress. The Sheet Metal Workers Constitution states, " \* \* \* to establish and maintain desirable working conditions and thus provide for themselves and their families that measure of comfort, happiness, and security to which every citizen is entitled in return for his labor, from a deep sense of pride in our trade, to give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay." For sixty years, Edward Shirko and Denator Migliorini have followed this creed. For fifty years, the following individuals have followed this creed: Mike Busika, James Cameron, Earl Chance, Melvin Crook, Marvin Forsythe, Vernon W. Hoehn, Eugene Hornrich, James Kocman, Eugene Koontz, Richard McClelland, Marcus Meyer, Charles D. Meyers, James Moscato, Raymond Mueller, Joseph E. Mullholland, William D. Nielsen, Chester Nowak, Ray Ritthaler, William Singel, Joseph Zeman, and Thomas M. Zimmer. In 1959, Jack Bacon, J.B. Bugg, Melvin Earnhart, Willima K. Hart, Vernon W. Hoehn, Louis Holzli, James R. Hood, Dellis Ivers, Leroy Johnson, Homer Keller, Robert Kish, Gordon LaBounty, Frank Macewicz, Jr., Clyde Martin, Gilbert Mecchia, Terry Messenich, Donald O'Dell, Homer Rachford, Lorne Rearick, John Sisco, and Daniel Wracker began their forty years of service to northwest Indiana and membership in the Sheet Metal Workers trade union. In addition to the great service and dedication displayed by the sixty, fifty, and forty-year continued service members, the members with twenty-five years of continued service that will be honored include: Daniel Bajda, Frank Beigelbeck, Lloyd Bielski, Timothy Bolster, Joseph L. Byres, Dan Gross, James Hirschfelder, Ted Jones, Vincent Macielewicz, James Odle, Peter Nielson, Larry P. Long, Tom Lopez, Donald McAuliffe, James Moskalick, John Moskalick, Leo Plawecki, Glen Shanks, Benito Torres, David Towasnicky, Thomas D. Zimmer, Melvin Lolkema, and William J. Singel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, upstanding members of the Sheet Metal Workers Local #20 for their hard work in fulfilling the American dream. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to these individuals, as they have worked arduously to make

this dream possible for others. They have proven themselves to be distinguished advocates for the labor movement, and they have made northwest Indiana a better place in which to live and work.

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INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR THE ELDERLY SHOWS UNITED STATES LAGS FAR BEHIND MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS

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**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, my staff recently conducted an analysis of eight industrialized nations and found that the United States is the only country lacking government-sponsored prescription drug coverage for its senior citizens.

The chart I am submitting today clearly illustrates our Government's failure to provide pharmaceutical coverage for seniors who need it most.

Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, France, Sweden, and the Netherlands all provide universal prescription drug coverage for the elderly. The UK and France fully exempt the elderly from copayments for certain prescription drugs. Sweden provides a similar exception, but in no case charges seniors more than a \$10 copayment for prescription drugs or more than \$200 in annual out-of-pocket expenses. The findings clearly show that elderly Americans are being denied a fair system of drug coverage.

Further, recent analyses show that drug prices in the United States are surging by 18 percent per year, with the result that more seniors will be unable to purchase needed medications. Yet the elderly have a particular need for prescription drug coverage, as seniors purchase one-third of all prescription drugs while they only comprise 12 percent of our population.

As employer-sponsored retiree health coverage in the United States rapidly erodes and Medicare HMO's pull out of many markets and lower existing drug benefits, it is time to recognize that the private sector will never be able to guarantee drug coverage for all seniors. In contrast, adding an outpatient drug benefit to Medicare would do exactly that.

If so many other industrialized nations can provide prescription drug coverage for their senior citizens, why can't we?

I urge you to support legislation to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare. If we do not, we will do great harm to millions of seniors who lack any drug insurance to pay for medications their doctors prescribe.

Contrary to what the pharmaceutical industry would have you believe, the debate is not about price controls. The debate is about coverage.