

menace of corruption. Indeed, corruption is exacting a huge toll on Ukrainian institutions, eroding confidence in government and support for economic reforms, and discouraging domestic and foreign investment.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about reports of violations in the conduct of the election campaign, including in the signature-gathering process and inappropriate meddling by officials, especially on the local level. I am also troubled by governmental actions against the free media, including the recent seizure of bank accounts of STB independent television and the suspension of four independent television stations in Crimea. The harassment of the print and electronic media is inconsistent with OSCE commitments. It undermines Ukraine's overall positive reputation with respect to human rights and democracy, including its generally positive record in previous elections.

The Helsinki Commission, which I chair, was in the forefront of supporting respect for human rights and self-determination in Ukraine during the dark days of Soviet rule. We have viewed—and still view—Ukraine's independence as a milestone in Europe's history. However, in order to consolidate its independence and reinforce internal cohesion, Ukraine needs to speed its transition to democracy and market economy. It needs to work toward greater compliance with OSCE standards and norms. The OSCE Office for Project Coordination in Ukraine can be a useful tool to assist Ukraine in this regard and I hope that the Ukrainian government will take advantage of and benefit from the OSCE presence.

Despite frustrations with certain aspects of Ukraine's reality, it is important for both the Congress and the Executive Branch to continue to support an independent, democratic Ukraine, both in terms of policies designed to strengthen United States-Ukraine relations, as well as with assistance designed to genuinely strengthen democratic and free-market development. The key is to be patient, but persistent, in encouraging progress.

THANK YOU, HARRY MOSGROVE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pause a moment to recognize a man who has contributed a great deal to the community of Colorado. The man is Harry Mosgrove. Harry has been president and CEO of Copper Mountain Ski Resort since 1987. In the 12 years since he took this office Copper Mountain has enjoyed great success. The 1995-96 ski season was their best ever. They have also begun many programs, such as "West Fest", and building projects that have already enhanced the services Copper Mountain offers its guests. Perhaps his most significant contribution was to help Copper Mountain smoothly join with Intrawest, its new parent company. Now, after 18 successful years with Copper Mountain, Mr. Mosgrove has announced his retirement. He is getting ready to be a grandfather and is going to take the time for a well-deserved rest.

The important thing about Mr. Mosgrove, however, is that he didn't start at the top. In

1981 he came on to the team as manager of real estate. From there he moved to the positions of executive vice president and chief operating officer. He has also served as chairman of Colorado Ski Country USA. He will continue to be an active member of the executive committee and the board of directors as well.

Harry Mosgrove has been called a "guiding light" and has also been said to be "a man of great integrity and vision." Business and our communities as a whole could use more people with Harry Mosgrove's attributes. For all of these reasons, I am offering my congratulations to Harry Mosgrove on his retirement but, more than that, I am thanking him for all he has done throughout his years of service. I know that he will be missed at Copper Mountain and I wish him well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker due to mechanical difficulties with my flight from my district I missed rollcall vote 427. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2898

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, H.R. 2898, which lowers the minimum age for individuals without children to be eligible for the earned income tax credit to 21 years-of-age.

The earned income tax credit was established in 1975 to provide cash aid to working parents with low incomes who care for dependent children. In 1994, this credit was extended to include low-income workers with no children.

Many workers today struggle to make a living wage. This credit provides these workers with a financial boost to help them in their struggles. It either reduces their tax liability, thus putting more money in their take-home pay, or it provides an actual cash benefit. This extra money is a great help for these taxpayers, and I fully support this credit.

However, it is extremely unfair to deprive someone in this financial situation the benefits of the earned income tax credit merely because he or she has not reached the age of 25.

But this is exactly what the current law does. A taxpayer who otherwise meets the income requirements of tax credit is not eligible if he or she is under the age of 25.

Congress justified this age requirement to prevent students, who are otherwise supported by their parents, from becoming eligible for the credit. However, by focusing on the age of these students, the age requirement is depriving thousands of young Americans who are truly struggling financially from receiving the credit.

In our inner cities and our rural areas, many young men and women do not have the luxury

of going to college. After graduation, they must find jobs in order to support themselves. And, unfortunately, the jobs that one can get with only a high school diploma are not paying a living wage.

My bill corrects the problem of the earned income tax credit by simply reducing the minimum age requirement to 21 years of age.

I urge my colleagues to support our young workers by supporting H.R. 2898.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN W. BURKHART: CHAMPION FOR INCREASED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that education is the great equalizer. No one can deny that an education unlocks the doors of opportunity. Few have unlocked and held open the doors of higher education more than John W. Burkhart of Indianapolis, Indiana. Burkhart, who died in Indianapolis last month, was a true pioneer in opening up access to higher education.

In 1960—five years before the Federal student loan program was established as part of the Federal Higher Education Act—John Burkhart organized USA Funds to privately guarantee student loans. USA Funds later became USA Group, which is now the nation's largest student loan guarantor and administrator. Through USA Funds' and USA Group's loan guarantees, students who would normally be unable to afford high education, can now receive a higher education on credit. The concept of "college on credit," pioneered by Burkhart and other visionaries like him, has spurred a substantial increase in the number of Americans with access to higher education. In 1965, only 1.5 million students entered institutions of higher education. That number increased to an impressive 2.2 million students by 1996. Certainly there are a variety of factors which contribute to such an increase, but the efforts of John Burkhart in fostering educational opportunity cannot be discounted.

Burkhart's vision helped pave the way for thousands of college students to improve the quality of their lives. Indeed, as domestic and global economic competition grow, America will greatly benefit from the increased rolls of highly educated Americans. John W. Burkhart not only unlocked the doors of opportunity to higher education for generations of Americans, but he also raised the expectation that future generations might also pass over the door's threshold.

A HALF-CENTURY OF "MOMENTS TO REMEMBER"

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the big 5-0 can be very traumatic for some, but others relish the nostalgia-filled meandering down memory lane. So it is for Brecksville Women's Club (BWC), as the ladies gather to celebrate the group's half-century milestone.

In the gold glow of post World War II, Brecksville Women's Club was born—an outgrowth of the Women's Committee of Brecksville Little Theater. Believing the community needed a cultural, philanthropic and social outlet for women in the area, 10 young women met on September 26, 1949 and founded the club. The years since then have proved it was a wise move.

In the golden glow of a half-century of "making members useful to society and helpful to each other", BWC will mark the Big One September 23. Fiftieth Anniversary Chairman Annette Gorris and committee have arranged for the organization to take over Swingos-on-the-Lake's entire restaurant that afternoon. The Four Lads will guide the BWC lassies in a reminiscent sail through "Moments to Remember."

"Although the celebration is a private party for members only, we are expecting recognition on the state and national levels" said President Joan Kules. "Governor Bob Taft has proclaimed Sunday, September 26 as Brecksville Women's Club Day. George Gintoli, CEO of Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare System (NBHS) is to present us with that proclamation and one from NBHS, where our members have volunteered for 50 years," she explained. At the beginning of this year Brecksville and Broadview Heights Mayors Jerry Hruby and Leo Bender issued proclamations naming "1999 Brecksville Women's Club's 50th Anniversary Year."

The formal presentations will be brief however and lighted-hearted merriment is expected to prevail as members recollect anecdotes about volunteering, fundraising, social gatherings and special events. Some are expected to appear in skits recalling humorous incidents chairmen have encountered in raising thousands of dollars to help hundreds of causes. Those attending will be asked to write a brief greeting to be put into a time capsule which will be opened by BWC in the year 2005.

When the club was founded late in '49, the world was on the verge of a new decade and now, 50 years later, the world is on the verge of a new century. Marian Huefner, BWC's second President, and Mary Hoffman, BWC's third president, recall some turbulent but fun times for the fledgling group which numbered 35 by the end of 1950-51. (Of course, Brecksville was only a village then—it would be 12 years later that it reached city status with a population of 5,000.)

In the 50's era when saddle shoes, poodle skirts and malt shakes were "it", the group often held social events with their husbands as guests. Marian, laughing, recalls being in charge of refreshments for one of these events, arriving at the party with her husband and not thinking about the desserts she left at home until it was refreshment time. Mary says she misses the camaraderie of the smaller membership when everybody knew everybody else. Today with a membership of 300 women from 35 Northeast Ohio communities and Florida, it is more difficult to know everyone. Both ladies treasure friendships they have made throughout the years and as charter members they will be awarded Lifetime Memberships at the celebration. The late Betty Hoffman, first president and founding leader, was awarded a Lifetime Membership when the Club marked its 30th anniversary in 1979. There are currently 19 past presidents on the active roster

and 31 ladies who have belonged for 25 years or longer!

Since 1949, a chief money-making event has traditionally been a luncheon fashion show. At first these were in the form of garden parties with the members doing all the work. "There was no such thing as rain insurance and the weather was undependable," said Orah DeHamm, past president and a member for more than 40 years. She remembers scrambling into a member's home when the rain hit the backyard party.

These events were moved indoors, but "minor calamities" also happened that weren't weather related. "Old-timers" recall one such incident when the food committee members all plugged in their electric roasters and blew out the lights in St. Basil's Church Hall.

More often, the fashion fundraisers came off without a hitch. "One year we each roasted turkeys at home and combined the meat in a main dish salad," said Margaret Mansbery, a past president. "This was a lovely affair we held at Camp Cheerful's main auditorium in the Metro Parks." The fashion show fundraisers have been held at various places—the Holiday Inn, Landerhaven, Windham Hotel, etc. BWC's 50th major fundraiser is set for May 1, 2000 at the Hilton Hotel across from Summit Mall.

In the fall of 1973, a second fundraising event—the President's Ball—became a part of the club's activities. After 10 years the ball's popularity declined and since then a variety of money-making affairs have been staged such as card parties, holiday bazaars, Day at the Races and a Celebrity Fingerpainting Auction. Profits from the fundraiser go into the philanthropic fund and are distributed at the end of each club year. BWC has given away more than \$150,000 to a variety of causes with the largest percentage to education in the form of scholarships and education awards.

In addition to monetary help, BWC purchased a washer and dryer for patients at the old Broadview Center, bought books for the library, obtained eyeglasses for needy students and provided for families who needed assistance during the Christmas season. When a fire damaged Brecksville Old Town Hall, the club gave \$2,000 for kitchen repairs. It has purchased paintings for both Brecksville and Broadview Heights city halls.

In its first year, the club began helping the less fortunate, staging monthly parties at Hawthornden State Hospital (now Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare System). Former president Mary Ann Celebrezze has chaired this project for the last five years and each month she and her workers take Bingo games, prizes and refreshments to the facility for the mentally ill.

Ruth McMahon, a NBHS volunteer for many years, remembers that in the early days the parties were held in the evenings and in the segregated cottages—dancing and singing with the male patients and playing games with the female patients. "In those days it was not unusual for a female patient to strip naked," Ruth said. "We would just ignore her and a staff member would take over." Ruth also recalls one snowy evening the volunteer group came in the back entrance and the gate was closed they went to leave. There was nothing they could do but back up the steep hill to get off the grounds. Nowadays that gate is closed and the parties are in the afternoon with mixed groups.

Throughout the years, BWC members have served as nannies for the babies of unwed mothers at Marycrest School and helped with the mentally handicapped at the old Broadview Center.

"In the early '70s, BWC received a great deal of recognition from the Federation of Women's Clubs of Cleveland for its volunteer work and types of projects," said Cecile Clarenbach, a former president. "We won the first place award among 45 clubs numerous times over the years for our philanthropic events and volunteer efforts."

The Federation was dissolved in the early '90s with the decline of women's clubs making BWC rather unique for its longevity and healthy operations.

"We had baby-sitting service for our members in the '70s," said Rita Morris, another past president. "The cost of the baby-sitter was partly subsidized by the club so young mothers could attend the meetings," she explained. Nowadays, many of these members' children are grown. The group no longer prepares their own lunches and for the past seven years has considered St. Michael's Woodside Party Center as its headquarters.

Many friendships have been built up in participating in bowling, bridge, golfing, antiquing, special lunch outings, bus tours, Cleveland Orchestra Concert series, and theatrical productions. These and many more activities through the years will give those attending the "Moments to Remember" celebration a true sense of renewed sisterhood and commitment to BWC.

H.R. 2116, VETERANS MILLENNIUM HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, America's veterans are forgotten far too often. My colleagues and I are committed to protecting veterans' programs and ensuring that our nation honors its commitment to our men and women in the military. To do anything less would be to abandon the very principles that veterans fought so hard to preserve.

We are committed to securing our veterans' future and are working now to provide funding to honor our promise to them. Last week the House of Representatives approved the Veterans Administration/Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, which contained a \$1.7 billion increase for veterans health care, totaling \$196 billion.

Yesterday, Congress passed the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act, which expands veterans eligibility for care and dramatically improves the care provided to veterans in their homes. The expanded care includes geriatric evaluations, nursing home care, adult day health care, and other types of home health care. The act also requires the Veterans Administration to operate and maintain a national program of extended services.

The Veterans Millennium Health Care Act coupled with the funds provided in our annual veterans appropriations legislation, affirms our nation's appreciation for our aging veterans and our commitment to provide them with the health care they will need in the coming years.