

We have all heard the stories of classes being held in spaces not intended as classrooms. Students are being taught in trailers, gyms, lunchrooms, and closets.

Statistics show there is a national school infrastructure backlog of needed repair totaling \$112 billion. We now know that nearly one-third of all schools are in need of extensive repair or replacement.

As this need for school repair continues to mount so does the pressure on our students to succeed and compete with their peers internationally.

To level the playing field we must provide our students with the tools of success. They need computers with access to the Internet, smaller classes, well-trained teachers, and modern schools. We should never again hear tales of learning in closets or trailers in parking lots.

We have the opportunity in this Congress to help our future. Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can enact meaningful legislation that will give American children a chance to soar.

In closing I ask:

We want the best for our children, the best for our country, and the best for our future. Why then do we not get our house, or school house, in order?

CACHE LAPOUDRE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers and parents of Cache La Poudre Elementary School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty of the school as well as all the students, parents, and individuals who contributed to their special canned food drive. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to families in Colorado. That the school produced so much from their food drive for the benefit of local families through the Salvation Army is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let the children's example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

TRIBUTE TO J. MICHAEL COOK

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to J. Michael Cook, who is stepping down as chairman and chief executive officer of Deloitte & Touche, one of the world's largest professional services firms.

Mike has led D&T since 1989, making him the longest-standing chief executive of all the Big Five accounting and consulting firms. During his tenure, the firm has experienced phenomenal growth. Today, D&T has revenues of more than \$9 billion and an annual growth

rate of 22 percent, putting the firm first among its competitors. Equally significant has been Mike's emphasis on recruiting and retaining talented professional—especially capable women. That initiative, along with other creative incentives has earned D&T national recognition and the #8 position on Fortune's list of best places to work.

Mike has also been active in promoting worthy causes. Most recently, he served as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the United Way of America.

As one of the few accountants currently serving in Congress, I commend Mike on his many accomplishments, which have earned him the respect and admiration of so many in the profession. I wish him, his wife Mary Anne, and their three children my sincerest best wishes.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. GERALDINE M. CHAPEY AND DR. GERALDINE D. CHAPEY

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the members of the Emerald Society of the New York City Board of Education in honoring and saluting the accomplishments of Hon. Dr. Geraldine M. Chapey and her daughter, Dr. Geraldine D. Chapey on the occasion of their Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance.

Dr. Geraldine M. Chapey possesses a wealth of administrative and teaching experience and serves as a leader in the field of education not only in New York City, but throughout the United States. Her research in gifted education, communications, administration, supervision, business partnerships, and special education has been widely published and she is the editor of the national refereed journal, *Leadership in Education*. Her contributions to our community are not limited to the field of education, however: she is the founder and chairperson of the community based Trinity Senior Services, an organization that raises money to provide services to over 1,500 senior citizens. She has also served for 9 years as a member of the Board of Outreach Project, a rehabilitation program for children ages 8 to 16, with alcohol and drug problems.

Dr. Geraldine D. Chapey's accomplishments rival those of her mother. She is currently a member of the NY State Board of Regents and of School Board 27. She presently serves on the Governor's Advisory Council and on the Board of Directors of the Association of Teachers of New York. For her significant contributions to education, she has received a number of honors including Woman of the Year and Educator of the Year. Because of her achievements and her strong commitment to quality and innovative education, Dr. Chapey has been invited to serve on task forces and committees for the United States and New York Departments of Education.

The distinguished Doctors Chapey have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those they come into contact. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents and the people of our country, I am sure I speak for

all of my colleagues in offering my congratulations on their being recognized as the "Irish-women of the Year" by the Emerald Society of the New York City Board of Education.

INVESTMENT IN WOMEN'S HEALTH
ACT OF 1999

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce the Investment in Women's Health Act. I am re-introducing this bill with Congresswoman Mary Bono and the support of the National Cervical Cancer Coalition, the College of American Pathologists, and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

Last year, Dr. James Navin from Straub Hospital visited my office to alert me to a very serious inequity in the pap smear reimbursement rate in Hawaii. Health insurers in Hawaii had apparently taken a cue from the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) and lowered their pap smear reimbursement rate. Under this lower rate, the local laboratories would lose a significant amount of money on each screening. In fact, the reimbursement rate was low enough to force the laboratories to consider getting out of the business completely. Fortunately, the laboratories were able to convince the health insurers of the need for increased reimbursement. The laboratories were then compensated with a break even reimbursement rate for the pap smears.

I soon found out that the low reimbursement rate is not only a problem in Hawaii, but across the entire United States. The low rate of Medicare reimbursement for pap smears has an impact on the rates paid by third party payers who peg their payments on what the government pays.

To address the deficiency, I introduced legislation last year to raise HCFA's reimbursement rate for pap smears. Due to wide spread support, progress on this issue was made with the inclusion of report language in the Omnibus bill for fiscal year 1999 urging HCFA to use its existing statutory authority to raise the reimbursement rate by administrative action.

Unfortunately, the reimbursement rate has not increased and the time table for any change is unclear. In order to rectify this situation, my legislation defines the date for an increase in the pap smear reimbursement rate and sets the rate at the national average for production costs. For women in Hawaii and the rest of the nation, this means we can assure their access to reliable and timely pap smear results.

Everyone knows that pap smears save lives. With annual screening, the chance of developing cervical cancer can be reduced to less than 1%. Over the last 40 years, the incidence of invasive cervical cancer has decreased significantly due to early detection efforts. Still, an estimated 13,700 new cases of invasive cervical cancer will be diagnosed in 1998, and 4,900 women will die of the disease. Screening for cervical cancer allows doctors to catch the disease in its early stages and save a life. A 70 percent decline in deaths due to cervical cancer in the last 50 years can be directly attributed to pap smears.

An adequate pap smear reimbursement level demonstrates respect for the women and

families who benefit from a timely and accurate annual pap smear. I am anxious to continue the work we have begun with HCFA and am counting on my colleagues support for the Investment in Women's Health Act of 1999.

BLEVINS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers, and parents of Blevins Junior High School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty of Blevins as well as all the students, parents, and individuals who contributed to their special canned food drive. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to families in Colorado. That the school produced 5,500 cans of food and warm clothing for the benefit of local families through the Salvation Army is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let this example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT FEDERAL FUNDS FROM BEING USED TO DEVELOP NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation that will continue the war on drugs by prohibiting federal funds from being used to develop needle exchange programs. These programs are harmful to communities and undermine our nation's drug control efforts. Similar legislation overwhelmingly passed the House last year with broad bipartisan support.

Drug abuse continues to ravage our communities, our schools and our children. Heroin use is again on the rise. Unfortunately, thousands of children will inject hard core drugs like heroin and cocaine for the first time this year, and many of them will not make it to adulthood. To deal with this problem, we must have a firm commitment by the federal government to end the cycle of addiction and abuse that destroys so many lives.

Not only are needle exchange programs in conflict with federal law, but the results of community-based needle exchange programs have been disastrous. Needle exchange programs result in towns with higher crime, schools that are littered with used drug paraphernalia, and neighborhoods that are magnets for drug addicts and the high-risk behavior that accompany them.

Providing free hypodermic needles to addicts so they can continue to inject illegal drugs sends a terrible message to our children—that Congress has given up on the fight to stop illegal drug use and that the federal

government implicitly condones this illegal activity. As lawmakers, we have a responsibility to rise up and fight against the use and spread of drugs everywhere we can. We should start by making it harder, not easier to practice this deadly habit. This bipartisan, common sense legislation will reaffirm the federal government's commitment to the war on drugs.

While supporters of these dangerous programs can overlook the damage they do to our communities and our children simply because they believe they serve a public health interest, the medical evidence is simply not there. Studies have shown that addicts who use needle exchange programs are more likely to contract HIV or other blood-borne viruses. A recent study published in the American Journal of Epidemiology concluded that there was no indication that needle exchanges protected against blood-borne infections. In fact, the study concluded, "there was no indication of a protective effect of syringe exchange against HBV or HCV infection. Indeed, highest incidence of infection occurred among current users of the exchange, even after adjusting for confounding variables."

Mr. Speaker, when the President unveiled his anti-drug strategy, Vice-President Gore stated, "We must mount an all-out effort to banish crime, drugs and disorder and hopelessness from our streets once and for all." Yet, in the words of the President's own National Drug Czar, General Barry McCaffrey, "these programs are magnets for all social ills—pulling in crime, violence, addicts, prostitution, dealers and gangs and driving out hope and opportunity." Mr. Speaker, we will never banish crime, drugs, disorder and hopelessness by providing those responsible for it with the tools of their trade.

The United States government must never give up on the war against the deadly drugs that continue to destroy our neighborhoods, our schools and so many of our families. We should not tell our children "Don't do drugs," on the one hand, while giving them free needles to shoot up with the other. We need a national drug control policy which emphasizes education, interdiction, prevention and treatment—NOT subsidies for addicts.

I urge my colleagues to heed the advice of General McCaffrey and ensure that the federal government is not in the business of subsidizing irresponsible, reckless and illegal behavior. The federal government should provide leadership, NOT needles.

CONGRATULATING DAN MALCOLM

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dan Malcolm, recipient of The Viticulture and Enology Research Center Award. Dan Malcolm has been a strong supporter of the California grape industry for many years.

Each year at California State University, Fresno, an outstanding individual in the California grape industry is honored on Grape Day. This year, The Viticulture and Enology Research Center proudly honored Dan Malcolm of Malcolm Media for his generous sup-

port of the program and his dedication to the California grape industry.

Dan Malcolm grew up on a family farm near Sanger, California, where he gained a strong respect for agriculture. As a young man, he became interested in politics and agricultural education, which led him to become owner, publisher, and editor of the fastest growing agricultural publishing company in the Western United States. In 1992, Dan founded Malcolm Media Ag Publishing in Clovis, California. The first publication he and his wife Monica formed to help expand awareness of agriculture was American Vineyard, which was first published in early 1992. In just two short years American Vineyard became the highest circulated grape industry publication in the state. In 1995 American Vineyard became the most requested grape industry publication in the United States with over 10,000 readers. Today Malcolm continues to support agricultural education through scholarships to viticulture, and enology students throughout California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dan Malcolm, recipient of The Viticulture and Enology Research Center Award. Dan has been a vital part of the California grape industry. I urge all my colleagues to join me in wishing Dan Malcolm many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE A. BEAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of a giant in the energy industry, Captain Bruce A. Beam. Bruce will retire from American Electric Power as Vice President of Governmental Affairs on February 28th after 34 years of service.

I have gotten to know Bruce from my service on the Commerce Committee. Beginning with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and through the Energy Policy Act of 1992 I recognized Bruce as a source of accurate information and steadfast integrity. While we were not always on the same side on all the issues, I knew that at the end of the day I could expect a smile and a kind word from Bruce, regardless of the outcome.

Bruce first came to Washington in the early 1970s as a commuter lobbyist from Roanoke, Virginia. In 1978 AEP decided that Bruce should establish a Washington office and after working out of his home for a while he settled into some space on K Street. The impact of having Bruce in DC full time was extremely positive and as a result the AEP Board of trustees elected Bruce Vice President of Governmental Affairs in 1981.

In addition to ably representing AEP in Washington Bruce continued in his service to the US Navy culminating in his appointment to the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Advisory Committee. This important body provides guidance to the CNO on a host of issues dealing with national security. Bruce's service to this group has been and continues to be on a pro-bono basis.

Although he will no longer be working the halls of Congress for AEP full time, I know we will see Bruce around Washington. Two of his children and three of his grandchildren live in