

Kiernan, who amassed five steals, the Bears put together a stringent zone defense. The success of their defense is most easily seen in their domination of rival Pierson. In the final, the Bears' defense devastated Pierson. In the first period, Pierson was held to a mere 7 points. Overall, Pierson was only able to score 30 points against the Bears, despite being ranked second in the County.

The work ethic and determined spirit of this high school basketball team are a true reflection of my Congressional District. The entire community is filled with pride for these young women, who have worked so hard and sacrificed so much to reach their goal. So I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me and all my neighbors in saluting the Stony Brook Bears, the "1999 Suffolk County Class D" girls high school basketball champions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 52, on House Congressional Resolution 24, Expressing Congressional Opposition to the Unilateral Declaration of a Palestinian State, I was unavailable to vote because I was returning from a bipartisan Congressional Delegation trip to Russia. The objectives of this four-day trip included meetings with the Russian Duma and other governmental officials concerning the missile defense threat as outlined in the report of the Rumsfeld Commission. Our delegation was joined in Moscow by former Secretary Don Rumsfeld and two members of his commission, Mr. Jim Woolsey and Mr. William Schneider, Jr.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

FEDERAL MONEY FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a recent Op-Ed written by Dr. Arthur H. Rubenstein about the benefits federal money has produced for medical research. Dr. Rubenstein is the Dean of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, one of New York City's and the country's premiere teaching hospitals.

MORE AID MEANS MORE RESPONSIBILITY—
FEDERAL MONEY PUTS MEDICAL RESEARCH
ON THE THRESHOLD OF A GOLDEN AGE

(By Arthur H. Rubenstein)

NEW YORK.—Congress has now approved billions of dollars in research money to complete the elements of what could be the Golden Age of Medical Research.

We now have scientific excellence, outstanding technology, public support and greatly increased funding aligned to make possible a quantum leap forward in our search for better treatments, prevention and hopefully cures of some of the most dreaded diseases on earth.

But as we celebrate this unique opportunity, scientists and physician researchers must understand that with it comes a new, and perhaps higher, level of responsibility. If we ignore this responsibility, we risk losing this newly won support.

A combination of forces has brought us to this unique opportunity.

The media continues to follow the rapid pace of scientific breakthroughs and gives medical news front page status.

The public, particularly patients and their families, clamor for life saving and life prolonging treatments.

In addition, many recent discoveries are now being applied in actual practice. Leading lawmakers in Congress took particular notice of these forces during the last congressional session. Realizing that a big boost in funding could capitalize on the intensifying scientific knowledge of the past decade, thoughtful lawmakers brought about a \$2 billion increase in the NIH budget.

As a physician and a Dean of a major medical school, I am elated over this opportunity. During my lifetime, basic science has advanced and accelerated so rapidly that we are on the verge of unprecedented discoveries. Just 45 years after the discovery of the structure of DNA, we are on the road to examining how tens of thousands of genes function.

That will be the key to understanding how many diseases occur. And that is the shaft of light that can lead us to curing or controlling the disease.

We will look back on these years with the same awe as was felt for the wondrous age after Newton discovered the Laws of Motion or Einstein discovered the Laws of Relativity.

However, if I put my own scientific excitement to the side for a moment and focus on my role as the leader of an entity which depends heavily on research funding, I must also offer a cautious warning about this great rush forward.

All over the country, in clinical and research laboratories, the scramble is on to garner a share of this new funding. This competition is healthy and will lead to better science. My own school will compete as hard as the next.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), though, faces a formidable challenge to allocate money to research laboratories. Clearly, the funds must be spent in a wise and responsible manner.

But which scientists working on what diseases will get an infusion of money to throw their research into high gear or get it off the ground? How much "politics" must be considered? What markers will be laid out to show if the money was wasted or well spent? I don't envy the NIH at all!

The Institute of Medicine recommends the public be given a strong say in this process and that a public advisory board be created. Those are excellent and appropriate ideas.

The funding decisions must not be solely made in meetings amongst administrators and scientists.

To maintain public support, the scientific community must make the public a greater part of the discussion of what could be literally life and death decisions for generations to come.

But we, as scientists and leaders of the academic community, must also be mindful that our individual and collective actions are appropriately facing a higher level of scrutiny than ever before. We must embrace this examination, respond appropriately, or else face great peril.

We have an obligation to find ways to share our work with the lay public, to do our best to make it intelligible to non scientists. We have an obligation to be cautious with our pronouncements of progress.

As exciting as incremental progress is to the scientist, its reality, that it is progress but not yet a cure, can be exceptionally cruel to the human being looking for solace. We have an obligation to shun fleeting fame when it is premature, and fortune when its potential jeopardizes the credibility of our work.

Science is tantalizingly close to so many discoveries! To me, it is simply breathtaking to even begin to comprehend that within five to ten years we may—I underscore "may"—have the understanding to cure or prevent various infectious diseases, mental illnesses, birth defects, and would be killers like heart disease, cancer, AIDS, and diabetes.

If the medical and research communities are perceived as not using public funding wisely or let false optimism blind us to the often unpredictable nature of scientific exploration, we will have failed in a monumental and tragic manner.

Besides the discoveries lost or delayed, and the lives that would be affected, there could be a public backlash against those who failed to act responsibly.

The Golden Age of Medical Research then would be replaced by an era of suspicion and skepticism about science's ability to improve life.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES E. CADO

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that James E. Cado of Lexington, MO, passed away on February 4, 1999.

Born November 27, 1936 in Lexington, MO, the son of Henry and Minnie Margaret (Rostine) Cado, Mr. Cado married Janet Lee Dickmeyer on December 27, 1958. He was a graduate of Wentworth Military Academy Junior College in Lexington and a 1959 graduate of the University of Missouri. He received his Masters in Mathematics degree in 1964 from Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, MO.

Mr. Cado, a friend of mine through the years, was a good role model who gave encouragement to many students. He was a teacher for 35 years at Lexington R-5 School District, retiring in 1994. He was also a member of the United Methodist Church, Lexington, and the Missouri Teacher Association.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his wife, Janet; one son, Mark; one daughter, Lee Ann O'Brien; two sisters, two grandsons and two granddaughters.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD E. CARLSON

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and recognize an outstanding citizen from Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Richard Carlson will be retiring from his distinguished career with the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers later this month. He is a Chicago institution in the water resources field and will be retiring after a significant 36-year career with the Corps in the

planning and management of civil works projects.

Rich began his career with the Corps after graduating from the University of Illinois in 1963, where he worked his way through the ranks to become Chief of the Planning Division. Since 1988, Rich has held the position of Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management. During his tenure, Rich was instrumental in the development of the reservoirs for the award-winning Chicago Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) which is authorized for over \$600 million in flood control reservoirs. The construction of these reservoirs will reduce flooding to over 500,000 homeowners and will improve the water quality of the Chicago area rivers and streams.

Rich was also instrumental in the development, authorization and recent approval of the Chicago Shoreline Project. This project, which Rich helped formulate, will allow for a partnership with the Corps and the City of Chicago for construction of a \$270 million shoreline restoration project protecting Chicago's lakefront from collapse and loss of many millions of dollars in public lands and infrastructure.

Throughout his career, Rich has received many awards and distinguished recognition for this unique design efforts, including the prestigious Society of American Engineers Goethals Award for engineering design and methods in 1996. The O'Hare Reservoir, dedicated in 1998, which Rich was also instrumental in, received the Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers design award in 1998.

Rich Carson has been a tremendous leader in his field and mentor to the scores of engineers who have been privileged to work with him. He leaves a tremendous legacy for excellence and advocacy for partnership between the federal and local governments that will live on at the Corps of Chicago District for many years to come.

I ask my colleagues to join in honoring this excellent public servant, Rich Carlson, and to the wonderful example he has set for others.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY MARKS SKOLNICK

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Emily Marks Skolnick, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame on Friday, March 26, 1999.

Emily Marks Skolnick has pursued her quest for human rights, equality and economic justice since she was a child. A 1937 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Wellesley College where she majored in Labor Economics, Emily has given generously of her time and resources as a volunteer for over 60 years. She fought for school desegregation in the 1940s, helping to instigate the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case. In 1946 she helped found the Co-Op Nursery School and organized a pilot preschool program which was a model for the Headstart program. She participated in the desegregation of the San Mateo Union High School District in the 1950s, and in 1958 she

led a field study which resulted in passage of the San Mateo City Fair Employment Practices Ordinance. Emily helped launch the Lawrence Child Care Center and the local chapter of the ACLU.

Mr. Speaker, Emily Marks Skolnick is an extraordinary woman. I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

DON'T SMOKE

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to an excellent composition on the dangers of smoking written by Katherine Sommer, a student at Byrd Elementary School in Glen Rock, New Jersey. The composition was the winning entry in a competition held as part of a week-long anti-smoking program currently under way at Byrd Elementary. The composition is as follows.

DON'T SMOKE

(By Katherine Sommer)

Things can happen. Some things can't be helped. Some things can. Some people die of old age, heart attacks, and many other things, but a lot of people die a long, horrible death. They die of smoking. It could happen to you if you make one bad decision. Think of it this way—if you choose to smoke, you'll be doing something really stupid. You could get very sick or even die. That wouldn't be worth it, would it? The worst part is it would be all your own fault!

Some teenagers and younger children start smoking for some really silly reasons. Some kids may want to join a popular group at school, and think smoking will make them look older. Some girls think smoking will make them look cool and boys will like them more. What they don't know is if what happened on the inside of your body happened on the outside, you would look really ugly.

If you think that most kids smoke, you're wrong. The average kid doesn't smoke, and if you're anywhere near average, you won't either. You could really hurt yourself. You could get lung cancer, throat cancer, gum cancer, or lip cancer. These are only some of the horrible diseases you can get from smoking. And think, you could die just from trying to be cool.

Another reason you may start smoking is that a family member or really good friend may already smoke. You might think that it's harmless. You may think, I'll try one smoke, and if I don't like it I won't have any more. Well, it's not that easy. Smoking is addictive. That means that once you start something you can't stop. Once you try, it could be too late.

I don't intend to smoke. You shouldn't either. Don't let anything interfere with your dreams. Just don't try smoking. It's not healthy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS EXPEDITED MILITARY MEDALS ACT

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Veterans Expedited Military Medals Act, legislation that will address an inexcusable situation—the growing backlog at the Department of Defense in providing replacement military medals and unawarded decorations to our nation's veterans.

Unfortunately it can now take years for veterans to receive medals that they earned through their service to our nation. I know from personal experience. In my own congressional district there are several veterans, some who have waited over two years, to receive medals they earned, but were never awarded. One veteran from the town of Milan, Illinois has waited almost two years to receive his Good Conduct Medal. Another vet from Princeton has tried to get his American Campaign Medal, but has now waited almost a year with no results. My district office has pursued these cases aggressively, but the reality is that no amount of pressure the follow-through can overcome what is essentially a resource problem.

The issue revolves around back-up cases. The personnel centers who process applications for the separate services for never-issued awards and replacement medals have accumulated unconscionable backlogs in requests by veterans. In one personnel center alone, around 40,000 requests have been allowed to back up. The resulting time delays have denied veterans across the nation the medals and honors they have rightfully earned.

DOD claims that it doesn't have the people or resources to speed up the process. But it wouldn't take much to make a dent in the problem. For example, the Navy Liaison Office was averaging a relatively quick turnaround time of only four to five months when it had only five personnel working cases. Now that it has only three people in the office, it is having a hard time keeping up with the crush of requests. DOD must make putting more resources towards this problem a priority. However, it seems like the same old story—our government forgets the sacrifices servicemen and women have made as soon as they leave military duty. We can do better.

My legislation, which is the companion bill to Senator HARKIN's legislation in the Senate, would direct the Secretary of Defense to establish and carry out a plan to make available the funds and resources necessary to eliminate the backlog in decoration requests. The bill would also direct that funding and resources should not come at the expense of other personnel service and support activities within DOD. It is a common sense approach which will allow DOD to be involved in solving the situation while structuring a quick and direct solution to the problem.

I am proud that the legislation enjoys the support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). I hope that it is something Congress can quickly act on in the near future. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this legislation which would follow through on our