

women of spiritual faith who will become members of our Future Leaders Program. In parallel, we must define plans for a continuing, expanding series of pilgrimages well into the early years and decades of the 21st century.

Within two years, we can envision Journey in Faith pilgrimages beginning to generate their own income and cover their own expenses, including sponsoring future leaders, without outside financial support. As of today, we can plan two pilgrimages for this next year, the first year of the new century—and then four each year—responding to the needs and opportunities as they surely will present themselves. When we first met Scott Scherer, we learned that he had just conducted some 80 Holy Land tours the previous year, all self-financing. What is a reasonable forecast for Journey in Faith?

Our vision includes forming partnerships with a "family group" of cooperating organizations—such as those five who have joined with us in convening the summit: The International Management and Development Institute, the American Society for Law and Justice, Regents University, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Center for Religion and Diplomacy. All five are superb organizations whose leaders play a strong role in society.

We can anticipate co-sponsorship with Seminary and Divinity Schools—conducting Bible Lands Pilgrimages for their young men and women studying for the ministry who would have no other way to study, on site, the Scriptures as taught by Jesus Christ.

We can envision the rewards of involving young chaplains from the military academies: West Point, Annapolis, the Air Force Academy. How do we measure the value to our soldiers, and airmen stationed worldwide, prepared to defend America's vital interests against hostile attack?

While we cannot predict the potential for Journey in Faith with precision, we feel that the potential is substantial. With Paul, we can say, "For now, we see through a glass, darkly . . ." And we can also remember Paul's declaration, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

We close this assessment by reminding ourselves of the words of Jesus Christ which we quoted in our introduction. These passages stand as an inspiration and a mandate not just for His era but for ours as well: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid—freely ye have received, freely give—Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

THE MEDICAID CHILD ELIGIBILITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Medicaid Child Eligibility Improvement Act of 1999, to help more children obtain the health care they need through Medicaid. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are currently 4.4 million children in our nation who are eligible for Medicaid but are not receiving the care they need because they are not enrolled in the program.

In Texas, according to the Texas Department of Health and Human Services Commission, there are currently 800,000 Medicaid-eligible children who are not enrolled in their critical health insurance program. Without this

coverage, children do not receive the preventive health services they need and deserve. Clearly, we need to do more outreach to these children and their families and encourage them to sign up for Medicaid.

This legislation would allow public schools, child care resource and referral centers, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) workers, homeless eligibility agencies, and child support agencies to make the preliminary decision that a child is eligible to enroll in Medicaid so that they can receive coverage while waiting for full Medicaid eligibility determination. Schools and these other agencies are on the front lines of caring for children and can help to educate their families and enroll them in Medicaid.

Under the Balanced Budget Act enacted in 1997, States received a new option under Medicaid to grant "presumptive eligibility" to certain children on a temporary basis as their Medicaid eligibility is determined. My legislation would expand this presumptive eligibility option to make it more flexible and attractive to the States. The presumptive eligibility period is normally sixty days and gives States sufficient time to complete the Medicaid eligibility determination process. If a state ultimately determines that the child is not eligible for Medicaid, none of these entities would be penalized or lose funding due to a negative determination. Under this legislation, we would be enrolling children on an expedited basis and could reach some of those 4.4 million children who are eligible but not enrolled.

While some would argue that there will be a cost associated with increasing participation in the Medicaid program, it is important to remember that when Congress enacted Medicaid, it assumed that these children would be covered. I would argue that adding these children is not only morally right, but also cost-effective in comparison to letting these children receive health care on an ad hoc basis. Many of these children will simply go to hospital emergency rooms for treatment and will not be able to pay for these services. In the end, we will pay the cost. With Medicaid coverage, our public institutions will be reimbursed and these children will receive better care through primary care providers instead of high-cost, emergency-care based services.

This legislation is also fiscally responsible in that it would require a state to deduct from their state allotment any funding used for this program. I believe that the small cost associated with this outreach effort will not adversely impact States' ability to provide health care for low-income children and in fact could reduce the States' disproportionate share expenditures.

We know that these children are not being properly served now and we must find innovative ways to ensure that all eligible children are enrolled in Medicaid. My legislation would simply accelerate the application process while maintaining sufficient safeguards to prevent fraud and abuse. My legislation would give states greater flexibility to determine which entities can make these determinations, and States are authorized to apply certain limitations in order to prevent fraud and abuse. My legislation would also permit the Secretary of the Health and Human Services to review States' decisions and ensure that the appropriate entities are allowed to enroll these children. None of these entities could immediately offer these services until their state and the

federal government has deemed them to be eligible to undertake preliminary determinations.

I believe this is an important public policy matter which we need to address. My legislation would enroll more children in Medicaid while ensuring that appropriate entities are reviewing these applications. I believe it is more cost-effective to enroll these children and ensure that they are receiving the primary care services they need, rather than sending these children to emergency rooms where children will be sicker and taxpayers will end up paying more. I also believe that we need to improve our current Medicaid presumptive eligibility law by including these new entities which were not included in the Balanced Budget Act. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation and would appreciate your support for this effort.

SHANNON MELENDI

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to share with my colleagues the tragic circumstances of a constituent, Shannon Melendi, a nineteen-year-old sophomore at Emory University.

Five years ago on March 26th, Shannon disappeared from a park where she worked. No one has seen Shannon since that day.

The prime suspect, a part-time umpire, was previously convicted of kidnaping and sexually abusing a child, but served only two years of his sentence. This was his third sexual offense.

Perhaps if this man had served his full prison sentence, Shannon would not have disappeared. Or, perhaps if he had received a harsher sentence, due to the fact that it was his third sexual offense committed against a child, Shannon would still be here today.

When sexual crimes are committed, we need to ensure that these criminals serve their full sentences so that we can be safe from sexual predators.

Shannon's father summed it up best when he said, "What happened to us cannot be changed, but because of what happened to us, changes can be made."

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF DAN AND BEV GANZ

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mrs. McCarthy of New York. Mr. Speaker, March 27, 1999 marks the 50th anniversary of the wedding of Daniel M. Ganz and Beverlee Kaufman, familiarly known as Dan and Bev Ganz. The two are currently residing in Boca Raton, Florida, but for more than 35 years they were residents of Rockville Centre, New York. In a fashion fitting such an occasion they will be celebrating this anniversary with their two children, family, and close friends.

For many years Beverlee and Danny Ganz lived in Rockville Centre, Long Island, where

they raised their family and were active in community affairs. Dan was particularly active with the Recreation Department as a volunteer working with untold numbers to improve their tennis skills.

The couple sent their children to the Rockville Centre public school system. From here their son and daughter, David and Sandy, went to find success both academically and in their respective careers. David went off to Georgetown University, in Washington, D.C., and their daughter Sandy, after receiving South Side High's Laurel Award, went on to Northeastern University in Boston.

After earning a masters degree in physical therapy Sandy became an associate director of physical therapy at the Hospital for Special Therapy in Manhattan. She would later go on to become the director for the Amsterdam Nursing Home division and author a number of physical therapy treatments.

David became a lawyer, practicing in New York City and New Jersey and served a two year term as president of the American Numismatic Association. He is currently serving as the Mayor of Fair Lawn, New Jersey and has just published his 14th book-length work.

It's rare today that any couple can spend a half century in wedded bliss, but this is a couple that has done just that. Though Dan turns 80 this October and Bev will be 75 in just a few weeks, they are enjoying their golden years together, playing tennis, golf, and exploring the Internet.

After the love between he and his wife, there are two constants in Dan's life. He has a heart that keeps on giving and he continues to perform magic, which he has done professionally for nearly 70 years. With Bev at his side he frequently performs for youngsters with terminal diseases, such as AIDS.

Dan and Bev are wonderful role models for their three beautiful grandchildren, Scott, Elyse, and Pam. As this couple gathers with their daughter-in-law Kathy, a host of relatives and close family friends I would like to wish them well and congratulate them on this wonderful achievement.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman LEE for organizing a Special Order during Women's History Month to recognize the achievements of women of color. I am pleased to take this opportunity to honor a few of the women of color who made important contributions to the entertainment industry earlier this century: Marian Anderson, Ella Fitzgerald, Bessie Smith, and Hattie McDaniel. These incredibly talented women overcame great obstacles to earn international acclaim and forge a path for the women who followed.

The legendary contralto Marian Anderson never took no for an answer. From her early days as a choir member, to her historical concert at the Lincoln Memorial, Ms. Anderson struggled against racism and ignorance to become one of the world's premiere opera stars. In the years after her legendary performance, she was awarded the Congressional Medal of

Honor by President Carter and went on to serve as a delegate to the United Nations.

Ella Fitzgerald was the first woman presented with the Los Angeles Urban League's Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award, which honors those who build bridges among races and generations. Ella Fitzgerald was a major force in the music world and contributed to the evolution of jazz and the business of entertainment during her long, distinguished career. Named the "First Lady of Song," she was a pioneer in her field and went on to win ten Grammys.

Although she did not live to see her fortieth birthday, Bessie Smith had a tremendous influence on entertainment. From her modest beginnings as a vaudeville performer, Ms. Smith grew to be the nation's highest paid African American performer of the early 1920's. Her vibrance and creativity altered the music business and gave blues a more prominent role in American music and culture.

Hattie McDaniel was a woman of many firsts: the first African American woman to sing on network radio in the United States, the first African American to win an Academy Award and the first African American to star in a title role on a television sitcom. Also from humble beginnings, Ms. McDaniel moved from the quiet nights of her home in Kansas to the bright lights of Hollywood. Beating out Eleanor Roosevelt's maid, Elizabeth McDuffie, for the role of Mammy in "Gone With the Wind," Ms. McDaniel took a small role and created a character so memorable that she conquered the hearts of audiences world-wide.

These women are just a small sample of the many women of color who have contributed to the arts and helped shape our nation's culture. There is no question that they needed more than their tremendous talent to triumph during a time of institutionalized discrimination. They were models of courage, ingenuity, persistence, and character.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH STILL STRIVING FOR ECONOMIC EQUITY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of Women's History Month and in tribute to the many women who, through the ages, dared to challenge injustice and discrimination in the workplace. It is the tireless work of those leaders who came before us that allow women to enjoy the benefits of the 90s. However, as we all know, those long distance runners for equality and social justice have not completed their course. During Women's History Month, we pause to reflect what we have accomplished in the past, and the work we must do for the future.

Women have made great strides in education and in the workforce. The majority of undergraduate and master's degrees are awarded to women, and 40 percent of all doctorates are earned by women. More than 7.7 million businesses in the U.S. are owned and operated by women. These businesses employ 15.5 million people, about 35 percent more than the Fortune 500 companies worldwide. And women are running for elected of-

fices in record numbers. When I first came to the House in 1987, there were 26 women in the House and two in the Senate. In 1999, there are 58 women serving in the House, and nine in the Senate.

While many doors to employment and educational opportunity have opened for women, they still get paid less than men for the same work. Women who work full-time earn less than men who are employed full-time. The average woman college graduate earns little more than the average male high school graduate. Full-time, year-round working women earn only 74 cents for each dollar a man earns.

Although women are and continue to be the majority of new entrants into the workplace, they continue to be clustered in low-skilled, low-paying jobs. Part-time and temporary workers, the majority of whom are women, are among the most vulnerable of all workers. They receive lower pay, fewer or no benefits, and little if any job security.

Women account for more than 45% of the workforce, yet they are underrepresented and face barriers in the fields of science, engineering and technology. Just this week, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the most prestigious science and engineering university in the country, issued a report revealing that female professors at the school suffer from pervasive discrimination.

That is why I introduced the Commission on the Advancement of Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Development Act. I call it my WISE Tech bill, and it passed the 105th Congress and has been signed into law.

This Act sets up a commission to find out what is keeping women out of technology at this critical time, and what we can do about it. The bill will help us ascertain what are effective and productive policies that can address the underrepresentation of women in the sciences and could help alleviate the increasing shortage of information technology workers and engineers. This legislation is a first step in countering the roadblocks for women in our rapidly-evolving high-tech society, and will help women break through the "Glass Ceiling" and the "Silicon Ceiling" in the fields of science, engineering, and technology.

Last month, we introduced the third Violence Against Women Act, building on the commitment and success of our 1994 legislation. We are only beginning to understand the impact of domestic violence on American businesses. Domestic violence follows many women to work . . . 13,000 attacks each year . . . threatening their lives and the lives of co-workers and resulting in lost productivity for their companies.

The economic problems of the elderly affect women in disproportionate numbers because women tend to have lower pensions benefits than men. Pension policies have not accommodated women in their traditional role as family caregivers. Women move in and out of the workforce more frequently when family needs arise making it more difficult for them to accrue pension credit.

Consequently, Social Security is especially important for women. Women are heavily reliant on Social Security, and since its inception, Social Security has often been the only income source keeping women from living out their days in poverty.

Social Security has worked for women; it is a system where every worker pays in, and