

successful food safety program. His ambition and ability gave rise to his rapid ascension through the ranks of the Department. In 1980, Tom became the Department of Consumer Protection Assistant Director, holding that position until 1988. After a brief stint as the Department's budget director, Tom later returned to the Consumer Protection Division, serving as its appointed Director until today.

Tom has spent twenty seven years with the Department and his efforts to protect Colorado's health have been considerable. He has been the catalyst in bringing state, local and federal governments together toward mutually agreeable health policies. Throughout his career, Tom has been highly effective in bringing these often divergent entities together to address emerging health issues. In recent times, Tom has made a parade of bold breakthroughs in the Department, including providing the leadership at the state level to help ensure the successful introduction of a state retail food law, and coordinating a proactive action plan with the state dairy industry to address issues of antibiotic residues. Although these accomplishments only scratch the surface of what Tom has achieved, they both are indicative of the type of success that he has repeatedly encountered in his time working for the State of Colorado.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Messenger and his efforts to make his community, state and nation a better and healthier place to live. His dedication and know-how have distinguished him greatly. The citizens of Colorado owe Tom a debt of gratitude and I wish him well during his retirement.

Your family, friends and colleagues are proud of you, Tom, and we all are thankful for your dedicated service over the past three decades.

INTRODUCTION OF SAINT CROIX ISLAND HERITAGE ACT

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today legislation to help Calais, Maine, commemorate the 400th anniversary of an internationally historic event. In 1604, a group of adventurers led by a French nobleman established a settlement on Saint Croix Island in the Saint Croix River that forms part of the border between Maine and New Brunswick. By accounts it was one of the earliest settlements in North America.

The residents of the region, with the Saint Croix Economic Alliance and the Sunrise County Economic Council and with the co-operation of state and federal agencies have worked for several years to develop a regional heritage center to mark the event with a celebration in 2004 with the United States, Canada and France. The island itself is the only international historic site in the National Park System. The heritage center in Calais will preserve and chronicle the region's cultural, natural, and historical heritage.

The work began with an evaluation of the market potential for the heritage center and preparation of a preliminary exhibit and operating plans. The loose-knit coalition secured

planning funds and seed money from local businesses, the city of Calais, and the U.S. Forest Service. A full-time project coordinator is in place to oversee the development of the project.

It is time for the National Park Service to step forward. The Saint Croix Island Heritage Act would grant the Park Service the authority to provide assistance. The bill directs the Park Service to facilitate the development of the heritage center in time for the 400th anniversary of the island's settlement by French explorers. It authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with other federal agencies as well as with non-profit organizations, and state and local governments. It also authorizes \$2.5 million for this endeavor.

QUALITY HEALTH CARE COALITION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1304) to ensure and foster continued patient safety and quality of care by making the antitrust laws apply to negotiations between groups of health care professionals and health plans and health insurance issuers in the same manner as such laws apply to collective bargaining by labor organizations under the National Labor Relations Act:

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to comment on H.R. 1304, the Quality Health Care Coalition Act—Representative CAMPBELL's bill which the House passed on June 29. While I had some reservations about this bill, I supported the legislation because I believe that it ultimately will level the playing field for health care providers when they negotiate patient-care agreements with managed care companies. I believe that we should do all we can to restore the relationship between patient and physician. Too often, managed care companies negotiate with providers on a "take it or leave it" basis. And because many independent physicians have little leverage over third party payers, they must take what is offered for their services or lose patients. We improve the quality of patient care when we give physicians a greater role in determining care.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, the bill would give physicians and other health care providers the same collective bargaining options (under the Clayton and Sherman Acts) accorded to labor organizations under the National Labor Relations Act. Smartly, the negotiating authority granted by H.R. 1304 sunsets in three years. At that point, the General Accounting Office will study the impact of the legislation and make recommendations on how to improve it.

Opponents of the bill argue that it will allow physicians to form monopolies. Nothing in this legislation preempts the FTC or anti-trust department at DOJ from overseeing the business practices of groups formed by doctors. And the bill specifically states that physicians must negotiate in "good faith" with managed care companies. I encourage the FTC and the DOJ

to continue to pay close attention to any activity that would adversely affect patients. Ironically, it is the HMOs which seem to exhibit monopolistic behavior. Over the last decade, third party payers have increasingly exercised their market power over both patients and doctors.

As I mentioned before, I have some reservations about the bill. For example, I am concerned that the legislation might create agreements where HMOs will pass any increase in health care costs to patients. I am also concerned that any shift in cost to patients will increase the number of uninsured. But, that argument is used every time Congress tries to reform the current health care system and it is the reason we cannot break the stranglehold that HMOs have on our health care decisions. At some point, we must return the health care market back to patients and doctors. I believe that this bill is a small step toward restoring the patient-physician relationship.

NONLETHAL WILDLIFE SERVICES BILL

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, as I have traveled the roads in my district talking and spending time with my constituents—small ranchers, sheep growers, farmers, conservationists, environmentalists and others—I have learned to understand and appreciate their different concerns over the issue of predators. This has been an important listening and learning experience for me. What I learned from all of this was the need for a balanced approach. On one hand environmentalists insist that out on the range, where no one can see, many predators are killed unnecessarily. The traditional small ranchers, sheep growers and farmers on the other hand, point out the need to find solutions for protecting the domestic resources that provide them with a living. Conservationists are concerned about predator impacts on both game animals and protected species.

My legislation is an effort to bring common sense thinking to these sensitive issues. In the rural Hispanic and Native American communities of my district, I have seen the need for finding ways to control predators that will allow them to preserve a way of life that is more than four centuries old while not putting the surrounding ecosystem under unnecessary stress. My legislation would provide grants through the Wildlife Services Agency, to assist with implementing nonlethal predator control in areas like my district. Funds would also be made available for providing training and technical assistance to traditional small ranchers, sheep growers and farmers regarding the use of nonlethal predator control in their operations. Emphasis would be placed on methods such as using burros, llamas, night penning and guard dogs for predator control.

Matching the funding to the small subsistence operators is important if the assistance is to get to those who need it to protect their livelihood. I am also recommending that the Secretary of Agriculture add to our knowledge base concerning these methods by conducting

research directly or through grants to determine the extent of damage to livestock operations, throughout the western states, where different methods of predator control are used. Only then can we intelligently learn to find the balance that successfully protects traditional ways of living and our need for vital, thriving ecosystems.

REMEMBERING DR. GEORGE
"HOWARD" HARDY III

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and profound sadness that I now rise to pay tribute to the life of Aspen, Colorado's great civic patriarch, Dr. George "Howard" Hardy III. After living a remarkably accomplished life, sadly, Dr. Hardy passed away while mountain biking in the four corners area. But even as we mourn his passing, everyone who knew Howard should take comfort in the truly incredible life he led.

Since the 1970's, few can claim a place in the Aspen community as lofty as Howard. His accomplishments and contributions, Mr. Speaker, were many. Howard was a well liked Dentist in the Aspen community. George Kauffman, a close friend of Howard's, said that: "Howard was a fixture in the community, and a core member of what makes Aspen special."

Howard, an Ohio native, received his undergraduate and doctoral degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. After completion of his education, Howard used his acquired skills to serve his country in the Army as a captain and a Doctor. Following his service, Howard established a private practice in Aspen, Colorado. Patients still remember Howard's office as a heartwarming place, recalling Howard's wonderful sense of humor and his love of practical jokes.

One of Howard's colleagues, Dr. David Swersky, remembered the office as "joke central, people came into the office just to tell us some jokes, because they knew Howard was always game." Howard's compassion was easy to distinguish before a procedure. David said that "Howard would always start a procedure with a joke. He was very caring about his patients." He was not only a Doctor, but a friend to his patients. His relationships with his colleagues were also special, David said that "We had a very special relationship, I'm not only losing a partner. I'm losing a brother."

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you and good-bye to this great American who will long serve as an inspiration to us all. We will all miss him greatly.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY
STABILITY ACT OF 2000

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the International Monetary Stability Act of 2000. This bill would give coun-

tries who have been seriously considering using the U.S. dollar as their national currency the incentive to do so. When a foreign country grants the U.S. dollar legal tender in place of its own currency, that country dollarizes. This bill would serve to encourage such dollarization.

Dollarization is an extremely important issue for developing countries seeking monetary stability and economic growth in the Western Hemisphere. Of course, dollarization is no panacea. However, sound money combined with a sound fiscal policy—or I would even posit as a precursor to a sound fiscal policy—and property rights, and a viable rule of law, helps to ensure that dollarization can boost development in growing economies.

Today, countries can dollarize without consulting the Federal Reserve or the U.S. Treasury. There is no need for the Fed to be the world's lender of last resort by opening up its discount window to dollarized countries. Like Panama, countries can maintain liquidity through the private banking system.

The Fed will never be responsible for supervising foreign banks. Not only would sovereign governments disapprove of the United States regulating their private banking system, I would imagine that the Fed has no desire to grant foreign banks the same privileges that U.S. banks receive without making foreign banks pay for such protection.

The Fed already takes the international circumstances into account when formulating policy. If you remember back to the end of 1998, the Fed lowered interest rates three times to stem contagion, not because of any domestic considerations. Regardless, with a consistent law outlining dollarization agreements with the United States, countries understand from the beginning that the Fed will not act as their central bank.

There are significant benefits to the United States should more countries choose to dollarize. There would be a decrease in cases of dumping since foreign countries would lose the ability to devalue against the dollar to gain trade advantage, and U.S. businesses would find it easier to invest in these countries since currency risk and inflation risk are greatly diminished.

Likewise, dollarization lowers monetary instability within dollarized countries and increases the living standards of their citizens. During Senate hearings on dollarization, Judy Shelton, of Empower America, eloquently described the entrepreneurial spirit within Mexico but contrasted this optimism with a scenario of high interest rates and scarce bank loans for businesses. Indeed, sporadic devaluations and politically derived inflation negate expectations that a domestic currency can be a meaningful store of future value.

Inflation is directly linked to interest rates. Inflation expectations act as an interest rate premium. When inflation is expected to go up, interest rates are high. As we have seen lately in the United States in our own debate over rising interest rates, low rates reduce the cost of borrowing and increase prosperity, while higher rates raise the cost of capital and slow economic growth. For most Latin American countries, dollarization should lower their interest rates to within 4 percent of U.S. rates, depending on political and fiscal factors.

Further, because dollarization eliminates the ability of foreign central banks to manipulate money supply, which I would argue is a ben-

efit of dollarization and not a cost as some analysts do, inflation is tied to U.S. inflation.

My bill, the International Monetary Stability Act of 2000, would give countries who have been seriously considering using the U.S. dollar as their national currency the incentive to do so. A couple of changes have been made since I first introduced the original bill last fall in order to take into account concerns raised by the Treasury Department during Senate hearings. One important change includes the ability of the Treasury to consider money laundering as a factor for deciding whether to certify a country for seigniorage sharing.

In general, enacting this legislation would set up a structure in which the U.S. Treasury would have the discretion to promote official dollarization in emerging market countries by offering to rebate 85% of the resulting increase in U.S. seigniorage earnings. Part of the remaining 15% would be distributed to countries like Panama that have already dollarized, but the majority of the 15% would be deposited at the Treasury Department as government revenue. Additionally, this bill would make it explicitly clear that the United States has no obligation to serve as a lender of last resort to dollarized countries, consider their economic conditions in setting monetary policy or supervise their banks.

I would like to conclude by repeating an old quote from Treasury Secretary Larry Summers. Back in 1992, when he was at the World Bank, Secretary Summers said "finding ways of bribing people to dollarize, or at least give back the extra seigniorage that is earned when dollarization takes place, ought to be an international priority. For the world as a whole, the advantages of dollarization seem clear to me."

Congressional leadership in exchange rate policies such as dollarization protects our own economy. Every foreign devaluation affects our economy through international trade and through the equity markets. American companies need reliable currencies to make investment decisions abroad; and American workers need to know countries cannot competitively devalue in an effort to lower foreign worker wages. The ramifications of an Asian-style economic collapse in Latin America, our own back yard, call for legislation that will help these countries embrace consistent economic growth.

I strongly believe that strengthening global economies, especially those in the Western Hemisphere, by encouraging dollarization is in America's best interest.

PROMOTING HEALTHY EYES AND
HEALTHY LIVES: THE CONGRES-
SIONAL GLAUCOMA CAUCUS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as one of the founders of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus, I want to praise the work of a far-seeing business firm, the Pharmacia Corporation which encouraged and supported the formation of the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation. The Congressional Glaucoma Caucus is a bipartisan group that grew out of discussions with several of my