

The Vietnam War has left an indelible mark on all parts of this nation of ours, including my own district in New York. St. Mary's High School, which lies within the town of Manhasset, in my district in New York, was also affected by the Vietnam War. It sent many of its sons to fight in the Vietnam War, some paying the Supreme Sacrifice in the service of our country.

During the latter part of this year, St. Mary's High School will be holding its First Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Nominated for induction is United States Marine First Lieutenant John Arthur Keepnews of Manhasset.

John Arthur Keepnews was born in Bayside, Queens and moved with his parents and younger brother Robert to the suburban community of Manhasset in 1958. His parents bought a home at 443 Hunt Lane, nestled in the heart of beautiful Munsey Park. During that same year, he entered St. Mary's High School in Manhasset and his parents became devout St. Mary's Parishioners.

John Keepnews was your typical student at St. Mary's High School. He was a young man with a great deal of heart and potential. He was an honor student and a top runner on the St. Mary's High School Cross Country and Track Teams and on Long Island. He worked very hard at his running and as one of his former coaches put it, "John did not have a lot of talent, but he had the tenacity of a bulldog." He trained in innovative ways which included running on beaches and interval, hill and weight training, at a time when distance runners merely did distance running to train. John Keepnews trained in a manner that was ahead of its time. (Today, these training methods are common to runners of all categories, as these methods provide more power and help to prevent injury.)

At St. Mary's, he was coached by Brother Thomas Joseph. In cross country, John ran in the low 14's on the legendary Cross Country course at Van Courtlandt Park in Bronx, New York. In track, John ran a 4:50 mile and a 9:52 two mile, his best event. He medaled frequently in races and enjoyed some heated rivalries. During his senior year at St. Mary's, John co-captained the track team and placed 4th in the two mile in both the indoor and outdoor Eastern States Championships. He received a track scholarship to Iona College in New York and the promise of a scholarship at Mount St. Mary's College in Maryland. John became an exceptional runner at St. Mary's and was one of the top distance runners of his time, if not in the history of St. Mary's High School.

Outside of St. Mary's he was a regular guy, who would often find his way to the field at

After graduating from St. Mary's High School in 1962, John decided to attend Mount St. Mary's College. The "Mount" was part of the Mason-Dixon (Athletic) Conference of the National College Athletic Association (NCAA). Pursuing his running career here, John placed second in the two mile during the 1963 Outdoor Mason-Dixon Conference Championships and helped to contribute to the first ever Mount St. Mary's College track title. John was also instrumental in helping the team win the

1964 cross-country conference crown and the track title. He ran 4:37 for the mile, placed 4th in the 1962 Loyola Cross-Country Invitational, placed 5th in the 1963 Outdoor Track NCAA Atlantic Coast Regional 2 mile race and won the mile and two mile on numerous occasions. He was named All-Conference on several occasions and may have held at one point both the cross country and two mile records.

Graduating from Mount St. Mary's College in 1966, John entered the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School (OCS) and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He graduated from The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia as an infantry officer and waived his overseas control date and requested orders to Vietnam. In early 1968 (just in time for the Tet Offensive), John was a Platoon Commander and Executive Officer of F Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. His unit spent all of its time just below the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), near places that are now legend in the Marine Corps: Khe Sanh, Con Thien, Camp Carroll, Quang Tri and the Rockpile. As were all the Marines in I Corps (the northernmost provinces of Vietnam), John's unit was in almost constant contact with North Vietnamese Army regulars. On a daily basis, John and his unit sought out, closed with and destroyed the best trained, best equipped and best led units of the North Vietnamese Army.

Tragically, we lost this Great American and outstanding Marine from Manhasset on June 7, 1968. It was at the time of his death that his brother Robert was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. First Lieutenant John Arthur Keepnews was killed as a result of multiple shrapnel wounds received near Landing Zone Stud (later renamed the Vandergrift Combat Base) in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. His death coincided with the 170th Anniversary of the formal establishment of the Marine Corps by the United States Government. It was in June of 1798 that Congress legally established the Marine Corps as a separate Department of the Navy.

As a result of his brave and gallant service and self sacrifice as a United States Marine during the Vietnam War, Lt. Keepnews was awarded a Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Commendation (Gallantry Cross Color) and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

At the time of his death in June of 1968, Lt. Keepnews was survived by his parents Arthur J. and Mary E. Keepnews, his younger brother Robert, his wife Patricia and his 5 month old daughter he had never seen, Margaret Ann.

We have much to be thankful for First Lieutenant John Arthur Keepnews and extend appreciation not just for his supreme sacrifice in the service of our country, but also the great sacrifice made by his family. We will forever remember John Keepnews, his humor, wit, hard work, perseverance, athleticism and bravery. I am proud to know that John Keepnews was a resident of my district, the 3rd Congressional District of New York. I know full well that when a young person joins the

St. Mary's High School Cross Country and Track teams, John Keepnews will be with them placing hope and encouragement in them with each stride they take, in each race they compete in.

First Lieutenant John Arthur Keepnews is a true representative of St. Mary's, of Manhasset, his country and his family. He represents the highest character of morals and bravery and embodies the spirit and principles of what it means to be a Great American. He is a person we are and will always be extremely proud of.

In closing, I would like the members of this chamber to join me in remembering a true American Patriot and support his nomination for Induction into the St. Mary's High School Hall of Fame.

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HONORING STUART SCHNEIDER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Stuart Schneider on an award he recently received from the National Park Service. Stuart is the Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection at Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado—a treasure that shares a special place in my heart. Recently he received the Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award, honoring him for his outstanding excellence in his field. Clearly, Stuart is eminently deserving of this high honor.

For years, Stuart has been highly respected in the land management community for his commitment to preserving and protecting our public lands, particularly the Great Sand Dunes. He has played an instrumental role in the creation and maintenance of the Backcountry Management Plan, the Wildland Fire Management Plan, as well as the Safety and Risk Management Plan. His efforts to preserve the integrity of this natural treasure has earned him not only respect from his peers, but also this distinguished award.

Stuart's professional excellence is perhaps best summarized by comments made by National Park Director Robert Stanton in a recent news release announcing that Stuart had won this award: "Ranger Schneider has demonstrated a genuine commitment to the field of rangers. He has a tremendous passion and respect for the National Park Service along with a strong command of traditional ranger skills."

Ranger Schneider's commitment to preserving and protecting America's natural heritage is remarkable. He has helped to make America's national treasures safer for the millions of tourists that visit them each year. His efforts are well deserving of the distinguished award and the praise of the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would ask that we all extend our sincerest congratulations to a well deserving Ranger, Stuart Schneider.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF
RIGHTS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4920, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. Congressmen LAZIO and HOYER are to be saluted for their hard work in ensuring that the Developmental Disabilities Act (DD Act) will be reauthorized this year. The bill before the House is very similar to the DD Act reauthorization which passed the other chamber by a vote of 99-0. It is bipartisan in nature, and I urge that the House pass this legislation today.

It is estimated that there are more than 4 million individuals living with developmental disabilities in our nation today. To ensure that these individuals have access to programs which allow them to live life to their fullest potential, this reauthorization continues funding for programs which have proven effective over the past decades.

There are four major, historic components of the DD Act. These are: (1) State Developmental Disability Councils, which advise governors and state agencies about the best ways to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities; (2) protection and advocacy systems, which ensure that individuals living with developmental disabilities are protected from neglect, abuse, exploitation, and the violation of their legal and human rights; (3) University Affiliated Programs, much like the one at the Medical College of Virginia, which train the professionals of tomorrow who will treat individuals with developmental disabilities; and (4) projects of national significance.

Beyond providing DD Councils, P & A systems and University Affiliated Programs with greater flexibility, the bill also includes a Title which creates the Reaching Up Scholarship Program to provide vouchers for individuals who provide direct support to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Importantly, the bill contains language which ensures that individuals with developmental disabilities, along with their families, are the primary decisionmakers regarding the services and supports such individuals and their families receive, including the choice of where the individuals should live. We have heard from one group, the Voice of the Retarded, who is concerned that this language does not go far enough in protecting residential choice for individuals with developmental disabilities. So I want to make it clear that the Act before us in no way is meant to preclude residential choice. It is not intended to send a signal that the Federal government supports closing certain facilities, or that the Federal government opposes such actions. Instead, these decisions are to be left to the individual States. Because I believe the concerns of the Voice of the Retarded are heartfelt and legitimate, I pledge to work with them in the implementation of this Act, and to ask the General Accounting Office to investigate whether individuals with developmental disabilities are precluded from choosing the residential option of their preference.

As a last note, I want to stress the importance of family support programs. The other body included in their reauthorization a Title which would allow States to compete for family support grants, intended to help families raising children with developmental disabilities. While the bill before us does not contain such a Title, I want to assure the disability community that I will do all in my power to fight for this Title in Conference.

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INTRODUCTION OF MEDICARE
INTERNET SITE FOR THE SAFE
PURCHASE OF PRESCRIPTION
DRUGS AT THE BEST DOMESTIC
AND INTERNATIONAL PRICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Prescription Drug Internet Access Act of 2000. This bill will allow Medicare beneficiaries to purchase safe, FDA-approved medication through a Medicare re-approved internet site from US and international suppliers at the lowest possible prices.

Prescription drug costs are the highest they have ever been. The cost of prescription medicine increased between 15 and 25 percent over the past year. As a result, many of our nation's seniors either resort to reducing their dosage to stretch their supply or simply go without their needed medication.

Residents of other countries pay less for the same prescription medicine than our seniors get in the US. Much of the extra cost is related to marketing and advertising of drugs. Twenty to thirty cents of every dollar spent on a prescription drug goes to the advertising and marketing of the product.

Why should Medicare beneficiaries in the United States have to pay more than residents of other countries for the same medication?

Under the bill I am introducing today, Medicare beneficiaries would have access to those lower prices from a safe, certified-reliable source. All a beneficiary, doctor, or a pharmacy serving a beneficiary has to do is click on the Medicare home page, type in their prescription, and up pops the five lowest prices for their medicine, available from domestic and international suppliers. The beneficiary submits their prescription to the internet pharmacy, and gets their medicine at the price he or she selects, through the mail, by express delivery, or at their local retail pharmacy. There is no lag time in pricing because these prices will be available on a "real time" basis. Existing domestic internet pharmacies are eligible to compete for business on this official Medicare website.

The only medicine that contracting internet pharmacies would be able to sell is FDA-approved medicine manufactured in FDA-approved facilities. We have the best drug approval process in the world. The federal Food and Drug Administration sends inspectors to other countries to examine the quality of the medicine, storage conditions and facilities, distribution of the medicine, and manufacturing facilities of foreign companies before they can import drugs into the United States. Internet pharmacies, under this bill, would only be able to import prescription medicine from approved

companies that have been inspected by the FDA.

There are problems that exist today with phony websites pawning counterfeit medicine to unsuspecting people. This bill addresses the issue of so-called "rogue" websites. It establishes a uniform set of criteria to which contracting internet pharmacies must adhere or face criminal and financial consequences. Among other criteria, internet pharmacies would have to be licensed in all 50 states as a pharmacy, fully comply with State and Federal laws, and only dispense medicine with a valid prescription through a licensed practitioner.

As an added precaution, internet pharmacies would be required to display a Medicare Seal of Approval which serves to authenticate the website. The seal would directly link to a secure webpage operated by the Medicare contractor which verifies the internet pharmacy's legitimacy.

I am proud to introduce the Medicare Prescription Drug Internet Access Act of 2000. It is unfair that seniors in the US are forced to shoulder a greater burden in higher drug costs. I urge your support of this bill which would allow Medicare beneficiaries access to safe, FDA-approved prescription medicines at lower prices.

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AUGUST CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to name Garden City resident Indu Jaiswal, the Director of Nutrition Services for the Promenade Rehabilitation and Health Care Center in Rockaway Park, as the Citizen of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for August 2000.

Indu is a prominent leader in both the Indian Community on Long Island and in her nutritional profession. As a nurse, I know how nutrition is directly related to the good health and extended lives of people.

Indu also works as a Clinical Nutritionist for the Western Queens Health Associates and represents the Dietary Department at Administrative and Medical Board Meetings. She organizes treatment programs for patient education as well as for diabetic teams. She is involved in the planning, directing, implementing, and evaluating of all activities of the Food Service Department.

Indu is a health care professional who is also interested in the health of her community. She actively participates in many community activities. She served as President of the India Association of Long Island, Secretary of the Federation of the Indian Association in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, and the Vice President of the India Study Center at Stony Brook University. She also serves as a Board member of the Youth Council of Nassau County.

Along with caring for her Long Island patients in an office setting, Indu cares for all Long Islanders by sending out her good health messages on radio and television airways.

The contributions that Indu has made to our community are astounding.

Indu is a graduate of the University of Delhi in New Delhi, India. She completed her post