

resources like the Station's new Payload Operations and Integration Facility at the Marshall Space Flight Center? Will there be a duplication of facilities at the taxpayer's expense?

It is just not obvious to myself and others how handing this work to the private sector would benefit the taxpayers or NASA. In fact, it could be detrimental. We've found that to be the case when NASA management was too far removed from two recently failed missions to Mars. By NASA Administrator Dan Goldin's own admission, NASA moved too far away from the actual work taking place on its programs. We must be careful to avoid making a similar mistake with the science operations aboard the Space Station. NASA civil servants look after the nation's interests and report to the NASA Administrator Dan Goldin, who answers to us—Congress. There are no guarantees that a non-governmental organization will look after the nation's interests or have any direct responsibility to this Body. Mr. Speaker, where is the accountability in this plan?

Some people argue that a non-governmental organization managing the Hubble Space Telescope at the Space Telescope Science Institute is working well. But its mission is mostly one of science management while the mission of this proposed organization would be one of commercialization—two very different animals. Common sense tells me that the introduction of commercialization into any process also introduces an entirely new set of unique and complex issues that need to be thoughtfully considered.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also concerned that the civil servants currently managing the NASA microgravity program have had little or no meaningful opportunity to comment on this plan. These are our Nation's experts on this issue, tasked to look out for the taxpayer's interests, and they've not even been given an opportunity to voice their thoughts on this action.

Mr. Speaker, I honestly don't know if this is a good or bad idea, but why is it being pushed through in such a hasty manner? Why are we prematurely directing NASA to implement this NGO, rather than coming back to us with a plan that can be examined in the light of day before we give them a green light? Mr. Speaker, if this really is good for our Nation, then nobody should object to holding hearings and giving this the thought that it truly deserves.

I will vote for this conference report today, because there are a number of provisions in it that will be good for our space program, but I am going to continue to try to work with my Colleagues to take a closer look at this plan to transfer Space Station responsibilities to a non-government organization.

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL WINNER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Meadowbrook Middle School in Poway and its leaders, Principal, Susan Van Zant and Superintendent, Dr. Bob Reeves. Meadowbrook has been designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2000. I am

proud to inform my colleagues that my district had an amazing record of eleven schools selected for that prestigious honor this year. I would also like to note that the Academy of Our Lady of Peace right outside my district in San Diego County was also named a Blue Ribbon School. I applaud the educators, students and communities in each of the San Diego County schools who pulled together in pursuit of educational excellence.

Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized as some of the nation's most successful institutions, and they are exemplary models for achieving educational excellence throughout the nation. Not only have they demonstrated excellence in academic leadership, teaching and teacher development, and school curriculum, but they have demonstrated exceptional levels of community and parental involvement, high student achievement levels and strong safety and discipline.

After schools are nominated by state education agencies for the Blue Ribbon award, they undergo a rigorous review of their programs, plans and activities. That is followed with visits by educational experts for evaluation. Ultimately, those schools which best demonstrate strong leadership, clear vision and mission, excellent teaching and curriculum, policies and practices that keep the schools safe for learning, family involvement and evidence of high standards are selected for this prestigious award. I am pleased that they are now receiving the national recognition they are due.

As school and community leaders head to Washington for the Department of Education awards ceremony, I want to thank them once again for a job well done. More satisfying than any award, these leaders will have the lifelong satisfaction of having provided the best education possible and a better future for thousands of children. I am proud of what they have achieved, and want to share their achievements so that more people benefit from their accomplishments. I ask that a summary of Meadowbrook Middle School's superior work be included in the RECORD:

Located in Poway, California, Meadowbrook Middle School is an energetic and nurturing middle school where young adolescents are valued and respected. It is the school's vision that each student will master the knowledge, and develop the skills and attitudes essential for success in school and society. The staff is committed to providing a strong instructional program based upon high academic, behavioral, and social standards by the use of a challenging curriculum and supportive environment for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. To achieve rigorous standards, the school staff, parents, and other members of the community work together. They provide a well rounded, quality program designed to meet diverse student needs. Their cooperative spirit and dedication to our core value of all students learning keep them focused on providing a well-balanced program designed to excite, build upon interests, and involve students in the process of becoming lifelong learners. Learning does not end at the end of sixth period, but rather it continues through co-curricular sports, clubs, library research, tutorials, and interaction with staff in a less formal setting.

The school has a tradition of active parent/community involvement. This past year their PTA was recognized as one of the top ten

units in California. Meadowbrook values and rewards student achievement in academics, the arts, athletics, and personal development. Curriculum, instructional practices, and student programs are driven by current research and assessment data. It is truly a school where students succeed as evidenced by their increasing test scores, high rate of student attendance, and their overall positive and caring school environment.

TO HONOR MR. ED ROBSON ON HIS
70TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to the man behind one of the largest home building operations in America, Mr. Ed Robson. As he prepares to make his 70th birthday on September 21st, I'd like to share the history of this outstanding American and Arizonan with my colleagues.

Known as the man behind Robson Communities, Ed grew up in a middle class home environment in Boston, Mass. Although he knew the value of a good education, his love for sports and adventure was greater. After graduating in 1954 with a degree in business and banking from Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Ed played hockey for Team U.S.A. and was an alternate member of the U.S. Olympic Hockey Team. After leaving the hockey team, Robson joined the U.S. Marine Corps and was assigned as a naval aviator at Pensacola. He served for five years as a helicopter pilot and attained the rank of Captain before leaving the Marines.

Ed began his impressive career as a home builder in 1960, when he decided to pursue real estate and joined Coldwell Banker in Arizona as a real estate agent. He quickly became a broker for one of their offices. He left Coldwell Banker in 1962 and joined the Del Webb Corporation, which is his chief competitor today. As Director of Corporate Sales for the Del Webb Corporation, Robson gained immeasurable experience in all areas of the construction business.

In 1965, Robson decided to leave Webb to test his expertise and budding entrepreneurial spirit with his own real estate projects. With two other Webb employees, Robson marketed resort home sites in Bullhead City, Arizona, and then developed the Pinewood Golf Community in Flagstaff, Arizona. The success of these projects enabled Robson to acquire farmland in 1972, which became Sun Lakes. Robson's competitive drive and business acumen carried him through some tough periods including the energy crisis and recession.

Today, Sun Lakes is a 3,500-acre community with more than 14,000 residents. Robson also markets and develops three other active adult communities in Arizona and recently announced expansion plans in Texas. Robson Communities and its affiliated companies employ more than 1,170 employees and have closed more than 12,500 homes.

Father of five children and grandfather of 13, Robson still finds time to participate in community affairs. He was the 1993 Heart Ball Honoree Chairman and was instrumental in netting approximately \$1 million for the American Heart Association. In 1994, he was the

chairman for the Phoenix Boys and Girls Clubs and remains active on their Board of Directors. Robson also is or has been involved with a number of civic boards including Bank One, St. Luke's Foundation, United for Arizona and American Heart Association.

Robson's extraordinary achievements have not gone unnoticed. Arizona State University named him "Entrepreneur of the Year" in 1994 and Ernst & Young named him the same in 1996. In 1998, Northwood University named Robson one of the "Outstanding Business Leaders" in the United States. He was also the recipient of the 1998 Ellis Island Medal of Honor whose past honorees have included Presidents Bill Clinton, Ronald Reagan, and George Bush. Also included in this list of honorees is Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Mickey Mantle and Barbara Walters. Robson's personal favorite achievement was his induction into his High School Hall of Fame in Arlington, Massachusetts.

As you can see, Ed leads by example. He is truly an outstanding individual who deserves to be recognized. Therefore I ask you to please join me in wishing my friend Ed Robson a Happy 70th Birthday and continued success.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE
"NEEDLESTICK SAFETY AND
PREVENTION ACT"

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my colleague, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Honorable CASS BALLENGER, to introduce the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act. This legislation modifies the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29 C.F.R. 1910.1030) issued in 1991 by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor to improve the protection afforded to health care workers from the spread of bloodborne pathogens such as the HIV virus, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C, as a result of accidental needlesticks and other percutaneous injuries.

Though controversial at the time it was issued, today all agree that the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard has helped to significantly reduce the spread of bloodborne pathogens among health care workers. There is, however, more that can be done.

In March, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that more than 380,000 needlestick injuries occur in hospitals every year. At an average hospital, there will be an estimated 30 reported needlestick injuries for every 100 beds. It is estimated that there are between 600,000 and 800,000 needlestick injuries every year in all health

care settings. Nurses, doctors, laboratory staff, emergency medical technicians, and housekeepers have all been victimized by needlesticks. Needlestick injuries may account for as much as 80% of occupational exposures to blood.

Needlestick injuries, unfortunately, are not uncommon among health care workers. However, they are by no means trivial. Needlestick injuries impose unnecessary and unacceptable costs on our health care system. Costs to employers associated with followup medical examinations to determine whether needlestick victims have been infected by a bloodborne pathogen are by no means insignificant and can run into the thousands of dollars. Where workers are found to have been infected as a result of a needlestick injury, costs of treatment and compensation can easily run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. For those who are infected as a result of a needlestick injury, the costs cannot be measured in dollars, they are life-threatening.

At a hearing held on this subject in June, the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections heard from Karen Daley who testified on behalf of the American Nurses Association. In July 1998, Ms. Daley reached into a needle box with a gloved hand to dispose of a needle with which she had drawn blood and was stuck by a needle. Five months later, she was diagnosed with both HIV and hepatitis C. Ms. Daley has had to give up direct nursing care, work that she loves and had performed for twenty years. Ms. Daley has suffered weight loss, nausea, loss of appetite, hair loss, headaches, skin rashes, severe fatigue, and bone marrow depression as a consequence of treatments for her injury. Her life now revolves around treatment for her diseases. Even more seriously, current research indicates that co-infection of HIV and hepatitis C can accelerate progression to liver failure and may lead to cirrhosis, cancer, or failure in five to ten years.

What is most tragic about Ms. Daley's story and that of many like her is that her injury was not simply accidental, it was unnecessary and therefore inexcusable. In Ms. Daley's own words:

[T]his injury did not occur because I wasn't observing universal precautions. I did everything within my power—taking all the necessary precautions including wearing gloves and following proper procedures—to reduce my own risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. This injury did not occur because I was careless or distracted or not paying attention to what I was doing. This injury and the life-altering consequences I am now suffering should not have happened. And, worst of all, this injury did not have to happen and would not have happened if a safer needle and disposal system had been in place in my own work setting.

It is estimated that 80% of all needlestick injuries could be prevented if greater use is made of available sharps with engineered sharps injury protections, such as retractable needles, and needleless systems. Since the publication of the bloodborne pathogen standard, there has been a substantial increase in the number and assortment of effective engineering controls that are commercially available. There is a large body of research concerning the effectiveness of engineering controls, including safer medical devices. Further, there is general consensus among health care employers as well as health care workers that