

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 overview 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 Bernardo Heights Middle Schools' superior work be included in the record:

Located in northern San Diego County, Bernardo Heights Middle School (BHMS) is one of five middle schools in the award-winning Poway Unified School District. The school has a sprawling suburban campus where students are active participants in the learning process. The dynamic teachers are committed to developing a love of learning that will last a lifetime. Bernardo Heights has set expectations and academic standards that foster well being, encourage appreciation of the arts, and at the same time embrace diversity. BHMS is continuously re-evaluating their curriculum and the needs of its students. Using parent input, needs assessments, and up-to-date teaching practices and methods, their curriculum provides a solid scope and sequence that assures students will be ready for the 21st Century.

Knowing the pressures and variables of modern society, Bernardo Heights has developed an array of assistance programs to form a safety net for students who are at-risk. From parent-teacher-student conferences to support groups, tutorials to mentoring programs, they do "whatever it takes" to provide all students every opportunity to succeed. Almost 80% of all students scored above the 50th percentile on the SAT 9 reading, writing and math tests and Average Daily Attendance (ADA) is at 96.5%. From its unique architecture to the exciting learning environment within its classrooms, Bernardo Heights Middle School is a dynamic, active educational center, filled with the promise of tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT WILLIAM F. SNELL

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Sergeant William F. Snell, an officer with the California Highway Patrol. Sergeant Snell is retiring from the California Highway Patrol after 32 years of service to the State of California.

Sergeant Snell began his career as an officer with the California Highway Patrol in 1968. Upon his graduation from the academy, Sergeant Snell was assigned to several offices in California, including Baldwin Park, Riverside, San Bernardino, Central Los Angeles and Santa Ana in July 1986.

In Santa Ana, Sergeant Snell held several administrative positions. He was the sergeant in charge of commercial enforcement within the Santa Ana Area. As sergeant in charge, he directed the commercial officers within the Border Division area, including San Diego and Orange County offices.

Sergeant Snell is a dedicated officer who has served the people and the State of California with highest degree of professionalism. During his career with the Highway Patrol, Sergeant Snell demonstrated his outstanding qualities of management and leadership. Sergeant Snell upheld the mission of the California Highway Patrol to manage and regulate traffic and to achieve "safe, lawful and efficient use of the highway transportation system." An officer in the California Highway Patrol must possess courage, strength, and heroism in the face of the unknown.

I commend Sergeant Snell for his dedication to the safety of California's citizens and to the high caliber of service that he gave to his profession. Colleagues, please join with me in recognizing Sergeant William F. Snell as a man of dignity, honor and purpose and in wishing him many happy years of retirement.

HOW DRUG PROFITS DRIVE DOCTORS TO INCREASE DRUG UTILIZATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, at the Department of Justice's prodding, Medicare and Medicaid are finally going to reimburse drugs at a more accurate rate. In the past, we have paid for drugs at 95% of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP)—a wholly artificial and often grossly inflated price.

The action by HCFA should be welcome by taxpayers. But it should also be welcome by patients—and not just because patients will now face lower co-payment amounts. The worst aspect of the AWP pricing abuse has been that it distorts medical judgment, causing many—not all, but many—doctors to increase their utilization of drugs on which the doctors can make the most money on the "spread" between the listed AWP price, and what the actual cost to the provider is.

The following data shows the phenomenon: there is absolutely no reason that the nation's

utilization of ipratropium bromide has soared—other than doctors can now make over a 100% profit on the product. If you need ipratropium bromide, you should get it. You should not be getting it because your doctor makes a bigger and bigger profit on it.

I think the evidence will show that there are better cancer drug fighting products available to people, which are not being used because the doctors make more profit on the poorer quality product.

Reform of the AWP will not only save dollars—it will stop an insidious form of medical malpractice.

How has Medicare Utilization for the Inhalation Drug Ipratropium Bromide (HCPCS codes K0518 and J7645) changed as the "spread" or profit that doctors can make on the use of the product has increased?

In 1995, Medicare paid \$3.11 for a unit, and that's what it cost the provider. There was no spread, and Medicare spent \$14,426,108 on the product.

In 1996, Medicare reimbursed \$3.75 a unit, but the cost to doctors was only \$3.26, giving a 49 cent profit or a 15% spread. Interest in the product picked up, with Medicare spending \$47,388,622.

In 1997, Medicare's reimbursement was \$3.50 a unit, but the providers's true cost was only \$2.15, giving a profit spread of \$1.35 or 63%. Sales of the product really starting taking off, and Medicare spent \$96,204,639 on the product.

In 1998 and 1999, Medicare reimbursed \$3.34 for a unit. In 1998, doctors could get it for about \$1.70, giving them a profit of 96% or \$1.64 per unit. Sales totaled \$176,887,868! In 1999, the drug was available for \$1.60, giving users a 108% profit. We don't have the data on total 1999 Medicare expenditures on this product yet, but I bet, Mr. Speaker, that it is higher than ever.

This example is exhibit #1 why we need AWP reform.

HONORING THE AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION FOR ITS EFFORT TO ADVANCE WOMEN IN BUSINESS

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Business Women's Association for its dedication to promote the professional, educational, cultural, and social advancement of business women.

September 22, 2000 will mark the 51st anniversary of the founding of the American Business Women's Association. For over 50 years the members of this association have recognized that education and skilled training are crucial in today's technological society. These enterprising women hold active, responsible positions on all levels of business and will play an increasingly powerful role in the American workforce.

The local chapters of the A.B.W.A. have made scholarships available to students to further their education and have provided financial assistance to students returning to the workforce by enabling them to attend college. Through the improvement of individual skills,

leadership abilities, knowledge of diversified business techniques and business relations, these diverse women continue to ensure the future advancement of the chapters of the American Business Women's Association.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the women of the American Business Women's Association for their support and contributions to the public and private sectors of our country by helping women advance through education.

SCOUTING FOR ALL ACT

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my most profound opposition to H.R. 4892, the so-called Scouting for All Act, which would repeal the federal charter of the Boy Scouts of America. As an Eagle Scout, a member of the Scout Council, and a lifelong advocate of Scouting, I am both saddened and dismayed by this misguided attempt to bully one of the finest youth organizations in America. Since its inception in 1910, the Boy Scouts have instilled in tens of millions of young men the ideals of good citizenship, patriotism, and service to others. Perhaps no organization in our nation's history has done more to prepare America's youth for the challenges and responsibilities they will face as adults.

I hope the irony of this legislation is not lost on my colleagues. In the name of tolerance, the author of this bill is attempting to harness the power of the federal government to change an organization simply because it does not share her views. This bill represents an incredibly arrogant attempt to impose the beliefs of a small minority on a private institution. And it seeks to demonize one of the most fundamentally decent groups in America.

Mr. Speaker, the Scout Oath includes the pledge that a Scout will keep himself "morally straight." Whether one believes homosexuality is inconsistent with that oath or not, the Boy Scouts of America are entitled to interpret their oath, as well as set their own criteria for membership, as they see fit. I would submit to my colleagues that denying them that right would demonstrate a supreme disrespect for the right of people to associate freely, which the Constitution guarantees.

The problem with this legislation should be obvious to anyone who respects the right of Americans to organize themselves as they choose. The legislative power of this Congress should not be used as a tool to shape the policies of private organizations in ways that are pleasing to the political class.

In an age when America's young people are fed a steady diet of violence and obscenity, it is absurd that Congress is targeting an institution as wholesome as the Boy Scouts. In an age when school shootings capture headlines and we busy ourselves combating teen drug use, it is shameful that some of my colleagues would assail an organization dedicated to such principled goals as the Boy Scouts. I urge my colleagues to reject this offensive legislation and send a clear message to the nation's Scouts that they have both the support and admiration of the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to flight delays, I was unavoidably detained in North Carolina yesterday and unable to cast a vote on Roll Call Votes 477 and 478. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call Vote 477 and YEA on Roll Call Vote 478. I ask unanimous consent that the permanent record reflect these intended votes.

TRIBUTE TO PERRY HALL ON ITS 225TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a very special community located in Maryland's 3rd Congressional District. The Perry Hall community is celebrating its 225th anniversary this year.

Perry Hall is a thriving, suburban community of 40,000 residents located 10 miles northeast of Baltimore City. It was founded in 1775 by Harry Dorsey Gough, who purchased a 1,000-acre estate called The Adventure. He renamed it Perry Hall after his family's home near Birmingham, England. On that site he built a mansion that became known for magnificent gardens and distinctive architecture.

In the years during and after the Civil War, German and Irish families began to settle in the community surrounding the mansion. These families worked hard and developed a thriving dairy and nursery industry. In 1875, Eli Slifer and William Meredith bought the "Perry Hall" property, divided it and sold lots to immigrant families, who then began raising "stoop crops" such as celery and carrots.

Perry Hall began its transformation from rural hamlet to suburban community in the years following World War II. Brick bungalows were built for returning GI's and their brides. New schools were built to serve their growing families and the first shopping center arrived in 1961.

In 1981, the transformation was completed with construction of White Marsh Mall. While the farms and forests of Perry Hall have been replaced by housing developments, shopping centers and new businesses, the most important part of Perry Hall still remains: its friendliness and warmth.

This year, Perry Hall has celebrated its 225th year with a series of events, picnics and concerts. The Perry Hall Improvement Association will cap off this anniversary year with the Millennium Ball on Nov. 3, 2000.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing congratulations to all who live in Perry Hall, Maryland, and in wishing them the best on this historic anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PROFESSOR CARL SWARTZ

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Professor Carl Swartz upon receiving the Educational Excellence and Distinguished Service Award for 2000. Professor Swartz is a deserving recipient and a tremendous asset for Three Rivers Community College.

Professor Swartz is a well-respected professor of business at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, Connecticut. He has been teaching courses at Three Rivers since 1971 and has had the distinct honor to serve as chairman for the business administration and marketing programs for 14 years. While at Three Rivers, Carl has been an advisor to the business club and developed new courses in industrial supervision, salesmanship, labor relations, human resource management and advertising. Carl has also served on many committees and was a member of the White House Small Business Advisory Committee during the Carter administration. In addition, in 1999, Carl received the Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges Recognition award for his invaluable work at Three Rivers.

Professor Swartz has gone beyond the role of professor and has been active in the community as well. He has represented Three Rivers on the TVCCA Board of Directors, served as a member of the state council on Vocational Education and written a weekly column for the Norwich Bulletin. By involving himself in the educational and social aspects of his students, he has created a solid foundation for the future of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I Join residents from Norwich in congratulating Professor Carl Swartz on receiving this prestigious award. He is a scholar, a teacher and an example for all.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Santa Clarita, California, for its activities on behalf of preserving the Santa Clara River, located in my district, and for its activities recognizing National Pollution Prevention Week.

The City of Santa Clarita will hold its annual "River Rally" at the Santa Clara River on September 23, 2000. This event will highlight the importance of the Santa Clara River. During this annual event, citizens from throughout the city and the greater Santa Clarita Valley gather and pick up trash from the banks of the river. The River Rally raises awareness of the river and pollution prevention measures. The city and the many business and individuals who participate in the River Rally deserve our thanks.

The City is holding the River Rally during National Pollution Prevention Week, which is