

being cost effective to the consumer in the future. The incentives will apply to:

Efficient new residential buildings that save 30% to 50% in energy costs compared to national model codes, including a higher incentive for higher savings. Efficient heating, cooling, and water heating equipment that reduce emissions and peak electric loads by about 20% (lower incentives) and 30%–50% (higher incentives) compared to national standards. Efficient commercial buildings with 50% energy and power cost savings. Residential-scale solar hot water and photovoltaic equipment.

The design and administration for these energy efficient structures is based on the track record of successful state programs over the past decade. Buildings account for some 35% of air pollution emissions nationwide, and cost their owners over \$250 billion a year in energy costs. They also contribute to well over half of peak electric power demand. If enacted promptly the incentives in this bill will begin to mitigate electric peak reliability problems by the summer of 2001.

This bill will help both families and businesses reduce annual energy costs, saving over \$80 billion in present value over the next decade. Energy costs of businesses are tax deductible under current law, so reductions in energy costs means billions of dollars in saving to the Federal government.

Please join me in supporting the Energy Efficient Buildings Incentives Act which will provide for a cleaner environment and help reduce energy needs, thus postponing the need for building new power plants as well as helping to save our environment.

SUPPORTERS OF S. 2718—THE ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS INCENTIVES ACT

Natural Resources Defense Council
Environmental Defense
Consumer's Choice Council
U.S. PIRG
World Wildlife Federation
Defenders of Wildlife
American Oceans Campaign
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation, Inc.
Michigan Environmental Council
Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy
League of Conservation Voters
Union of Concerned Scientists
National Wildlife Federation
Sierra Club
The Wilderness Society
National Environmental Trust
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Global Green USA
Friends of the Earth
Alliance to Save Energy
ENRON
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Pacific Corp
Massachusetts Electric
Southern California Edison
Montana Power
American Portland Cement Alliance
Air Conditioning Contractors of America
Foamed Polystyrene Alliance
North American Insulation Manufacturers Association
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
American Energy Technologies
American Solar Energy
Siemens Solar Industries
TRANE

National Association of State Energy Officials
Home Builders Association of Central Vermont, Inc.
Insulation Contractors Association of America
California Building Industry Association
California Association of Building Energy Consultants
National Council of the Housing Industry
National Insulation Association
California Energy Commission
Florida Solar Energy Center
California Air Resources Board
National Association of State Energy Officials

(These are some of the businesses which the trade associations represent but have not necessarily specifically signed on.)

Honeywell Inc.
Evanite Fiber Corp
Fibrex Insulation, Inc.
Johns Manville Corp
MFS, Inc.
OCHT
Roxul, Inc.
Thermafiber LLC
Western Fiberglass Group
Akzo Nobel
BASF Corp
C.K. Witco Corp
Dow Chemical USA
Exxon Chemical Co.
Goldschmidt Chemical Co.
Hunter Panels
Huntsman Polyurethane
Johns Manville Corp
Laroche Industries Inc.
Old American Products
Phillips 66 Co.
Solvay Fluorides, Inc.
Vulcan Materials
Certain Teed Corp
Isolatik International
Knauf Fiber Glass
Owens Corning
Rock Wool Manufacturing Co.
Sloss Industries Corp
USG Interiors Inc.
Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
Atlas Roofing Corp
Bayer
Carlisle Syntec, Inc.
Elf Atochem North America, Inc.
Firestone Building Products Co.
Honeywell International
Huntsman Corp
IKO Industries, Ltd
KoSa
OAF
Petrocel S.A.
Rmax, Inc.
Stephen Co.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, every day, at least one child will die as a result of domestic violence. Every few minutes, approximately nine women are abused around the nation. For this reason, we must reaffirm our commitment to combating domestic violence by reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act.

H.R. 1248, the Violence Against Women Act, provides women and their local law enforcement offices the necessary resources to

escape domestic violence. The reauthorization of this Act would preserve funding for abused women, grants for training police forces, a national domestic violence hotline, and grants for victim services and prevention programs.

Women seeking to escape abusive relationships require legal assistance to be free from such abuse, including assistance in obtaining a divorce, custody of their children, or even to obtain a change of address or social security number for safety. Since 1994, The Violence Against Women Act has provided over \$1.5 billion in grants that have been used to encourage arrests, train police, prosecutors and judges, as well as provide critical victim services.

Reauthorization of this Act includes new support for transitional housing, allowing up to \$30 million over four years to assist domestic violence survivors move beyond shelters into safe permanent housing. The new Act would expand the reach of the program to support groups such as elderly, disabled and Native American women. Furthermore, the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act would allow states and local communities to engage in long-range planning without continually fearing that funds will be lost in the next fiscal year.

There is much evidence of the success the Violence Against Women Act has had in providing assistance to women at risk of abuse. Calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline have doubled in the last six months, to a rate of 13,000 calls per month, and use of battered women's shelters has been steadily increasing, all since the inception of the Violence Against Women Act. These programs need to be funded at the highest possible levels so that families in need of safety and protection have full and adequate access to such assistance.

The passage of H.R. 1248 is necessary to confirm congressional commitment to fighting violence against women for the next five years. We must do what we can to protect and assist women and children who are the unfortunate victims of domestic violence.

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A TRIBUTE TO THE 2000 "SPIRIT OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" WINNERS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2000

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the participants of my 2000 Spirit of Achievement Award program. In 1982, when the current citizens of the 3rd District of Illinois elected me to represent them in the United States Congress, I introduced this very successful program. Since then, every middle school in the 23rd Ward of Chicago annually selects a graduating 8th grade boy and girl who they feel represents overall outstanding academic achievement, community service and extracurricular activities. Today, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the hard work of 28 young achievers and future leaders from the 23rd Ward of Chicago.

St. Jane De Chantal School: Nora Krause and Christopher Paluch
Our Lady of Snows School: Amanda Hartman and Jeffrey Mikula

St. Camillus School: Amanda Kurmpel and Kevin Jasionowski
 St. Bruno School: David Szwajnos
 St. Rene Elementary School: Anthony Garcia and Catherine O'Connell
 St. Daniel the Prophet School: Deanna Maida and Paul Bruton
 St. Richards School: Monika Dlugopolski and Christopher Dyrdak
 Gloria Dei School: Faith Krasowski and Jeremiah Jurevis
 Hale Elementary School: Emily Fisher and Xavier Hernandez
 Peck Elementary School: Maribel Pantoja and Anthony Naranjo
 Dore Elementary School: Robert Bradel and Jennifer Collins
 Kinzie Elementary School: Victoria Okrzesik and Patrick Forbes
 Byrne Elementary School: Jennifer Turner and Ryan Nabor
 Twain Elementary School: Sebastian Gawenda
 Edwards Elementary School: Mustafaa Saleh and Lisa Matteson

These students are all credit to their families and the Chicago community. I wish them tremendous success in their continuing education and future aspirations. Furthermore, I charge all of them to use their strength and leadership in service to this great nation. Mr. Speaker, I am again pleased to offer my sincere congratulations the winners of my 2000 Spirit of Achievement Award program.

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HMONG VETERANS' NATURALIZATION ACT AMENDMENT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week we passed H.R. 5234, a bill to correct a technical problem with the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000, which was passed by Congress and signed into law earlier this year. Unfortunately, I was unable to speak during general debate. I would however, like to add these remarks to the record to say thank you, and to further honor a little known group of individuals who routinely went above and beyond the call of duty to help American servicemen during the Viet Nam war.

Many Americans are unaware that Hmong veterans, operating out of Laos, collected critical intelligence, provided protection to remote American outposts, and routinely rescued downed American airmen. As a result of American forces in Viet Nam, these men and their families lived in constant danger of retaliation by Communist forces. Predictably, when America withdrew from Viet Nam, many Hmong families suffered and died at the hands of the Communist North Vietnamese and Laotian forces.

I was glad to cosponsor and support the Hmong people on May 2, 2000 when the House passed H.R. 371, the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000. This bill was subsequently signed into law on May 26, 2000. The law waives the English language requirement and provides special consideration for the civics requirement with respect to the naturalization of eligible Hmong veterans and their immediate families. I am equally glad that this Congress was able to resolve so quickly

to correct a technical problem that was discovered in the law, which prevented some deserving Hmong individuals from gaining the citizenship that they fought so valiantly to preserve.

I am thankful that the House passed this bill unanimously under suspension of the rules, and appreciate this opportunity to raise America's awareness of these courageous people.

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ITALIAN AMERICANS OF LUZERNE COUNTY HONOR CHARLES GIUNTA AS PERSON OF YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles A. Giunta, who has been chosen by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County as their 2000 Person of the Year. The association will honor him at their annual dinner on Oct. 8.

The officers of this fine organization are Herman Castellani, president; Judy Russo, vice president; Michael Delconte, secretary; and Leonard Cumbo, treasurer. Charlie has been a member of the association for the past six years, having served on the board of directors and other various committees.

Charles is a graduate of Pittston High School and Wilkes-Barre Business College and attended Wilkes College. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1942 to 1946, a year after the war ended. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War with the rank of captain to command the 487th Transportation Truck Company.

In addition to serving his country and the cause of freedom, he has also served his community well. He was past president of the Columbus League of Luzerne County and was an active member of the committee responsible for obtaining and erecting the statue of Christopher Columbus that now stands in Pittston.

Charles has been an active member of the Wilkes-Barre chapter of UNICO for the past 40 years and is a past president, secretary and treasurer of the organization, in addition to having served on several of its committees.

He has also served St. Anthony's Church of Exeter as a volunteer worker in the rectory and currently serves as chairman of the church's finance committee.

Charles resides in Exeter with his wife of 55 years, the former Nancy Berto. They have three sons, Joseph, of Dallas; Samuel, of North Wales; and Charles, of State College; as well as two grandchildren, Joseph and Bridget Giunta.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Charles Giunta on the occasion of this honor, and I am pleased to call his long service to the attention of the House of Representatives.

END HEALTH DISPARITIES IN MEDICARE BASED ON RACE AND ETHNICITY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, there is a large body of literature that shows people of color disproportionately lack access to health care, vital treatments, and preventive screening measures. Several of us on Ways and Means have called for a hearing to discuss differences in medical care due to race and ethnicity. Although ensuring a fair and equitable quality health care system for all Americans is extremely important, Congress has failed to address existing disparities.

Our country is becoming increasingly diverse. Currently, people of color represent an estimated 18% of our nation's residents, and will comprise more than 25% in 2050. In a state such as California, "minority" populations have already become the majority.

Among those of Medicare age, racial and ethnic minorities currently represent 16% of the population; however, by 2050, that percentage will increase to 36% at the same time that the number of elderly is expected to increase by 250%.

The growing populations of minorities, however, have not been able to eliminate the vestiges of racism—conscious and unconscious—that still remains in our society and in our institutions. The health care system is no exception. A Century Foundation Report entitled, "Vulnerable Populations and Medicare Services" by Marian Gornick contributes more strong evidence that disparities continue to exist even when individuals have similar health insurance coverage.

For example, Medicare covers influenza vaccines for beneficiaries on an annual basis at no cost. Coverage and financial costs are not barriers, but African Americans are only half as likely to receive flu shots even though influenza, a forerunner to pneumonia, is responsible for excess hospitalizations among elderly with heart and pulmonary disease.

Among those Medicare beneficiaries with coronary artery disease, African Americans are less than half as likely to receive coronary artery bypass graft or percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, two common procedures for treating the disease.

The following statistics illustrate numerous additional examples of the disparities that persist in medical care and treatment. In order to truly be an inclusive society, we must continue to attack conscious and unconscious racism in all its forms and work towards an equitable and just health care system. I hope everyone in Congress can join in continuing our efforts in this area.

EXAMPLES OF HEALTH DISPARITIES

[From Vulnerable Populations and Medicare Services]

(By Marian E. Gornick)

African Americans have 20% less physician visits, and 23% less specialist visits, despite greater rates of certain chronic diseases, limitations in activities of daily living, and reporting of health as fair or poor. But, they receive 38% more hospital inpatient visits and 40% more emergency room visits.

African Americans have 11% less ophthalmology visits even though the prevalence of eye disease is greater.