

Deputy Executive Director, a distinguished leader in health care and anesthesia care in his own right, and for the past decade has run a successful anesthesia care practice in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, the people of San Antonio are happy to welcome the AANA Fall Assembly of States during this time of change and growth in this important health professionals' association. I congratulate Mr. Garde on his life's work, and Mr. Beutler on his task ahead, and wish them and their fellow CRNAs from around the country a successful and enjoyable assembly in the shadow of our historic Alamo.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE  
CONSERVATION SECURITY ACT

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**HON. DAVID MINGE**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, today, I along with twenty four House Members, introduced the Conservation Security Act. We believe now is the time for Congress to make conservation a cornerstone of the next Farm Bill. And promoting fiscally sound, environmentally friendly conservation farm policy will result in win-win situations for farmers, for the environment and for the American taxpayer.

This legislation will allow for conservation to become an integral part of agriculture by providing opportunities for all interested farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers to participate in a voluntary, incentive-based federal conservation program. Landowners and operators would enter into Conservation Security Contracts and Plans and receive payments based on the type of conservation practices they are willing to undertake, plan, implement and maintain. For instance, conservation practices can, range from soil and residue management, contour farming, and cover cropping to comprehensive farm plans that take into account all the resource concerns of the agricultural operation.

The Conservation Security Act will establish three tiers of voluntary conservation practices, plans and payment levels while allowing for continued participation in other agriculture conservation programs. A participant may also receive payments based on established practices and for adopting innovative practices and systems, pilot testing, new technologies, and new conservation techniques. Participation would be voluntary and would enable farmers to implement plans they believe in without sacrificing income that they might go broke, while helping to preserve diversified, low-input, family size farming and ranching operations.

The Conservation Security Act will benefit the environment and augment on-farm income. And I think a majority would agree that the issues of conservation, land stewardship and farm and ranch income are highly important to the public.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. BARRY  
HARDING

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**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Superintendent Barry Harding of Robeson County in the great state of North Carolina. Dr. Harding was recently named National Indian Educator of the Year by the National Indian Education Association. Dr. Harding, a former teacher, coach, principal, associate superintendent, and special assistant to the superintendent, is the second Lumbee Indian in the association's history to receive this award. This high honor was bestowed upon him in recognition of his major contributions to improving educational opportunity and quality for the children of Robeson County.

When I think of Dr. Harding's commitment to education, the words "spirit, sacrifice, and service" come to mind. Dr. Harding's positive spirit has always been to do the task at hand—a spirit that inspires students to achieve. His sacrifice in time and commitment has been to make Robeson County a better place for children to learn and live.

Pearl S. Buck once said, "To serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy and a whole heart and free mind." There is no question that Dr. Harding's twenty-six years of service have been the epitome of this statement. Service to our children, the citizens of tomorrow, has been the embodiment of his life.

Nearly half of the 24,000 students in the Robeson County school district are American Indian, and Dr. Harding represents one of the voices that have spoken out to help improve the education of Native Americans—an education that recognizes, not denies, heritage and culture. Like Dr. Dean Chavers, the Lumbee educator born and reared in Pembroke, North Carolina, who went on to receive his Ph.D. from Stanford University and raise money for Native American scholarship funds, Dr. Harding has fought to make Indian education part of the national education agenda.

John F. Kennedy once said, "Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation."

Dr. Harding has chosen to dedicate his life to inspiring and educating America's children. He has helped our children and our youth develop their greatest abilities, and in doing so, he serves as a reservoir of strength for our community, state, and nation. Dr. Harding, may God's strength, joy, and peace be with you and your family as you continue your service and commitment to our children.

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IN RECOGNITION OF RALPH  
RAYMOND

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**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ralph Raymond, the coach of the gold-winning U.S. Women's softball team.

Coach Raymond is from my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts, and I know that our entire community is proud of his wonderful accomplishments.

All of us watched with pride last month as our softball team overcame tremendous odds in Sydney to take the gold medal. And they didn't just win—they won with class, style and pure enjoyment of the game. They showed great team spirit and a commendable commitment to hard work. All of those attributes speak volumes about Coach Raymond.

As Coach Raymond has noted, nearly 1 million women are playing fast-pitch softball in high schools and colleges across the country. Softball has provided great opportunities for girls to stay physically fit and enjoy the benefits of sports at an early age—benefits like teamwork, camaraderie, and accepting both victory and defeat with humility and grace.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Coach Ralph Raymond for a job very well done, and I hope we can convince him to coach our softball team in Athens in 2004. I hope all my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to one of Worcester's finest sportsmen.

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REVEREND CHARLES J. BEIRNE,  
S.J., APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF  
LE MOYNE COLLEGE

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**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 2000, the Reverend Charles J. Beirne was named the 11th President of Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York. Le Moyne College, a private four-year Jesuit college, has an enrollment of approximately 2,000 full-time undergraduate students in programs of liberal arts, the sciences and pre-professional studies. Le Moyne also offers a physician assistant program and graduate programs in education and business administration. Founded in 1946, Le Moyne is the second youngest of the 28 Jesuit colleges in the nation.

Today I would like to recognize Fr. Beirne as his first academic year as President of Le Moyne College commences. Fr. Beirne brings impeccable academic credentials, remarkable life experiences and an enthusiastic attitude to an institution just reaching its stride of academic excellence.

Previously, Fr. Beirne served in San Salvador as the academic Vice President at the Universidad Centroamericana. There he bravely replaced his comrade, Rev. Ignacio Martin Baro, S.J., who was murdered by the Salvadoran government forces. In addition, Fr. Beirne was academic Vice President at Santa Clara University, an Associate Dean at Georgetown University Business School in Washington, DC, and Principal at Regis High School in New York City and Colegio San Ignacio in Puerto Rico.

Most recently, Le Moyne College has experienced great strides in its pursuit of academic excellence, receiving national recognition. This past year the US World and News Report ranked Le Moyne College sixth among all liberal arts colleges and universities in the North.

I am pleased to commend Rev. Charles J. Beirne for his years of service to all people and to congratulate him on his appointment as President of Le Moyne College.

## KEEP DEMOCRATIC REFORMS IN SRPSKA ON TRACK

## HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, elections in the Serbian majority entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Srpska, next month will put to the test the efforts of the international community and the people of Bosnia to create lasting and stable reforms and democratic institutions. Prime Minister Milorad Dodik, leader of the Party of Independent Social Democrats will stand for re-election. Dodik has demonstrated a willingness to work for responsible change in Srpska and throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Dodik's main opponent, Mirko Sarovic is a member of the party that led the brutal war against the people of Bosnia in the earlier part of this decade. Victory for the nationalist forces in next month's election would be a stark reversal of the changes we have seen throughout the former Yugoslavia. Dodik has strongly endorsed the new President of Serbia, Vojislav Kostunica, while his opponent, has decried the free expression of his fellow Serbs.

Dodik has worked in cooperation with the international community to foster economic reforms, and to instill a new spirit of tolerance in Srpska that has led to an unprecedented number of minority refugee returns to the Republic during the past year. Our U.S. Ambassador, Tom Miller, has made it clear that if the opposition to Dodik wins, further cooperation by our government will be impossible.

The people of Srpska have a clear choice as they cast their ballots next month: to continue the progress they have made to date through their hard work and diligence, or to return to the past with its legacy of hardship, repression, and impoverishment. I hope that they consider their choices carefully, and make the decision to continue progress and hope for a better life for them and their children.

## HONORING MICHAEL F. RODGERS FOR HIS SERVICE TO OLDER AMERICANS

## HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize to a constituent of mine, Michael F. Rodgers, for his many years of service to older Americans, particularly those in need of housing or various forms of long-term care. For the last fourteen years, Mr. Rodgers has served as the Senior Vice President of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA). AAHSA is a national nonprofit organization representing 6,000 nursing homes, continuing care retirement communities, senior housing, assisted living facilities, and community service organizations for seniors. AAHSA is a leader in the development of an integrated continuum of care for frail elderly people and individuals with disabilities. I am familiar with

AAHSA through the membership of three excellent retirement communities within my district, Goodwin House West in Falls Church, The Virginian in Fairfax, and Westminister at Lake Ridge.

Throughout his tenure at AAHSA, Mr. Rodgers has devoted talent, skill, dedication and commitment to advocating for mission-driven, non-profit senior services across the spectrum of need. He has developed and implemented a public policy and advocacy program whose goal is a more rational and integrated system of long-term care that will serve seniors in the most appropriate and least restrictive environment possible. He has fought for effective solutions to issues raised by increasing longevity and the emergence of a growing "old old" population whose needs no longer can be met by the informal care network of the past.

In addition to his work at AAHSA, Mr. Rodgers is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society on Aging and also belongs to the Gerontological Society of America. He teaches at John Hopkins University as a member of the adjunct faculty in the Center on Aging Programs and Studies. Mr. Rodgers was chosen as a delegate to the most recent White House Conference on Aging in 1995.

Prior to joining AAHSA, Mr. Rodgers worked on Capitol Hill for several years. For two years, he was the staff director of the House Select Committee on Aging's Subcommittee on Housing and Consumer Interests. Previously, he spent six years on the senior professional staff of the Senate Special Committee on Aging under the chairmanship of the late Pennsylvania Senator John Heinz. His work with these committees focused on health, long-term care, assisted housing and other aging-related legislation. Before coming to the Hill, Mr. Rodgers was the Director of the Bureau of Policy, Planning and Evaluation at the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. Previously, he served as the Executive Director of the Lackawanna County Area on Aging in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Mr. Rodgers received a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling and psychology from the University of Scranton, where he subsequently was on the adjunct faculty as a professional lecturer.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to wish Mr. Rodgers the very best as he prepares to depart from the AAHSA to join the Catholic Health Association, where he will become the new Director of Government Relations. In this capacity, he will have the opportunity to continue to work on behalf of faith-based, mission driven providers of high-quality health and long-term care. I know his colleagues join me in recognizing his many years of service to America's seniors and in wishing him continued success in his new role.

## IN HONOR OF DR. CLAUDE W. CUMMINGS' 39 YEARS OF PASTORAL SERVICE TO THE EBENEZER ASSEMBLY OF CHRIST IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

## HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the pastor of Ebenezer Assembly of Christ, Dr. Claude Cummings. A man who has de-

voted his adult life as an ordained minister of God, Dr. Cummings is an example of selfless leadership and service to those who share his spiritual faith.

Dr. Claude Cummings, son of the late Bishop Claude and Mattie Cummings, knew he was called into ministerial service when he began preaching at the age of 18. He was ordained at the age of 26, and has since worked tirelessly as a servant of God. Dr. Cummings made his first move to Cleveland, Ohio in 1956, only to leave two years later due to the call of the Army. He went on to serve in Texas, both in San Antonio and then as a pastor of a small church in Sequin, until allowed to return home to Cleveland in 1961. There, he was sent to minister to a small group of Saints in Miles Heights, Ohio, who were attempting to build a church. As an example of the dedication and devotion Dr. Claude Cummings has shown throughout his years of service, he and first wife, Faith Cummings, shared their resources to complete the church-building project which had since halted progress. They worked untiringly to get the edifice completed, only to see it destroyed in a tornado shortly after its dedication. Despite the disaster, Dr. Cummings assumed the role of general contractor, and worked even harder to build the edifice which now stands.

Dr. Cummings has always endeavored to further his education, particularly within his own faith. Because of this love of the Word, he attended many colleges, including Aenor Bible College, Fenn (Cleveland State), and Grace Bible College. An obvious advocate of life-long learning, he currently continues his studies at Ashland Bible College and the Moody Bible Institute. Dr. Cummings is known not only for his breadth and depth of knowledge of the scriptures, but also for his gift of sharing the Bible through his commanding preaching and his extraordinary way of bringing the Bible to life during Bible Classes.

Dr. Claude Cummings is affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, an organization in which he holds several offices; and the Apostolic Fellowship Conference. He was also one of the originators of the Cleveland Apostolic Ministerial Fellowship known as CAMF. A man of faith, Dr. Cummings is also a man of family. A loving father of five and grandfather to eight, he takes pride in both his personal and spiritual families.

Let us honor Dr. Claude Cummings for his tremendous dedication to the many people he has led, and let us recognize his tireless service to faith.

## HONORING THE AMERICAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

## HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, as another session of Congress comes to a conclusion, we are reminded of the many important and difficult issues which are dealt with on a daily basis in the Congress of the United States.

As we consider the responsibility with which we are entrusted to represent the people who