

people of such high character are presented the Migel Medal.

Dr. Tuttle is a retired Special Education professor at the University of Northern Colorado. He has written extensively on visual impairment. For the past nine years, he has consulted the Hadley School for the blind on its curriculum planning and evaluation. He holds masters degrees from San Francisco State College and Columbia University Teachers College in Special Education. Dr. Tuttle earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and San Francisco State University in Educational Psychology. Dr. Tuttle's writings and lectures consistently inspire young teachers entering the fields of education and rehabilitation for the blind to do all they can to make life better for the visually impaired.

The American Foundation for the Blind is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to eliminate the inequities faced by the ten million Americans who are blind or visually impaired. This is an organization to which Helen Keller devoted forty years of her life, and it is no surprise that this wonderful organization is now honoring one of our country's most dedicated educators. Dr. Dean Tuttle selflessly devotes his time to benefit the blind and visually impaired, and it is with great pride that I stand here today to speak to his vast achievement and success.

HONORING DOVE CREEK COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize a remarkable group of individuals responsible for expanding the Community Health Clinic in Dove Creek, Colorado. These talented individuals have, through determination and dedication, brought the citizens of Dolores County and surrounding communities a medical center that can accommodate the areas medical needs.

This unique medical facility is a federally qualified rural health clinic that serves the citizens of southern Colorado, living in Dolores County, parts of Montezuma and San Miguel Counties, as well as San Juan County in Utah. In the past year these individuals have been monumental in acquiring the much-needed funds that allowed the clinic to expand its size in order to better serve its patients.

The new addition to the clinic will now allow it to house the Dolores County Health Nurse's office, Emergency Medical Services and the Coroner's office.

The addition that is now being added will expand the clinic in immeasurable ways including added expansions of pharmaceutical, laboratory, radiology and emergency facilities. Without such incredible compassion and commitment to their community these individuals may not have made this clinic into the impressive medical facility it is today.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to honor Dianne Smith, Executive Director; Betty Sernadeni, Health Board President; Martin Neubert, Physician's Assistant and Dan Fernandez, a Colorado State University Extension Agent. They have benefited their commu-

nity in immeasurable ways and have ensured that the citizens of southern Colorado are able to receive the best medical treatment around and for that I commend their efforts and thank them for their commitment to the citizens of our great state of Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO FBI SPECIAL AGENT DENNIS CONWAY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Dennis Conway, who has served with distinction in the Bureau's Kansas City Division since 1989.

Special Agent Conway will retire on December 31, 2000, concluding a career during which he was responsible for the successful investigation, arrest, and prosecution of over 200 criminals.

From 1972–1976, Special Agent Conway was assigned to the FBI's Oklahoma City Division, where he investigated violent crimes. Then, from 1976–1983, he was Bank Robbery Coordinator in the Bureau's Minneapolis Division. From 1983–1989, Special Agent Conway was assigned to the FBI's Detroit Division, where he was case agent on an undercover illegal drug investigation which resulted in the conviction of a high profile drug distributor, who was convicted after a six week trial.

From 1989 to the present, Special Agent Conway has been assigned to the Bureau's Kansas City Division. During that time, he served as case agent on undercover drug operation "Plazop," which focused on sources of illegal drug supplies from Colombia, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, Los Angeles and San Diego. This investigation resulted in 32 criminal convictions which significantly reduced the quantity of illegal drugs on the streets of Kansas City, Kansas, and Missouri. For the past six years, Special Agent Conway has investigated illegal drug crimes and crimes of violence within the U.S. Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas, where his efforts have resulted in over 60 indictments.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay public tribute to my constituent, FBI Special Agent Dennis Conway, as he completes a distinguished career of service to the Kansas City community and our nation as a whole. The public at large and the law enforcement community are better for his efforts, and we wish him well as he concludes his career with the FBI.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF ROBERT J. CLARKSON

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Robert J. Clarkson. On November 3, 2000, Mr. Clarkson will retire from the United States Postal Service after 61 years of federal service. In the entire 224-year history of the Postal Service, Mr. Clarkson is only the 25th person

to serve over 50 years and the only one from the State of Alabama.

Robert Clarkson began his postal career at age 14 as a special delivery messenger with the post office in Anniston, Alabama. That was in 1940. To put this in perspective, at that time, a regular stamp cost 3 cents and a special delivery stamp cost 10 cents. Mr. Clarkson was paid 9 cents for every special delivery letter he delivered. He was a city carrier from 1942 to 1955 at which time he transferred to the Piedmont, Alabama Post Office as a Rural Letter Carrier. He has been a rural career since that time, for 32 years out of the Piedmont Post Office and then 13 years out of the Anniston Post Office.

During his career as a Rural Letter Carrier, Mr. Clarkson, was Committeeman of the Third District for the Alabama Rural Letter Carriers Association as well as a local Steward for many years. He was given a Special Achievement Award by the Postal Service in recognition of his job performance.

Within the span of his employment, Robert Clarkson served 2 years in the United States Navy. When he was discharged, he returned home and completed high school and then college by going to night school.

Mr. Speaker, I want to salute Robert Clarkson for his remarkable career with the Postal Service and to thank him for his service to the residents of Calhoun County, Alabama. His tradition with the Postal Service is being carried on by his son, Michael, a Rural Carrier in Oxford, Alabama.

THE VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Vaccine Injury Compensation Program Improvement Act of 2000," legislation designed to revise and improve the standards applied to petitions for compensating injuries associated with vaccines administered to children when the claims are deemed not to be covered by the "Vaccine Table." The Table is used in the program to create presumptions favoring compensation coverage under very limited circumstances and pursuant to specific criteria.

Mr. Speaker, I have chaired oversight hearings of the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources devoted to problems and issues in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. Our full committee, the House Committee on Government Reform, also has been actively engaged in oversight of this important program. As a product of our hearings and extensive oversight activities, members of the subcommittee and full committee in a bipartisan manner and without objection, passed on October 5, 2000, the report entitled: "The Vaccine Injury Compensation Program: Addressing the Needs and Improving Practices."

Among the recommendations of this report is the need to devise an alternative standard for determining compensation for petitioners who claim vaccine-related injuries, but whose petitions are not covered by the Vaccine

Table. As the report correctly explains, Congress recognized deficiencies in scientific studies on the topic of vaccine-related injuries, and intended to provide a fair and reasonable opportunity for petitioners to demonstrate vaccine-relatedness. If a significant relationship or association could be proven, compensation coverage was intended. Regrettably, the current wording of the statute has been interpreted and applied in a manner that requires a traditional tort "causation" legal analysis. If the traditional legal approach had been intended, Congress would simply have allowed these cases to be resolved through traditional tort liability litigation. That was not the desire of Congress when the program was established; it is not the desire of Congress today. Accordingly, a revision to the petition standards is needed to ensure that reasonable and fair determinations of vaccine association and relatedness are provided. That is precisely what this legislation does. It does not address various other reforms—some favored by the involved federal agencies and some not, some needed and some not—that are intended to improve the program further. The focus of this bill is simply to revise and clarify the standard used in adjudicating certain petitions. This reform will foreclose the practice of effectively denying petitions when scientific studies do not squarely address the specific circumstances presented, and will provide a reasonable, fair and appropriately flexible standard for examining evidence and determining vaccine injury compensation coverage.

The revised language of this legislation provides an approach and standard for coverage that is similar to that used in determining medical treatment benefits to veterans who claim illnesses presumed to be related to exposures to Agent Orange.

HONORING JUDGE JACK PIERCE

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a man who is a devoted American, a great Texan and a great friend. I stand here today to recognize The Honorable Jack Pierce for his outstanding service as District Judge in Nacogdoches, Texas. His approaching retirement on December 31, 2000, will mark the end of an exceptional career.

Judge Pierce presided over the 145th Judicial District Court as District Judge for 37 years and 4 months, serving as the longest seated judge in the history of Texas. Appointed by Governor John Connally on August 31, 1963, Judge Pierce will always be known for his exemplary public service.

My friend Jack has roots deep in Nacogdoches. He graduated from Nacogdoches High School and received his bachelor's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University. After graduating from law school at Baylor University in 1958, he returned to Nacogdoches to start a family with Willene Bird, his wife of 32 years. He and his wife raised two daughters while his career began to soar.

Remarkably, this distinguished jurist won nine consecutive elections as District Judge.

During his progressive tenure, Judge Pierce made great contributions to the court system in Nacogdoches. He was the first local judge to name a woman to the Nacogdoches Grand Jury Commission. He created the "Ninety Day Guarantee" for court trials in the county, and he established the law library at the Nacogdoches County Courthouse. His record speaks volumes about his convictions and his commitment to always do the right thing.

Although well known for his professional success, many people know Jack Pierce for his contributions outside the courtroom. An active member of Fredonia Hill Baptist Church, Judge Pierce served on the pastoral selection committees and was chosen as Outstanding Father in 1991. He was chairman of the Attoyac District Boy Scouts of East Texas, and received the Silver Beaver Award for adult leadership. Presently, he advances community improvement through memberships in the Kiwanis Club and the Nacogdoches Booster Club.

At the end of this year, Judge Pierce will hang up his hat, but I know this will not be the last we see of this great man. He knows the value of investing in the community, and the city of Nacogdoches is a better place for it. I am grateful for his dedication to the community through the years—his service has not gone unnoticed. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to stand before you today to pay my respects to one of America's greats, Judge Jack Pierce.

TRIBUTE TO KATHY REED ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring special attention to someone who has been a great asset to my District and me for the past nine years. After nine years of service and dedication to the people of Iowa's Second District, my District Representative for Clayton, Dubuque and Jackson counties has announced her retirement for the end of this year. Kathy Reed has been a loyal and dedicated employee, and someone I am proud to have worked with over the years.

Kathy has been no ordinary District Representative. Everyone who comes into contact with Kathy takes an immediate liking to her. Her extraordinary sense of humor has helped her through some difficult times on the job. Once, on a hot July day Kathy and I were scheduled to tour an agriculture processing plant. Afterward we were scheduled for several meetings with my constituents. Needless to say, the hot weather mixed with the aroma of the plant did not make for a good combination. Kathy's remarkable sense of humor allowed her to get through the experience and the potential embarrassment when we left the plant to attend our next meeting. You might say we left the plant, but the plant did not leave us!

Kathy is one of those rare people who when people see her walk through the door they immediately have a smile on their face. Rarely is she greeted with just a handshake or a simple

hello. More often than not the people in the community greet her with a hug. She has a true gift for connecting with people.

Not only will the people of the Second District miss Kathy, but her co-workers and I will especially feel her absence. Some on my staff have had the privilege of working with Kathy for the entire past nine years, and some have worked with her for a much shorter period. Regardless of the amount of time spent working with Kathy, everyone on my staff is able to agree on one thing. Kathy always brings out the positives in any situation and is able to find a silver lining in even the most negative circumstances. For the past several years Kathy has undertaken a project to help her co-workers and me remember the positive aspects of our job. Each month Kathy compiles all the "thank you" notes, e-mails and messages that come to all of my offices. She then forwards them to all her co-workers and me. This is a good example of this facet of her personality. It can be easy to let the negative comments and situation influence us, but every month the "thank-you's" have reminded us of the positive impact our work can sometimes have on the people of the Second District.

Kathy Reed will indeed be missed by not only the people of the Second District, but especially by her co-workers and me. I wish Kathy nothing but the best as she enters this exciting phase of her life. She and her husband Chuck plan to travel the country and spend plenty quality time with their children and grandson. I am truly sad that she will no longer be a part of my organization, but I am proud that she was with me for nine years, and I am honored to call her my friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF NANCY JOHNSON, ALABAMA OLYMPIAN

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, Today I pay tribute to Nancy Johnson of Phenix City, Alabama, who earned the first medal for the United States at the 2000 Olympic Games. She took the gold in the 10-meter air rifle event. Nancy won by defeating Korean Cho-Hyun Kang by two-tenths of a point, matching the Olympic finals world record with her combined score.

Nancy Johnson came to the 2000 Olympics as the 1999 U.S. Air Rifle National Champion, but she was a member of the 1996 Air Rifle Olympic Team competing in Atlanta. In her spare time, she is a runner and a mountain biker. Most remarkable is the fact that in 1991, after suffering nerve damage, she was told that she would never shoot again. With hard work and dedication, she proved the doctors wrong.

During the 2 weeks of the Sydney Olympics, we were treated to some remarkable athletic achievements. The determination of these athletes to achieve their goals was an inspiration to us. I salute Nancy Johnson on her gold medal victory.