

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.

HONORING JOSEPH P. NACCHIO

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize Joe Nacchio, chairman and chief executive officer of Qwest Communications International Inc. of Denver, CO, and join the National Italian American Foundation as it honors him for the Special Achievement Award in Communications which will be presented on October 28, 2000, in Washington, DC.

As the Representative of Colorado's Sixth Congressional District, and a fellow Italian-American, I am extremely pleased to recognize Joe Nacchio as he receives this award.

Joe Nacchio was born in Brooklyn to a blue collar Italian immigrant family. His late grandparents and great-grandparents all arrived in America via Ellis Island. It is an honor for me to recognize the determination and commitment he has exhibited in his personal and professional life. He has been blessed, fortunate and has epitomized the entrepreneurial spirit, especially at Qwest, in order to achieve this award and great success in the high technology world. His parents, Frank and Carmela Nacchio, will join Joe in Washington, DC, as he is recognized for his exemplary contributions to corporate success and growth. I know that Joe has been a great source of pride for them and his wife, Anne, and his sons, David and Michael.

The people of Colorado have every right to be proud of him, especially now that Qwest Communications is the largest private employer in the State. I salute Joe Nacchio, for his leadership and drive, which has and will continue to benefit the business environment as well as his deep commitment to his family, values, and principles as an Italian-American.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE MARY
MURGUIA

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 a Kansas native and former resident of the Third Congressional District of Kansas, Mary Murguia, who on October 3rd was confirmed, by voice vote, by the U.S. Senate as a Federal District Court Judge for the District of Arizona.

Mary Murguia is the first Latina to be appointed to the federal bench in Arizona. The daughter of Alfred and Amalia Murguia, she and her six brothers and sisters grew up in the Argentine neighborhood of Kansas City, Kansas, where her parents still reside. She received bachelor's degrees in Spanish and journalism from the University of Kansas in 1982 and a law degree from KU in 1985.

Mary began her law career as an assistant district attorney for the Wyandotte County district attorney's office in Kansas City, Kansas; in 1990 she was appointed as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Arizona, where she served until 1998. Since that time, she worked in the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., as

the director of the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, where she served as liaison between the Attorney General, the offices and agencies of the Justice Department, and the 94 U.S. Attorneys' offices.

Mary's brother, Carlos Murguia, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate last year as the first Latino Federal District Court Judge for the District of Kansas; her twin sister, Janet Murguia, served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs for President Clinton and is now Deputy Campaign Manager for Constituency Outreach for the Gore-Lieberman 2000 campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity today to pay tribute to newly appointed Federal District Court Judge Mary Murguia and I wish her a lengthy and personally rewarding career in public service on the federal bench.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT
ON H.R. 4811, FOREIGN OPERATIONS,
EXPORT FINANCING,
AND RELATED PROGRAMS AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, which includes a critical provision to provide debt relief to 30 of the world's poorest countries, fulfilling a pledge by the United States to help alleviate the often crippling debts that have hindered economic development in the Third World.

The plan includes the full \$435 million sought by President Clinton for debt relief for highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) as well as language allowing the International Monetary Fund to revalue its gold reserves for additional debt forgiveness. I applaud the work of the Administration, which spearheaded the international effort to relieve debt from the world's poorest countries. This program requires such nations to reallocate funds from debt payments into human capital development and prohibits the participation of nations with excessive military spending, involvement in drugs, terrorist activity or human rights violations. It is important to note that the United States is not the largest creditor, either bilaterally or multilaterally, but without U.S. leadership and participation this effort could not succeed. Most of the debt targeted for relief are longstanding bilateral loans by the World Bank and other international financial institutions.

I want to congratulate Mr. CALLAHAN, the Chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, who included compromise language that requires a 2-year moratorium on construction project loans from international banks to countries that will benefit from the debt relief effort. While we support responsible direct debt relief for poor countries, I strongly agree that we take steps to ensure the money isn't used just to pay off bad loans rather than directly assisting poor people.

In fact, the moratorium provisions are substantively similar to an amendment I offered last November during the House Banking Committee's consideration of H.R. 1095, legis-

lation which took an important step in relieving some of the debt loads carried by the world's poorest nations. The amendment I offered would have imposed strict conditions against further lending for a period of five years for any country that obtains debt relief. While I strongly support debt relief, I believe it should be structured to ensure that participating countries cannot return to high levels of debt acquisition without a reasonable "cooling-off" period; similar to the conditions required by law in the U.S. for individuals who declare bankruptcy. While my amendment was not approved by the Committee, I am pleased that similar provisions were included in this Conference Report.

As a member of the House Banking Committee, I am especially pleased that the Leadership chose to make this commitment to debt relief. I believe much credit should go to my colleague and Chairman of the Banking Committee, JIM LEACH. Last year, under his leadership, the Banking Committee approved took critical steps toward realizing our debt relief goals through passage of H.R. 1095. While some of the most important provisions of H.R. 1095 were realized last year, the debt relief provisions included in this conference report help us to fully abide by our pledge to engage in meaningful debt relief for the world's poorest countries.

I am also pleased with the \$2.82 billion in aid to Israel contained in this bill. U.S. aid to Israel is always essential, but it is especially important today with the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. As the region is engulfed in violence, it is precisely at such moments that the clear demonstration of U.S. support for Israel and her security, as manifested in this foreign aid bill, is vitally important. U.S. aid to Israel, both economic and military, helps Israel meet its most pressing security needs. As other nations in the Middle East expand and modernize their arsenals, U.S. aid provides Israel with the means to obtain the advanced American weaponry it needs to defend itself. By keeping Israel's strong and prepared, U.S. aid actively deters aggressors from attacking Israel without an American military presence, which Israel has never sought. It is only through an affirmative vote for this Conference Report that Israel will receive this critical U.S. support.

Mr. Speaker, at less than 1 percent of the federal budget, foreign aid helps the U.S. confront threats to our national security and promotes peace and democracy while supporting humanitarian objectives. I urge my colleagues to support the debt relief provisions in this bill, U.S. aid to Israel and passage of the Fiscal Year 2001 Foreign Operations Appropriation Conference Report.

PATRICK ROY: THE GREATEST

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the greatest goal tender in the history of the National Hockey League (NHL). Patrick Roy, a perennial Hall of Famer representing the Colorado Avalanche, earned the distinction of the winningest goalie in NHL history on Tuesday, October 17th by winning his 448th