

WILLIAM KENZO NAKAMURA
COURTHOUSE

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 5302, to name the United States courthouse in downtown Seattle as the "William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse."

It is important to pay tribute to a man who made such great contributions to our nation. Private First Class Nakamura was an outstanding American, and this is a fitting way to honor him for giving his life to protect our freedom.

Pfc. Nakamura grew up in what is now the Chinatown International District in Seattle. He was studying at the University of Washington when he was moved with his family to an internment camp in Idaho. Despite this hardship, Pfc. Nakamura joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which went on to become the most decorated military unit in history.

On June 4, 1944, Pfc. Nakamura provided cover for a retreating platoon in Catellina, Italy, and was killed by enemy fire. At first, Nakamura and other soldiers of color did not receive national recognition for their heroic deeds. Finally, this June, Nakamura and other soldiers received the Medal of Honor.

I believe naming this courthouse after Pfc. Nakamura is a fitting tribute for a man who defended his country and the freedoms we all enjoy. Pfc. Nakamura's valor and heroic actions should never be forgotten, and his dedication to his country—the United States—should be honored. I encourage all my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING LION IRVING STRAVITZ
OCTOBER 2, 1912-DECEMBER 19, 1998

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lion Irving Stravitz, who passed away on December 19, 1998.

Irving Stravitz was raised in Brooklyn and, as a child, loved to work with his hands. He became a carpenter at a very young age and always had his own business.

He met and married Eva, who became his partner in Lionism and life. She served side by side with him through thick and thin for the sixty-three years of their marriage. Together, they raised two children, David and Renee, who bestowed upon them the loves of their lives: two grandchildren, Allison and Matthew.

Irving was emblematic of the drive that Lion Melvin Jones, one of the founding members of Lionism, exhibited. Irving became a member of the Hyde Park Lions Club and served the Club by holding every office up to and including President. He was elected to the position of Deputy District Governor of District 20-K1. Mid-stream, Irving transferred into the Brooklyn Canarsie Lions Club and served for the remainder of his thirty years. He received Certificates of Appreciation, plaques that honored his dedication and was the first Lion in the Club to be presented with the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award.

His love and dedication will keep him in our hearts forever. Irving Stravitz was a Pin Trader and Pin Maker. His special project was the Vacation Camp for the Blind where his skill as a carpenter proved invaluable. He was involved with the Little League and ran the Hyde Park Lions Club's annual football pool fundraiser.

In the final words of Marc Antony's eulogy of Julius Caesar, "Indeed, this was a man." Mr. Speaker, I join with his friends and loved ones in saying "Irving, indeed you were a man and one of Lionism's finest tributes."

Mr. Speaker, Lion Irving Stravitz is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

VIOLATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, as we near the end of this session, one of the country's largest companies is asking Congress for special treatment. According to numerous media reports, AT&T is asking Congress to attach an amendment to an appropriations bill to allow them to violate conditions they agreed to when their merger with MediaOne was approved by the FCC. This amendment would allow AT&T to violate the caps on cable ownership, caps that are designed to promote competition and protect consumers from price-gouging.

No Member of either this House or the other body has introduced a bill to give AT&T this break, nor has a single hearing been held on the issue. To even consider this bill to enter legislation would not at this time be wise for the simple fact that we do not have enough proper information to make an informed decision concerning this break for AT&T.

Mr. Speaker, we should ask that AT&T keep their word. As well we should reject any last minute legislation that has not been fully reviewed by the Congress.

HONORING LAWRENCE D. DAHMS,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, METRO-
POLITAN TRANSPORTATION COM-
MISSION

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Lawrence D. Dahms, executive director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in the San Francisco Bay Area, who will be retiring at the end of this year.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) was created in 1970 to provide transportation planning for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. MTC is the designated federal Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area, and is charged with disbursing federal, state and regional transportation revenues in the region. The retirement of Lawrence D. Dahms is a severe loss to the Bay Area community.

Lawrence D. Dahms has served as MTC's executive director since 1977. In both his 23 years at MTC and in an earlier six-year stint at the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART), Larry spearheaded the successful effort to extend BART to San Francisco International Airport. His many accomplishments also include a pivotal role in negotiating the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Rail Agreement, known as MTC Resolution No. 1876. This became the basis for securing federal funding for BART to San Francisco International Airport and the Tasman light-rail extension in Silicon Valley, as well as state and local funding for East Bay BART extensions to Dublin and Bay Point.

In addition to his regional impact, Larry was a leader on the national stage in developing and advocating the landmark 1991 federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). This ushered in a new era in federal transportation policy by giving states and localities greater responsibility and flexibility in the investment of federal dollars. Larry continued his involvement as he advocated for the passage of ISTEA's successor, the 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the Twenty First Century (TEA-21), which consolidated that policy shift and dramatically increased funding levels.

Larry took the lead in implementing this new federal policy at the local level by establishing the Bay Area Partnership to foster multimodal decision-making and coalition building, in the process creating a trail-blazing MPO that is a model for the nation.

I, as well as the Bay Area Congressional Delegation, wish Mr. Dahms our most sincere thanks for his accomplishments. We greatly appreciate his achievements on behalf of the past, current and the future residents of our region. We wish him well in all his future professional and personal endeavors.

HONORING DUSTY RHODES

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the director of Sail Boston 2000, Dusty Rhodes.

It has been estimated that between seven and eight million people visited Boston during Sail Boston 2000. It was a remarkably well planned and well-executed international tall ship event. From the pageantry of the Opening Ceremony at Rows Wharf to the spectacular Parade of Sail out Boston Harbor for the start of the race to Halifax, Boston was at her very best. Residents and tourists alike thrilled to the majesty of the ships and warmly welcomed the young crews to the historic Port of Boston. The presence of the tall ships in July was a nostalgic reminder of our city's great maritime heritage and a celebration of the rebirth of our magnificent harbor.

Boston was the only Official Race Port in the United States for the International and American Sail Training Associations' Tall Ships 2000 Race of the Century. An event of this magnitude requires precise planning and extraordinary effort, and the appropriate credit should be given to the person who was most responsible for bringing the ships to the port and organizing Sail Boston 2000, the largest

event ever held in the history of New England. Her name is Dusty Rhodes.

Eight years ago, immediately following her success in producing Sail Boston 92, Dusty, as President of Conventures, Inc. flew to London to attend the Annual International Sail Training (ISTA) Race Committee Conference. Although not on any agenda, she lobbied committee members, ISTA officials, ship captains, diplomats, and governmental officials, promoting Boston as a potential Race Port for the year 2000.

Energetically and tirelessly (and pregnant), she fought for Boston. It was just the beginning of her persistent and often frustrating attempts to have Boston officially designated for the Tall Ships 2000 Race. Dusty returned each year, from 1993 to 1997 continuing her mission and, I will add, all at her own expense.

In 1996 the International Race Committee selected Boston as a result of her efforts. OPSAIL then entered the competition for the first time attempting to have New York designated as the Official Race Port in place of Boston. Race Ports were required to pay a port fee to ISTA under the Race Committee Rules. New York refused and Dusty Rhodes committed her own funds to assure Boston's involvement. These funds, like many others which accrued during the planning process of Sail Boston, were totally at risk, but Dusty's belief in the potential of this millennium tall ship event made her even more determined. She took that risk and, when the dust settled, Boston had been selected and the OPSAIL, New York/Boston battle began.

Sail Boston was a huge success, from a maritime as well as a financial point of view for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Hotels, restaurants, tour boats and retail establishments all benefited substantially from the millions of people who came to Boston for the return of the Tall Ships. Thanks to Dusty Rhodes and her efforts on behalf of the City, Boston will continue its prominence as a destination point for national and international tourism. In a 1992 Boston Globe article, she was referred to as "the Unsinkable Dusty Rhodes." With all the obstacles thrown in her way, Dusty has proved to be just that, and we all can thank her for making the Summer of 2000 a most memorable one.

MISSED OPPORTUNITY ON MEDICAL PRIVACY

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, today I spoke regarding the unfinished business of ensuring Americans that their personal medical information will be kept confidential. Despite a consensus that an individual's health information is easily accessed and susceptible to manipulation, Congress failed to act on this crucial issue.

This is certainly not a new issue. I first introduced comprehensive medical privacy legislation at the beginning of the 104th Congress. Last year, in an effort to reach a consensus, I worked closely with Rep. HENRY WAXMAN, Rep. ED MARKEY and Rep. JOHN DINGELL to develop a bill that could gain the support of

the majority of our colleagues. The product of this effort was H.R. 1941, the Health Information Privacy Act. In addition to the four primary sponsors, 66 of our colleagues joined us in sponsoring this legislation.

We were not alone in our efforts to protect these sensitive records. The Secretary of Health and Human Services, directed by provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, issued proposed health privacy regulations on November 3, 1999 after Congress failed to meet its self imposed deadline. In all, these proposed regulations represent a good solid start, but failed to address several key items since the Secretary's scope was limited to health plans, clearinghouses and providers that share health information electronically.

Therefore, the proposed regulations did not cover health records that have never been maintained or shared electronically. Additionally, the Secretary's proposal does not cover all entities that come into possessions of health information. Safeguards given to an individual's health record should be applied equally, whether it is in the hand of a health care provider, researcher or a lending institution.

Unfortunately, the issue of medical privacy was never given the attention it deserves in this Congress. The leadership of the next Congress, should make this issue a priority and make a public commitment to schedule a full, fair and open floor debate within the first three months of reconvening the next session. This will be the only way we can come to an agreement on comprehensive medical privacy legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MIZELL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR RECEIPT OF THE 2000 ALABAMA QUALITY AWARD

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding business in my congressional district which was recently honored with a prestigious state award for operational excellence.

Earlier this month, Mizell Memorial Hospital in Opp, Alabama was named the winner of the 2000 Alabama Quality Award for excellence in leadership; strategic planning; patients, other customers, staff and market focus; information and analysis; process management; and organizational performance.

The Alabama Quality Award, modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, honors organizations whose recent innovations increased productivity and quality within the organization.

For years, Mizell Memorial has served rural South Alabama with a level of professionalism equal to and surpassing Alabama's most innovative and progressive businesses. I am pleased that its employees' fine work and dedication has finally been recognized with this prestigious award.

My congratulations go out to Mizell Memorial Hospital's management and employees for their exemplary efforts to improve the lives of south Alabamians.

TRIBUTE TO HANNAH JOANN LANZHEN SIMONS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pride to extend this official welcome to one of our nation's newest citizens, Hannah JoAnn LanZhen Simons of Hood River, Oregon.

Hannah was born November 8, 1996 in Magongtan, Zhejiang Province in the Peoples Republic of China. Her first months were spent in the Lanxi Social Welfare Institute, an orphanage. In the summer of 1997, she was adopted at Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, PRC by her mother, Marta Simons, and brought to the United States to live. On September 26 of this year, she became a citizen of the United States.

It's a wonderful thing that China allows for these adoptions which have lifted little babies out of orphanages and placed them into arms of loving families here in America.

Mr. Speaker, it's also important to acknowledge the continued efforts of this Congress to expand the opportunity and affordability for adoption. Together, with families like Hannah's, we're making life better for children from around the world.

ABBOTT LABORATORIES OVER- CHARGES TAXPAYERS AND JEOPARDIZES PUBLIC HEALTH

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am today submitting for the RECORD a letter I sent to Mr. Miles White, Chief Executive Officer of Abbott Laboratories. Recent congressional investigations have collected evidence that Abbott has reported inflated prices and has engaged in other improper business practices in order to create windfall profits for providers submitting Medicare and Medicaid claims for certain Abbott drugs.

Such drug company behavior overcharges taxpayers and jeopardizes the public health system. The letter follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 31, 2000.

Mr. MILES WHITE,
Chief Executive Officer, Abbott Laboratories,
Abbott Park, IL.

DEAR MR. WHITE: You should by now be aware of Congressional investigations revealing that Abbott has for many years reported and published inflated and misleading price data and has engaged in other deceptive business practices. This letter is a call for your company to immediately cease overcharging taxpayers and jeopardizing the public health.

The price manipulation scheme is executed through Abbott's inflated representations of average wholesale price ("AWP") and direct price ("DP") which are utilized by the Medicare and Medicaid programs in establishing drug reimbursements to providers. The difference between the inflated representations of AWP and DP versus the true price providers are paying, is regularly referred to in