the age of six in child care at least part time. An additional 24 million school age children are in some form of child care outside of school time.

Early childhood is the most critical time of development and may have the most impact on the shape of a child's future. Child care providers largely influence these important years with their compassion, patience, encouragement, and love for young children.

Whether they work in a child care center, nursery school, family-daycare, or before-school and after-school program, it takes a special person to choose the field of child care. Provider Appreciation Day offers a unique opportunity to recognize and commend the dedication, understanding, kindness, and good example that child care providers exemplify everyday.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Suzanne Williamson, Chairwoman of Provider Appreciation Day, for her hard work in establishing a national day of recognition for child car providers. Ms. Williamson is also the Director for Monday Morning Child Care, Inc., a network of child car providers located in Union County, New Jersey. I would also like to express my gratitude to Nelida ''Nellie'' Melendez-Carroll who cares for my two and a half year old daughter, Kelly.

Please join me in thanking child care providers nationwide for their hard work and self-sacrifice in committing their lives to this nation's most precious investment . . . our children.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THEODORE ROETHKE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the memory of a great poet, Michigan's only Pulitzer Prize winner, and a truly great American. Though he passed away more than 35 years ago, the spirit of Theodore Roethke lives on through his poetry and leaves an impressive legacy as a prominent figure in the rich history of American literature.

To keep his memory alive, the ''Friends of Theodore Roethke'' was created in Saginaw to promote, preserve, and protect his legacy. By restoring his family residence and organizing a wide range of cultural and educational events, the organization does a tremendous job of honoring Theodore Roethke's memory and continuing his legacy of teaching and sharing in literary pleasures.

Theodore Roethke was born in Saginaw, Michigan in 1908 to German immigrants Otto Roethke and Helen Huebner. Otto Roethke took over the family florist business when his father passed away, and Theodore spent much of his time as a small boy following his father around the greenhouse and the fields, helping out as much as he could. This early exposure to nature would have a profound influence on his poetry later in life.

Roethke attended the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he did quite well and was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa honor society during his senior year in 1929. It was at Michigan that he began writing poetry. He went on to briefly attend law school, but left after only one class to pursue a master's degree in literature, studying such poets as Elinor Wylie and E.E. Cummings. When the Great Depression hit, Roethke was forced to leave school and find a job, which he did, teaching at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania.

As the years went on, Roethke held several other teaching positions—among them jobs at Michigan State, Penn State, and the University of Washington—all the while having more and more of his poetry published. In 1945, he received a Guggenheim Fellowship and took the time to return to Saginaw to write. In 1953, Roethke married Beatrice O'Connell, and in that same year, The Waking was published, and included what many consider to be his greatest works. He continued to write and be commended for his poetry up until his death, and he receives critical praise to this day for his works. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Saginaw in 1963 at the age of 55.

During his life, Theodore Roethke was awarded two Guggenheim Fellowships, the Eunice Tietjens Memorial Prize, two Ford Foundation grants, a Pulitzer Prize for The Waking, a Fulbright grant, the Bollingen Prize, a National Book Award for Words for the Wind, a Shelley Memorial Award, and he received a National Book Award for The Far Field posthumously in 1965.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize such a distinguished and world renowned poet, who so gracefully put into words the beauty, mystery, and power of the natural world. I urge you and all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Theodore Roethke for his tremendous contributions to American literature, and the lasting impact he has had on American culture.

RESEARCH! AMERICA'S 1999 AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AS VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, on March 28, 2000, I presented Patty Wood and the Washington Association for Biomedical Research with the Research! America's 1999 Award for Exceptional Contributions as Volunteer Advocates for Medical Research.

Patty has been an energetic advocate, spokesperson, and volunteer for the Northwest Kidney Centers and the Washington Association for Biomedical Research. As an organ recipient herself, she understands the importance of organ donation and the value of biomedical research in giving people a second chance. I also want to acknowledge Dr. Joseph Eschbach, President of the Washington Association for Biomedical Research, and Susan Adler, the Executive Director of the Association, for their outstanding commitment in educating the public on the benefits of funding biomedical research.

On April 16–21, 2000, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer featured a five-part series on the use of animals in biomedical research. Enclosed are the first two articles of the series. Reprints of the complete five-part series can be obtained directly from Susan Adler, Executive Director of the Washington Association for Biomedical Research, at the following address: 2033 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98121. The articles can also be viewed on the Association's website at www.wabr.org. I hope that these articles will help educate the public on this important issue.

[From the Seattle P–I.com Opinion, Sun., Apr. 16, 2000]

ANIMALS AND RESEARCH PART 1: UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF GENETIC DISEASE THROUGH ANIMAL RESEARCH

(By Joseph W. Eschbach)

In my office and at the hospital, I diagnose and treat a myriad of illnesses—some life-threatening, others not so serious. In performing these tasks, I need to keep up with the advances that make it possible to treat these illnesses. I also need to talk with my patients about the medical procedures, surgery and medicines I recommend and/or prescribe and the research that makes them safe and effective.

A young patient, Bobby, recently came to my office with a fever and complaints of ear pain. The diagnosis—a middle-ear infection—is common, particularly in children, and accounts for many a missed school day. While the infection can usually be cured with an antibiotic, in the future most children will not get this infection because of a recently developed vaccine.

This vaccine was first shown to be effective and safe in studies involving rats, guinea pigs and chinchillas. I told Bobby's mother that this vaccine, which immunizes infants and children against the organism that causes the infection, will soon be available—in time to protect his baby sister. Not only will this vaccine decrease the incidence of recurring infections, it also will reduce the need for taking antibiotics.

I tell Mrs. D, who once had serious chest pain, that the device used to open up the blockage in her heart arteries was first tested and perfected in dog studies. During their training, the surgeons who performed her subsequent bypass surgery were able to practice and perfect their surgical skills on dogs, before operating on humans. Growing pressure by animal rights groups has recently caused some medical schools to close their dog laboratories. For these future surgeons, their first introduction to performing complex procedures will be on patients. I am concerned about how this will affect the future of these people.

Animal models have been the key to unlocking the secrets of many genetic diseases. The genetic makeup of animals and humans is similar, which has allowed scientists to study diseases in animals with genetic defects similar to those in humans.

One day, Jim came in complaining that he spontaneously fell asleep under the most embarrassing situations: at work, with guests and while watching his favorite football team. A neurological exam confirmed that he had narcolepsy, a disease caused by a defective version of the gene called hypocretin receptor 2.

Much of what we know about narcolepsy comes from studies on a breed

These dogs were also used to initially test the effectiveness of certain drug therapies, including the one I prescribed to Jim. This drug alone is ultimately expected to help the 250,000 Americans with narcolepsy, as well as dogs with the disorder.

The flu has been a major cause of days lost from work and even death in young and old. Jackie recently came to the office with a fever of 102 degrees and a bad cough; she was feeling horrible. Examination and initial laboratory tests suggested she had the flu and,

while waiting for confirmation of viral tests, she was prescribed a new ''anti-viral'' antibiotic designed specifically to combat influenza. This drug is the result of years of testing, first in rats and rabbits, and then in humans, and represents a major advance against this illness.

Sarah has diabetes. The insulin she requires allows her to live a relatively normal life; until recently, the insulin was derived solely from the pancreas glands of pigs and cows. Recent advances in recombinant molecular biology techniques have made human insulin available, as well.

Insulin-dependent diabetes was uniformly fatal before the 1920s when Drs. Frederick G. Banting and Charles H. Best, through experiments in dogs, proved that insulin corrected the disorder. On the horizon, thanks to experiments in several animal species, is the hope that the specific pancreas cells that produce insulin (islet cells) can be transplanted into any diabetic and cure the condition, eliminate the need for insulin shots and eliminate long-term complications.

There are many other stories I could tell about how my patients have benefited from animal research. The hypertension medication, the ultrasound technology and the organ transplant techniques and immunological methods were all made possible because of experiments using animals.

ANIMALS & RESEARCH, A FIVE-PART SERIES

Part 1: Unlocking the secrets of genetic disease through animal research

Part 2: Improving medical treatment for animals

Part 3: Animals are key to discovering new medicines

Part 4: The ethics of using animals in research

Part 5: How research animals live

Some patients express concern for these animals and ask why they need to be used for research. I reassure them that researchers must comply with strict federal regulations requiring care and use protocols be carefully reviewed by an animal care committee, whose membership must include an experienced scientist, a veterinarian and a member of the general public. Alternatives to animals are used whenever possible (cell and tissue cultures and computer modeling), but these findings ultimately need to be confirmed in a complex intact animal.

I also try to put the use of research animals into perspective. More than 95 percent of all animals used for research in the United States are laboratory-bred rats and mice. Contrary to popular belief, dogs, cats and primates together account for only about 1 percent of all the animals used in research. Data from October 1997 through September 1998 indicate that about 100,000 dogs and cats were used in research in that year, which compares with between 2 million to 7 million unwanted dogs and cats killed annually in the nation's pounds, as reported by the Humane Society of the United States.

Bobby and his sister; Jackie; Jim; and Sarah, as well as every American alive today, have benefited in some way from animal research. However, many other illnesses still are in need of cures, such as cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer's and others. It is the promise of animal research that provides our hopes for having longer, healthier lives.

[From the Seattle P–I.Com Opinion, Tues, Apr. 18, 2000]

ANIMALS AND RESEARCH, PART 2: ANIMALS BENEFIT FROM RESEARCH

(By Patrick R. Gavin)

PULLMAN—For some time now we've been caring for ''Hope'' at the Washington, State University College of Veterinary Medicine teaching hospital. She's a mixed-breed dog whose owner shot her in the head in February and left her for dead.

Before she ever came to WSU, a good Samaritan in Montana found her at a public fishing access and got her to emergency care. Anesthetics, analgesics, antibiotics, radiographs, sutures, stomach tubes, dressings, bandages, liquefied food, intravenous lines and solutions were employed by competent veterinary care to keep her alive.

The owner eventually was arrested and convicted of a misdemeanor charge of animal cruelty and was forced to pay a $200 fine and give up Hope to the courts. After that, she was brought to our care for reconstructive surgery. Here we've employed many of the same treatments mentioned above as well as others in order to not only keep Hope alive, but to heal her to the best quality of life we can provide for her and her now adoptive owners.

One criticism often leveled at biomedical researchers is that if humans so desperately need biomedical research for advancement, they should perform the work on humans, not animals. My question is, what about the animals that need biomedical research?

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Part 5: How research animals live

Almost completely ignored in animal rights debates are the benefits of humans using non-human animals in research for the exclusive benefit of other non-human animals. In Hope's case, every human intervention that has touched her had to be developed and tested on animals to ensure its safety and effectiveness before it entered general veterinary use.

From vaccines to veterinary surgical techniques; from improved behavior to better housing; in matters of nutrition, reproduction, habitat restoration and conservation as well as in public health and environmental studies, the examples of biomedical research benefitting wild and domesticated animals are overwhelmingly positive and widespread.

Many animals studies are conducted in order to discover and develop alternatives to animal use, to prove their efficacy and to advance the science.

At WSU, for example, I am a veterinary radiation oncologist who studies the best way to treat cancer in animals using radiation therapy. Our research regularly uses client-owned animals with existing cancers that need care to help advance the science for other animals that need care. Healing and research can walk hand in hand.

Currently, there is no non-living model that can help these animals or the scores of others that will follow them to our care. Were it not for the animal scientists, wildlife professionals, veterinary researchers and clinicians that have dedicated their lives to benefit non-human animals, the animals that suffer from disease, starvation, injury and illness would be left without a voice for their health and well-being.

Despite what we do, how we do it and the benefits animals derive from it, it's not enough. For the extremist, any use of animals by humans is wrong, even if it benefits other animals.

Most people, however, understand the need for animal research in many areas, in particular when it benefits animals. They also understand funding limitations and priorities that include studying sentinel species and naturally occurring animal diseases that also occur in humans.

As scientists and veterinarians, we are not above public scrutiny of our activities. We have a profound responsibility and an economic incentive to pursue optimal animal health, alternatives, non-living models, computer simulation, isolated tissue cultures, reduced animal use, optimal care and, when necessary, the quick and humane death of an animal. As these alternatives are discovered and refined, they are quickly adopted as the new standards for study.

Again, history is replete with examples where this has occurred. Kidney transplants for animals were unheard of less than a decade ago. Now, thanks to the benefits of biomedical research and clinical practice in animals and in humans, veterinary colleagues at the University of California at Davis have perfected this life-saving surgery for animals.

Equally as demanding a responsibility to the public is the assurance that the work we do with animals, for animals, is conducted in a scientifically sound, cost-effective and efficacious manner. This reduces overall the need for duplicating studies and the number of animals involved. At the same time, it requires that a sufficient number of initial test subjects be used to demonstrate statistical significance where it exists or, more important, where it doesn't.

Professionals have no vested interest in keeping costly animal colonies.

In the case of livestock, for example, doing away with experimental herds where appropriate can save thousands of dollars a day, money that can be applied toward additional findings and further advancement.

Past uses of animals often are not acceptable to the general public today. These changes come in part through researchers themselves and the non-employee public voices that sit on animal-care and -use committees required at every institution receiving federal research funding.

Changes in research also come by way of the conscientious efforts of state and federal regulators as well as private-industry agencies such as the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care. AAALAC is an independent body that has requirements for animal care and use that supercede the nation's state and federal legal requirements for animal care and use.

But all of this means nothing to the vocal few who oppose all human interaction with animals and who condemn modern civilization as an unnatural aberration. It's an easy argument to make, the argument of the spoiler.

Fortunately, most people see through this facade and instead see a voiceless world of animals that need humans as much as we need them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I was unavoidable detained from presence on the House Floor. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

House Concurrent Resolution 326, Responsibility for New Mexico fires—''yes'' Passage of H.R. 4425, Military Construction Appropriations for FY 2001—''yes.''