

invaluable contribution to the education of our children. I understand it is the first time such a resolution has been before the House. I would like to join my House colleagues in extolling the virtues of Catholic educational institutions that have provided consistently excellent alternatives to our public school system—even though I am a product of our public schools.

I am proud to represent and participate in a Catholic society as rich in culture and heritage as El Paso's. Many products of the Catholic education system can be found at all levels of society today, including Sister Elizabeth Anne Swartz, Superintendent of the Diocese Schools in El Paso, whom I would like to commend for the fine job she is doing. I would also like to take a moment to congratulate Bishop Armando X. Ochoa on the great job he is doing, too!

In my district, there are 13 Diocese schools which support 4,607 students and 300 educators. Most Diocese schools posted enrollment increases this year. One school, Father Yermo Elementary School, is celebrating its 40th year. Another, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, is celebrating its 81st year.

Last Saturday night, I was privileged to attend an event recognizing the supporters of Catholic education in El Paso. The organizers of this year's "Supporters of Catholic Education in the El Paso Diocese," or SEED, Awards were: Marissa Alvarado; Elvia Borrego; Sr. Kathleen Corbett, SL; Debra Fraire; Bobbie Hernandez; the Honorable Sue Kurita; Manny Lopez; Carmen Montes; Bertha Schachtsneider; Sr. Elizabeth Anne Swartz, SSND; Olga Torres; Alfred Torres; and Luis Villalobos. I congratulate each and every one of them for all the hard work they put into making this event a great success.

I would also like to recognize the members of the Diocesan Board of Education: Sister Elizabeth Anne Swartz, SSND, Superintendent; Manny Lopez, President; Adriana Sierra-Loya, Vice-President; Marie Doyle; the Honorable Martha "Sue" Kurita; Robert Lopez; Rev. Marcus McFadin; Mary Alice Szostek; Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Smith; and Luis Villalobos.

I would like to congratulate the winners of the 2000 SEED awards. From Blessed Sacrament, Best Faculty/Staff; Juanita Reyes; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Elena Aguirre; Best Volunteer: Kathy Cortez; and Best Alumni: James Towle. From Cathedral High School, Best Faculty/Staff; Luz Ulrickson; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Adrian Martinez; Best Volunteer: Menira De La Fuente; and Best Alumni: Jaime Rivera. From Father Yermo Elementary, Best Faculty/Staff: Rose Chavez. From Father Yermo High School, Best Faculty/Staff: Alfredo Palacio; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Yadro Lizardo; Best Volunteer: Mary Lou Vega; and Best Alumni: Gladys Saucedo. From Holy Trinity, Best Faculty/Staff: Alena VanHouten; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Mark Smith; Best Volunteer: Jude Hicks; and Best Alumni: Carlos Sanchez. From Loreto Academy, Best Faculty/Staff: Shelly Wilson, Angie Davila, and Gerri Mearns; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Sister Mary Ann Coyle, SL; Best Volunteer: Jesus Marrufo; and Best Alumni: Cindy Manzanares. From Our Lady of Assumption, Best Faculty/Staff: Anne Johnson; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Cynthia Kelley; and Best Volunteer: Edward Martinez. From Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Best Faculty/Staff: Edward Frias; Best

Benefactor/Supporter: Jose Armendariz; Best Volunteer: Dolores Bustamante; and Best Alumni: Pedro Tapia. From St. Joseph's, Best Faculty/Staff: Irma Gemoest; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Eduardo Fuentes; Best Volunteer: Belinda Garcia; and Best Alumni: Luis Villalobos. From St. Patrick's, Best Faculty/Staff: Lee Nunez; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Noe Carreon; Best Volunteer: Richard Flores; and Best Alumni: Msgr. A. Dixon Hartford. From St. Pius X, Best Faculty/Staff: Sister Mary Ljundahl; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Margie Escobedo; Best Volunteer: Roger Razo; and Best Alumni: Patricia Martinez. From St. Raphael, Best Faculty/Staff: Tony Brown; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Bruce Galyan; and Best Volunteer: Frank Lujan. From the Diocese of El Paso, Best Benefactor/Supporter: Bishop Armando X. Ochoa and Sr. Elizabeth Anne Swartz, SSND.

And on one final note, as a representative of a largely Catholic district, I, too, am concerned about the controversy surrounding the selection of a new House Chaplain. The House has never had a Catholic Chaplain. Although a bipartisan committee gave Catholic candidate Timothy O'Brien the majority of "first" rankings, the House leadership was unfortunately under no obligation to follow their rankings. Instead, the House leadership conducted a final round of interviews of the three finalists. The Leadership made their decision based upon these interviews, with House minority leader DICK GEPHARDT voting for Mr. O'Brien and Speaker HASTERT and Majority Leader ARMEY recommending Charles Wright.

I believe this controversy exists, at least in part, because everyone was not clear on how the selection process would work from the outset. Many of my Democratic colleagues and I felt that if the committee had a clear consensus on a candidate, as they did on Father O'Brien, then the leadership would naturally follow. Others argue that the bipartisan committee only functioned to screen candidates, leaving the final determination to the leadership. I bear no ill-tidings toward Reverend Wright; but I believe we have missed an opportunity here, which is unfortunate.

#### IN MEMORY OF ROBERT BEYKIRCH

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2000*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Robert (Bob) Beykirch of Sedalia, Missouri.

Bob Beykirch was born on November 24, 1928, in East St. Louis, Illinois, a son of Christopher and Marie Walters Beykirch. He was a staff sergeant in the Illinois National Guard and was stationed in Germany for a year during the Korean War. Bob was a graduate of St. Louis University, where he received a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1955.

In 1957, Bob and his family moved to Sedalia, Missouri, after acquiring an Anheuser-Busch wholesale distributorship that was renamed County Distributing Co. Bob served as president of the Missouri Beer Wholesaler Association and was a member of the Anheuser-Busch Wholesaler Advisory Panel.

Bob served on the Sedalia Park Board, was a board member of the Missouri Chamber of

Commerce, was a past president of the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce, and was a member of the Sedalia Area Tourism Commission. In addition, Bob sat on the board of Citizens Against Spouse Abuse, Children's Therapy Center, and the Sedalia Airport Board. Bob was also involved with the Sedalia-Pettis County United Way, local sports teams, and was an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker, Bob was a successful businessman, civic leader, and a good friend. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Dorothy; his four sons, daughter, and 12 grandchildren.

#### HONORING MS. ELIZABETH (BETH) S. RUYLE

#### HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2000*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Elizabeth (Beth) S. Ruyle for her 21 years of service and dedication as executive director for the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA).

Ms. Ruyle became the executive director of South Suburban Mayors and Managers in June 1978. South Suburban Mayors and Managers is a council of government which includes 38 municipalities in South Suburban Cook and Eastern Will Counties. Through Beth's hard work, many of the communities' goals have been realized. These goals include the development of regional planning programs in transportation, solid waste, flood management, and housing. Twenty municipalities now have an intergovernmental self insurance pool for property and casualty. Twelve municipalities can now boast they have an intergovernmental self insurance pool for employee benefits. All thirty-eight municipalities can now rely on fire, police, and public works mutual aid agreements in times of emergency. Under the direction of Ms. Ruyle, the SSMMA was one of the first entities to establish a multimunicipal bond bank which now has \$50 million in assets.

Before coming to work at the SSMMA, Beth and her husband, Craig Hullinger, lived in Atlanta, GA where she had the position of governmental relations coordinator for the Atlanta Regional Commission. Beth completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Florida in 1968. In 1975, She received her M.P.A. graduate degree from the University of Georgia.

Beth has won several Urban Innovations awards during her career such as an award for Employee Assistance Program, an award for South Suburban Drug Enforcement Program, and a reward for Cost Savings/Revenue Enhancement. In January 1996, Beth was listed in "Crain's Chicago Business" as one of the "100 Most Influential Women In Chicago".

Beth Ruyle's commitment and impact on her community is not only deserving of congressional recognition, but should serve as a model for others to follow.

At a time when our Nation's leaders are asking the people of this country to make serving their community a core value of citizenship, honoring Beth Ruyle is both timely and appropriate.

I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their congressional districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and enlightened America's communities.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF EARL  
LESTER COLE

**HON. JULIAN C. DIXON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2000*

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Earl Lester Cole, one of the great pioneers whose exemplary years of service as an educator at Grambling State University spanned nearly half a century. Earl Lester Cole's tenure at Grambling began in 1936 as a science teacher; advancing through the ranks of the faculty, becoming dean in 1946 and was appointed vice president in 1969.

"Dean Cole" as he was affectionately called even after assuming the vice presidency, can be remembered for his active involvement in implementing curriculum which is considered to be the cornerstone to courses now being offered at Grambling State University. Even after his retirement in 1977, Earl Lester Cole continued to advise members of the faculty and administrators.

Mr. Cole was highly respected by his former colleagues and students and is described as a true professional, a good administrator, and a truly outstanding man who is credited for the positive influence in the educational advancement of his former students. Honesty and a fullness of integrity were accolades from those who knew him well. Over the years, he had been recognized for his numerous contributions to Grambling, culminating 10 years ago in the naming of the university's honors college, the Earl Lester Cole Honors College.

His influential involvement in the community brought several businesses to the university and as an active member of New Rocky Valley Baptist Church, "Dean Cole" was instrumental in the construction of a building for the church.

Mr. Speaker, Earl Lester Cole recently succumbed after a prolonged illness at the age of 89. He can be remembered as a man who gave much to the field of higher education at a historically black university, always exuded a commanding presence during his lifetime. In his passing "Dean Cole" will be deeply missed by his family, colleagues and friends. Our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Garnett, his two children, and Elouise Martin, his sister-in-law.

MARTIN BANDA

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2000*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending an outstanding young man from my district in South Texas, Martin Banda, who was the Southwest Region Youth of the Year in 1999 as part of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the National Youth of the Year Program. They only choose five winners nationally, so this was an enormous honor.

Martin Banda is an 11-year member of the Boys and Girls Club of Harlingen, Texas. The circumstances of Martin's life are the sort that would make many people lose hope. Growing up in the Lemoyne Gardens housing project in Harlingen, Martin could easily have chosen an easy but dangerous life on the streets.

But a higher power led Martin to join the Boys and Girls Club. He thanks the Lord for guiding him to the Club because it is a safe sanctuary from the street. But Martin's obstacles were not just on the streets. His father was incarcerated when Martin was just 5 years old, quickly making Martin the man of the house. This responsible young man took care of his mother and two sisters by disciplining himself and focusing his life around positive things.

I understand the trauma with losing a father early; my own father died when I was 16, leaving me the oldest male in the house. But young Martin had to face that reality and responsibility much earlier in life than I did, and under different circumstances, so it is hard to see how difficult that event marked his young life.

While Martin is grateful to them, the Boys and Girls Club and Harlingen are grateful to Martin as well. Martin is a role model for the other young people in the Boys and Girls Club. He has great athletic ability, having played on several championship football teams. But he is mostly admired for his strong leadership skills, developed first by his participation in the Torch Club and later by his service as vice president of the Keystone Club. At last count, Martin has already won \$29,000 in scholarships. This is a very determined young man who will continue his education on his merit.

Martin is a senior in high school and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society with a 3.75 GPA. It isn't just a pleasure, it is an honor, for me to represent this young man in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Martin Banda, the Southwest Youth of the Year winner for his triumph over the odds and his dedication to excellence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2000*

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent Monday, January 31, 2000 through Wednesday February 2, 2000, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 2 through 7. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 2, "yes" on rollcall vote 3, "yes" on rollcall vote 4, "yes" on rollcall vote 5, "yes" on rollcall vote 6, and "no" on rollcall vote 7.

HONORING WYCKOFF HEIGHTS  
MEDICAL CENTER FOR ITS DEDICATED SERVICE TO BROOKLYN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2000*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the unwavering service and dedication

of the administrators, physicians, nurses and other staff of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, a renowned 350-bed hospital within Brooklyn's 10th Congressional District. For over 100 years, this facility has served the residents of Brooklyn with pride.

I also ask that we take a moment out of our daily business to commend Wyckoff for its extraordinary work throughout the years, and for going that extra mile this month by sponsoring the 1st annual men's health symposium. This symposium entitled "The First Step of Empowerment is Taking Care of Your Health" will be held on Monday, February 14, 2000, and will take the extraordinary step of focusing on men's health in Brooklyn, and throughout this nation.

Although there are numerous individuals who have worked to create this program, I want to applaud the efforts of four individuals: Dominick Gio, president & CEO; Pradeep Chandra, MD, chairman, Internal Medicine; Nirmal Matto, MD, senior vice president, Medical Affairs/director of Nephrology; and William Green, vice president, Ambulatory Services. They each have worked tirelessly to ensure that Wyckoff does not lose the focus of its mission: to provide excellence in care through prevention, education and treatment. In today's health care environment, their unwavering energy and steadfast determination toward improving our health care delivery system is truly a beacon of hope for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my esteemed colleagues join me in commending the work of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center and its dedicated staff. It is truly a shining star in Brooklyn!

THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH  
INSURANCE PROGRAM INTEGRITY ACT OF 2000

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2000*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I join today with Rep. SHERROD BROWN, the ranking Democrat on the Commerce Health Subcommittee, and my California colleagues Representatives HENRY WAXMAN, GEORGE MILLER, BOB MATSUI, ANNA ESHOO, TOM LANTOS, XAVIER BECERRA and LYNN WOOLSEY to introduce the State Children's Health Insurance Program Integrity Act of 2000.

This legislation would prohibit any State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) from allowing a health plan to simultaneously administer and participate in the state plan. While it is simply a technical correction to S-CHIP, it is important technical correction that would eliminate a very real potential for conflict of interest problems caused by health plans playing dual roles in state programs.

The need for this legislation was first brought to our attention in 1998 when California initially granted a contract to a participating health plan to also administer the state CHIP plan. In fact, that health plan withdrew its application and the State went with a non-health plan alternative administrator.

We are now reintroducing the bill and urging its swift passage because it may soon be an issue in California again and could easily become an issue elsewhere since there is nothing in federal law that prohibits states from