

Mr. Clark's efforts and achievements have established him as an invaluable asset to Consumers Energy and will reflect positively for many years to come—his talents will certainly be missed.

It is with great pride and respect that I join with John Clark's friends and colleagues in paying tribute to his many years of service to CMS Energy Corporation, and in wishing him the very best that retirement has to offer.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW MCNENLY**

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2001*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Matthew McNenly of Lansing, Michigan on being awarded a Computational Science Graduate Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Computational Science Graduate fellowship is a rigorous, highly competitive program that provides numerous benefits to the fellows in return for a complete casework in a scientific or engineering discipline, computer science, and applied mathematics.

McNenly graduated from Howell High School in 1994 and is currently attending the University of Michigan pursuing his Ph.D. in Aerospace engineering.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Matthew McNenly for being awarded a Computational Science Graduate Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Energy.

**HONORING THE YALE ALUMNI CHORUS FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT**

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2001*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to extend my deep congratulations and best wishes to the members and friends of the Yale Alumni Chorus as they gather to begin their Tercentenary Tour celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the founding of Yale University and the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Yale Glee Club. Today marks the beginning of their journey to Russia, Wales, and England where they will continue in their mission as "ambassadors of song," promoting international goodwill and choral singing at its finest.

The world-renowned Yale Glee Club was first established 140 years ago and has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Latin America and Asia. The Yale Alumni Chorus was established by the Yale Glee Club Associates, an alumni association founded by Prescott S. Bush, father of former President George Herbert W. Bush and grandfather to President George W. Bush. Created only four years ago, this group enables the loyal alumni of the Yale Glee Club to carry on its legacy of harmony, friendship, and goodwill. Their inaugural tour of China only three years ago included performances with the

principal orchestras of Beijing, Xi'an, and Shanghai and earned them a first-prize award at the China International Chorus Festival.

This Tercentenary Tour will bring the over four hundred participants to Russia where they will perform at the White Nights Festival with the Mariinsky Orchestra and later with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra. The group will provide the opening concert for the International Eisteddfod Festival in Wales and will end their tour at St. Paul's Cathedral in London where they will sing with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at a gala celebrating Yale University's 300th birthday. Throughout their tour, the group will be performing classic American folk music as well as several works composed by Yale University Alumni. Perhaps the most moving and meaningful however, will be the group's performance in Wrexham, Wales where they will participate in a memorial tribute to Elihu Yale, the university's namesake.

Comprised of three generations of Yale alumni representing sixty different graduating classes and hailing from thirty three states and six additional countries, they are a truly remarkable group. It is my honor and privilege to stand today and extend my best wishes to the Yale Alumni Chorus as they begin their Tercentenary Tour. With their passion for music and unquestionable dedication to their alma mater, I am confident that they will represent Yale University, the State of Connecticut, and the United States with dignity and integrity.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO UPCOMING ALBANIAN ELECTIONS**

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2001*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the Congress' attention to the electoral campaign currently underway in Albania. Albania overthrew its communist government in the early 1990's. Sadly, the current socialist government seems to be repeating the authoritarian actions of the communists.

Albanians will go to the polls on June 24th to cast their votes for parliament. Recently, the Washington-based National Democratic Institute for International Affairs sent an observer team to Albania. In their report, the delegation wrote that many citizens are not fully aware of the voter roll verification procedures and some voters may ultimately be unable to exercise their right to vote.

The democratic opposition coalition, the Union for Victory, has made numerous appeals to the election commission and the ruling party to correct the many flaws in the voter rolls. To this day, those appeals have gone unanswered. The election commission, comprised of socialist party appointees has turned a deaf ear to democracy. The Albanian people deserve better.

I hope my colleagues will join me in watching carefully the unfolding events in Albania.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND AL SHARPTON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Reverend Al Sharpton, one of America's foremost civil rights leader, in recognition of his contribution to the ongoing battle against economic injustice, political inequity, and for his continuous service to his church and his community.

Reverend Sharpton began his career in the ministry not long after his birth in 1954 in Brooklyn, New York. Beginning his ministry at the young age of four, he delivered his first sermon to hundreds of listeners in Brooklyn. Mentored by Bishop F.D. Washington, Reverend Sharpton was licensed and ordained by Bishop Washington at the age of 9 and appointed Junior Pastor of the 5,000 member Washington Temple congregation.

His career in politics started shortly after his interest in the ministry. In his 1996 autobiography, *Go and Tell Pharaoh*, Reverend Sharpton retells how his interest in politics grew as Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. mesmerized him. In 1971, Al Sharpton entered the public arena with the founding of the National Youth Movement. Throughout his 17-year leadership of the National Youth Movement, Al Sharpton registered thousands of young voters and led the fight to put the first black on the New York State Metropolitan Transit Authority Board. He also spearheaded a political campaign which resulted in the first minority School Chancellor of the New York City Board of Education. Reverend Sharpton also led the now famous marches against "crack" houses, exposing them to law enforcement agencies.

Reverend Sharpton, as founder and president of the National Action Network, fights for progressive, people-based policies. Al Sharpton has risen as a pivotal spokesman against police brutality in America. Together with Martin Luther King, II, Sharpton led the "Redeem the Dream" March to address the issues of racial profiling and police brutality. His most recent political actions include protesting the U.S. bombing on Vieques, Puerto Rico, an action for which he received a 90 day jail sentence.

Al Sharpton has been married to singer Kathy Jordan for almost twenty years. Together they have two daughters, Dominique and Ashley.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Al Sharpton has devoted his life to serving his community, his church, and all people. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

**INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY**

**HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2001*

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor young people around the world today, as a supporter of the International Children's Day.

Our children are our greatest natural resource, and they embody the very spirit of our nation's future. Our children are wonderful symbols of the infinite promise of tomorrow. The incredible potential that these children hold in their minds and in their hearts knows no bounds. I feel it is essential that we recognize children so that we may instill in them a sense of self-worth and self-esteem. Through our efforts, we may guide them along a successful path in life.

Now, more than ever, our children need our support, as they are faced with many challenges that our generations could have never imagined. School violence has become a terrible epidemic, and we must exhaust all possible avenues as we try to reach a solution to this problem. Our children deserve our utmost attention as they grow and take on new responsibilities. Children deserve a day in which we honor them for the lives they touch and the joy they bring to the world.

While first celebration of Children's Day took place in San Francisco in 1925, the United States no longer acknowledges this holiday. Today, over twenty-five countries—including England, Scotland, Sweden, Poland, and Norway—all consider this day to be worthy of honor. We too, should recognize International Children's Day and bring back this day to the country in which it originated.

I would like to recognize Margareta Paslaru-Sencovici of Summit, New Jersey, who has worked tirelessly to establish June 1st of each year as International Children's Day. After emigrating from Russia, Margareta has spent 18 years living in Summit and received an honorary award and membership to UNICEF for her protection of children. Margareta continues to return to Bucharest where she visits orphanages to entertain the children with stories and song, as well as delivering toys and clothing, which she has collected through donations here in America.

I commend Margareta for bringing international recognition to a day we can all agree on regardless of political affiliation, religious preference, or race because, after all, there is no dispute that our children are our future.

#### DEMOCRACY IN ALBANIA

**HON. JEFF FLAKE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the events currently underway in the country of Albania. You may recall that ten years ago this Eastern European nation cast off the heavy burden of communism. Since its first elections in 1991, Albanian elections have been marked with partisan manipulation, which has resulted in the disillusionment of the Albanian people.

The upcoming June 24th national elections are a significant opportunity for Albania to move towards establishing a transparent democratic government.

While there is reason to be hopeful that these elections will be better than previous Albanian elections, there also remains cause for continued concern that they will fall short of the free and fair standard that not only we but the Albanian people themselves would want to see. It is my hope the upcoming elections will

mean another step forward and not a step backwards in Albania's quest to establish a strong democracy in this troubled region.

I call upon all my colleagues to join me in carefully watching the unfolding events in Albania.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK MEDICARE EQUITY ACT OF 2001

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I join with Rep. LEACH and Sen. MILKULSKI to introduce the Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act of 2001. This bipartisan legislation would fix a technical error created by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA'97) and help residents of skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) better access needed mental health care. It does this by allowing clinical social workers to bill Medicare directly when they provide mental health services to SNF residents.

Clinical social workers are highly trained mental health professionals who have participated in the Medicare program since 1987. They constitute the single largest group—roughly 60 percent—of mental health providers in the nation. In rural and other medically underserved areas, clinical social workers are often the only mental health providers.

Until BBA'97, clinical social workers were able to bill Medicare directly for providing mental health services to SNF residents, just like clinical psychologists and psychiatrists. But a drafting error in BBA'97 unintentionally stripped clinical social workers of this ability and created an inequity that ultimately harms beneficiaries who need mental health care.

In order to contain rising healthcare costs, Section 4432 of BBA'97 authorized a prospective payment system for Medicare SNFs. For each day a beneficiary spends in a SNF, the facility receives a fixed payment that essentially bundles together the range of services a typical resident requires. Yet Congress recognized that some ancillary services, including mental health services, are better provided on an individually arranged basis. Mental health providers, including clinical psychologists and psychiatrists, were therefore excluded from the SNF prospective payment system.

Unfortunately, clinical social workers were not placed on this exclusion list. This was an unintended oversight arising from a failure to recognize that all social workers are not alike.

Some social workers are specifically trained to provide medical-social services, such as discharge planning from inpatient or long-term care settings. Because SNF residents often require this type of medical-social service, it makes sense to bundle it into the SNF prospective payment system.

Clinical social workers, however, are specifically trained to provide mental health services. Clearly Congress never intended mental health services to be part of the SNF prospective payment system. Therefore, the failure to exclude clinical social workers, who are Medicare-authorized mental health providers, makes no sense.

If Congress does not fix this oversight in the law, many clinical social workers will be forced

to stop serving Medicare beneficiaries in SNFs. The ultimate victims are vulnerable seniors who need mental health care.

We must not allow this to happen. According to the 2001 DHHS report, "Older Americans and Mental Health: Issues and Opportunities," mental illness is highly prevalent in nursing homes. In fact, some studies have found that up to 88 percent of nursing home residents have mental health problems, ranging from major depression to Alzheimer's disease. The 1999 Surgeon General report on mental health further indicates that older people have the highest rate of suicide of any age group—accounting for 20 percent of all suicide deaths.

Mental health treatment works. Alzheimer's patients and their families can benefit enormously from psychoeducation and counseling around how to cope and manage behavior problems. Research trials have repeatedly demonstrated that psychotherapy can be as effective as anti-depressants in treating major depression. Clinical social workers provide these important services and do so at a fraction of the cost of clinical psychologists and psychiatrists.

This legislation is strongly endorsed by the National Association of Social Workers and the Clinical Social Work Federation and is included in a larger omnibus Medicare mental health modernization bill (H.R. 1522) endorsed by over 30 mental health and senior citizen organizations.

Again, our legislation would exclude clinical social workers from the prospective payment system. This small fix corrects what we believe to be a serious error created by BBA'97. It is time to act quickly and decisively to preserve access to needed mental health services for residents in thousands of our nation's skilled nursing facilities.

#### INTRODUCTION OF FOODS ARE NOT DRUGS ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Foods are not Drugs Act, a constitutional and common sense piece of legislation. This bill stops the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from interfering with consumers' access to truthful information about foods and dietary supplements in order to make informed choices about their health.

The Foods are not Drugs Act accomplishes its goal by simply adding the six words "other than foods, including dietary supplements" to the statutory definition of "drug." This allows food and dietary supplement producers to provide consumers with more information regarding the health benefits of their products, without having to go through the time-consuming and costly process of getting FDA approval. This bill does not affect the FDA's jurisdiction over those who make false claims about their products.

Scientific research in nutrition over the past few years has demonstrated how various foods and other dietary supplements are safe and effective in preventing or mitigating many diseases. Currently, however, disclosure of these well-documented statements triggers