

in a short amount of time upon Inland Empire and Californian transportation needs. I can think of no other more fitting tribute to Bill Leonard than the dedication of this vital interchange given his many years of service in the field of transportation infrastructure.

Bill Leonard began his professional career when he joined his father at Leonard Realty & Building Company in San Bernardino, after leaving the United States Army (1943–1946) where he rose to the rank of First Lieutenant. He earned a bachelors degree in Business Administration from the University of California at Berkeley in 1944. From the family business, Bill Leonard developed, owned and operated a variety of real estate, management and development services throughout the Inland Empire. And from 1956 to 1958 he served as a member of California's Athletic Commission.

In the community, Bill Leonard has been equally involved and giving. He is a member and past director of the San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce, member and past president of the San Bernardino Host Lions, founding member and president of Inland Action, Inc. and a member of the National Orange Show Board of Directors, which he has served as President and Chairman of the Board of Governors. Additionally he has served on the San Bernardino Valley Board of Realtors, San Bernardino College Foundation, St. Bernadine's Hospital Foundation and University of California at Riverside Foundation.

Bill Leonard has been honored numerous times over the years for his outstanding public and community service, including the Boy Scouts of America Inland Empire Council's Distinguished Citizens Award, Valley Group's Award for Excellence in Infrastructure, and more. The Interchange Dedication is a proud addition to this list.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Leonard has dedicated his life to public and community service. An American whose talents have bettered the lives of those living in the Inland Empire and California. It is an honor for me today to join in his recognition—the new Interchange bears a proud and distinguished name.

CALIFORNIA NEIGHBORWORKS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the efforts of Freddie Mac, California Bank and Trust (CB&T), Impact Community Capital, Neighborhood Housing Services of Orange County (NHSOC) and the California Housing Loan Insurance Fund (CaHLIF), for launching a unique new statewide public-private homeownership initiative called California NeighborWorks. California Neighborworks was designed to help address California's affordable housing crisis. Every American dreams of owning a home, but because of skyrocketing home prices in California, that dream has unfortunately become unattainable for many hard working Californian families. In Orange County alone, home prices have appreciated by a staggering 45 percent since 1995.

All the partners involved should be commended for creating an innovative and progressive program that is responsive to the mortgage needs of Californians. This initiative

will help prospective homebuyers achieve their goals by reducing initial out-of-pocket costs by as much as 80 percent. That means that individuals and families that lack the cash to make a large downpayment can take advantage of California NeighborWorks to bridge the financial gap.

This program also helps families with past credit issues by providing them with counseling from Neighborhood Housing Services, giving them a better education about their credit, their finances and the home buying process. And all of this is achieved without burdening taxpayers. Instead, NeighborWorks relies on a collaborative effort between the private sector and non-profit partners to meet the needs of potential homeowners in Orange County and in California.

Providing new ways to get hard working individuals and families into their own homes is truly a worthy objective. It makes them feel good about themselves and about the community they live in. I look forward to seeing more initiatives like this one in California and to working with the NeighborWorks partners in the future.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CECILIA HSUI-YA CHANG

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my condolences to the family and friends of Cecilia Hsui-Ya Chang, also known as Cecilia Yu, upon her passing.

Cecilia Chang was born in 1919 in Tienjing of Hopei Province, near Beijing. She began her literary career very early. Her essays and poems were published in various Chinese literary magazines and newspapers when she was in junior high school. In her second year of high school, she published her first book.

Cecilia Chang studied western languages at the Fu-Jen Catholic University in Beijing at the beginning of the Sino-Japanese war. After she graduated from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, she studied history as a graduate student and became a seasoned editor for Fu-Jen Catholic University's literature journal. Because of the ongoing war, she moved to Chungking and worked as the editor of the Literary Edition at the Social Welfare Daily News of Chungking and the National Catholic Newspaper ("Yi-Shi Pao") at the age of 24. After WWII, she returned to Beijing to teach as an instructor at Fu-Jen Catholic University.

In 1949, she moved to Taiwan and taught as a professor of the English Department at Providence University in Taichung, Taiwan. In 1965, she began her tenure as professor of literature and translation at Fu-Jen Catholic University School of Literature. She continued to teach at Fu-Jen for 17 years.

Altogether, Cecilia Chang has written and published 82 books in Chinese, some of which have been translated into English, Korean, and French. Her works have been published and widely read in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Mainland China, Malaysia, and Singapore. Institutions and libraries throughout the world, including the Library of Congress and the Central Library of the Republic of China have col-

lected her literary work. Students in China and Taiwan now read her prose and poetry in their textbooks and standard reading.

Throughout her life, Cecilia Chang received many honors and awards, among them, the prestigious Chung Shan Literary Award in 1968; the Distinguished Alumni Award from Taipei Catholic University; the China Literary Society Award; the National Sun Yat Sen Cultural Foundation Literature Award; the Women's Union Long Poetry Award; and the Life-long Contributor in Literature Award from the Chinese Literary Society of Taipei on May 4, 2001.

Cecilia Chang came to the United States seven years ago to live in Southern California. She was married to the late Philip Yu and is survived by one son, Justin Yu of New York City, one daughter, Theresa Yeh of Los Angeles, and four grandchildren, Rosemary and Pauline Yu and David Yeh.

HONORING CALVARY CHILDREN'S HOME, COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Rev. Snyder Turner is an untiring servant to the needy children of Cobb County, Georgia. Rev. Turner's greatest accomplishment is that he has managed Calvary Children's Home since 1971. Rev. Turner has received numerous awards and widespread recognition for his work with children. His commitment to providing a haven for disadvantaged children makes him an invaluable asset to Cobb County and surrounding communities.

Calvary Children's Home provides long-term care for abused, abandoned, and underprivileged children. The home has operated in Cobb County since 1966, and has continually expanded its ability to care for even more children. In 1997, Calvary moved to a new location in Powder Springs. This new facility allows the Home to care for 20 to 30 children at one time. Calvary Children's Home provides care to children for as long as they need it; there is no age at which care must stop.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Rev. Turner's leadership at Calvary Children's Home. I would like to extend to Rev. Turner my admiration for his work with the children of Cobb County. I hope Rev. Turner's work and dedication to his community continues for many years to come.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT: RIGHT TO LIFE ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that, if passed, will once and for all protect our unborn children from harm. Over 1.3 million abortions are performed in the United States each year and over 38 million have been performed since abortion was legalized in 1973. This is a national tragedy. It is the duty of all Americans

to protect our children—born and unborn. This bill, the Right to Life Act, would provide blanket protection to all unborn children from the moment of conception.

In 1973, the United States Supreme Court, in the landmark case of *Roe v. Wade*, refused to determine when human life begins and therefore found nothing to indicate that the unborn are persons protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. In the decision, however, the Court did concede that, “If the suggestion of personhood is established, the appellants’ case, of course, collapses, for the fetus’ right to life would be guaranteed specifically by the Amendment.” Considering Congress has the constitutional authority to uphold the Fourteenth Amendment, coupled by the fact that the Court admitted that if personhood were to be established, the unborn would be protected, it can be concluded that we have the authority to determine when life begins.

The Right to Life Act does what the Supreme Court refused to do in *Roe v. Wade* and recognizes the personhood of the unborn for the purpose of enforcing four important provisions in the Constitution: (1) Sec. 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment prohibiting states from depriving any person of life; (2) Sec. 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment providing Congress the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provision of this amendment; (3) the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment, which concurrently prohibits the federal government from depriving any person of life; and (4) Article 1, Section 8, giving Congress the power to make laws necessary and proper to enforce all powers in the Constitution.

This legislation will protect millions of future children by prohibiting any state or federal law that denies the personhood of the unborn, thereby effectively overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

We have had some recent successes in protecting our preborn including the passage of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act and the Human Cloning Prohibition Act, as well as the introduction of the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act. These bills recognize the unborn child as a human and provide protection to the fetus. Because I firmly believe that life begins at conception and that the preborn child deserves all the rights and protections afforded an American citizen, I support these pieces of legislation. The Right to Life Act will finally put our unborn children on the same legal footing as all other persons. I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this important effort.

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN ON EARTH

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, “Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls of all ages, welcome to the greatest show on earth! The Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus is proud to present Gunther Gebel-Williams.”

These words were spoken all across the world for the past quarter of a century reaching the ears of an estimated 200 million people, introducing the greatest animal trainer that has ever lived. Gunther Gebel-Williams has recently passed away, but his memory will live

on in the minds of the millions of men, women and children that came to see this amazing man and his dangerous performances. There were 1,500 people that attended his funeral to pay their respects in his adopted home town of Venice.

Gunther Gebel-Williams began his career at the age of 12 in WWII Germany and he later joined the Barnum and Bailey Circus in 1968 only to make his first American debut on Jan. 6, 1969. From that first debut in 1969 until his last in 1989 he never missed a show, totaling 12,000 consecutive performances. Kenneth Feld memorialized Gunther Gebel-Williams by saying “He was unlike any performer anywhere. When he entered the circus arena, whether caring a Roman Post on galloping horses or atop an elephant, every eye was always on him until he left the floor.” When Gunther Gebel-Williams was not performing he would often put on a pair of his old boots and help to sweep the floor.

He loved and cared for the animals like a father. At Gunther’s funeral Dr. Richard Houch a retired veterinarian, told the audience of his devotion to animals stating, “He would watch baby tigers and leopards playing to figure out what they could do best in the act. He knew the personality, disposition and idiosyncrasies of every animal.” He was an amazing man who was not only loved by the animals but also by his fans and friends. I believe that the world has lost a legend and my congressional district a good citizen. He will be missed greatly.

INTRODUCTION OF MEDICARE REGULATORY AND CONTRACTING REFORM ACT OF 2001

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the bipartisan Medicare Regulatory and Contracting Reform Act of 2001. Over the past several months, I have been working closely with PETE STARK, Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, to assemble this much needed package. This legislation is the product of months of bipartisan consultation with health care providers and with the Department of Health and Human Services. Our bill will go a long way toward alleviating the burden of unreasonable and unnecessary regulatory paperwork from the nation’s doctors and other health care providers.

I am pleased that every member of the Health Subcommittee has decided to join me and Congressman STARK in introducing this important legislation, along with several of our colleagues from the full committee. This interest tells us that Members of Congress are hearing from doctors, from home health workers, from hospital administrators, from nursing home aides that change is needed. Good health care is about patients, not paperwork. America’s health care providers must be freed from the flood of forms.

My Subcommittee has been taking a serious and honest look at the problems of providers throughout the year. And I have to tell you—the problems are real. At a hearing in March, Susan Wilson of the Visiting Nurses’ Associa-

tion of Central Connecticut testified about how difficult it is for a provider to respond to a technical denial of a claim. For example, a patient must be homebound in order to be entitled to benefits. A physician must certify, in writing, that the patient meets the homebound requirement. However, if the certification is not signed and dated prior to billing for coverage, a claim denial is issued. At this point, a provider has to pursue a formal appeal. Our bill requires the development of a system to allow easy corrections of technical problems with claims without having to go through the appeals process—saving time for providers and for the appeals system.

At a recent meeting of my Subcommittee, Congressman CAMP told us that he spent an afternoon working in one of his local doctors’ offices, filling out the forms that need to be completed before Medicare can be billed for a health care service. He was confronted with several books, each as large as a phone book, that needed to be consulted in order to properly code the claim. It just should not be that difficult.

I have visited a wide cross section of Connecticut’s health care providers—and they raise a common theme with me. They are frustrated. These are good people who want to take care of the patients they see. And yet they are inundated by forms, requirements, second-guessing, and heavy handed oversight. We have to take action, or we run the risk of driving from the Medicare program the very providers we need to ensure that seniors have access to high quality care.

An eye physician from Torrington Connecticut contacted me earlier this year to express his frustration with a system that subjected him, in his words, “to a star-chamber proceeding . . . for the crime of serving the elderly.” This is unacceptable. We must act.

My bill will diminish the paperwork load required to meet complex and technical regulatory requirements and immediately free up for patient care time that providers now spend completing and filing federal forms. Specifically, my bill streamlines the regulatory process, enhances education and technical assistance for doctors and other health care providers, and protects the rights of providers in the audit and recovery process to ensure that the repayment process is fair and open. At the same time, the bill has been carefully designed to protect ongoing and necessary efforts to reduce waste, fraud and abuse from the Medicare program.

In addition, under this bill, the Secretary is given the tools to manage Medicare program operations competitively and efficiently. For the first time, the new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will be able to contract with the best entities available to process claims, make payments and answer questions. And the Secretary will be free to promote quality through incentives for the Medicare Administrative Contractors to provide outstanding service to seniors and health care providers.

The bill includes a section I am particularly excited about that will create a demonstration program designed to make intense and targeted technical assistance available to small health care providers. This demonstration will offer technical experts to work with small providers on a voluntary basis to evaluate systems for compliance and suggest more efficient or more effective means of operating their documentation and billing systems. This