

proud mother of a daughter, twin sons and a granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a great and good woman, Eleanore Druehl Nettle and offer the condolences of the entire House of Representatives to her family. We are a better community, a better country and a better people because of her.

HONORING BONNIE HUDGEONS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Bonnie Hudgeons for setting an example and for providing hope to transplant patients.

In 1986, Bonnie, a longtime Lake City, Colorado resident, was given blood that was infected with Hepatitis C during her heart bypass surgery. Not until 1991, when she had an angioplasty surgery, did her doctors realize that she had the infection. In 1997, she was first considered for a liver transplant, but because the demand for liver transplants outweighs the supply, Bonnie was turned down. "They thought I was too far gone," she told Nicole Ashton of Silver World. She persisted by asking for a second opinion, and this time her name was added to the waiting list. Bonnie's health deteriorated from there. She fell into four of five comas, once for a period of five days and she was unable to care for herself even when she was conscious.

In March of 2000, after 14 months on the waiting list, Bonnie got the okay for a transplant. The surgery lasted for seven hours, and she had several complications afterward, including temporary kidney failure and memory problems. In spite of the difficulties with the surgery, Bonnie said, "I had faith, trusted in God, and made it through."

Bonnie emphasizes her gratitude for her donor. Through the hospital, she was able to get in touch with the donor's family, and they exchanged letters. Bonnie wrote, for instance, "I will forever marvel at the miraculous gift of life an organ donor gives." Bonnie eventually also met her donor's parents and sister. "We still email back and forth," she said. "I carry a picture of Chad in my billfold."

Mr. Speaker, Bonnie Hudgeons, who is sometimes called "the miracle girl," is a source of hope for anyone who faces difficult odds. I would like to pay tribute to her for sharing her story, and for being an inspiration both to those who need a transplant and for those who are contemplating becoming a donor.

HONORING STEVE RIPPY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Steve Rippy for helping to build a successful assessor's office in Garfield County, Colorado, and to wish him luck on his next endeavor as New Castle Town Administrator.

Steve served as Garfield County assessor for almost seven years, and his total time in the office amounts to twenty years. In addition, he served as New Castle Mayor for seven years and as Councilman for eight years. Steve was also a member of the Town Planning and Zoning Commission for fifteen years.

Steve reflected on his time as Garfield County assessor, telling Mike McKibbin of The Daily Sentinel, "I think I'm proudest of a well-organized and efficient office with appraisals of property." Steve's satisfaction is certainly well founded, as the "significant reduction in the number of appeals (of reappraisals)" during his time there reflects. Certainly related, too, are Steve's communication skills. "We're very willing to listen to people," he said.

In addition, Steve demonstrated his ability to overcome adversity. While the assessor's office employed sixteen people when Steve began working in 1981, they lost nearly one third of their workers when the oil shale bust forced the office to lose five employees. However, under Steve's direction, the assessor's office bounced back nicely. "Now we're almost back to where we were and I think we're able to handle so many more new subdivisions," he said.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, Steve Rippy is an excellent community servant and a skilled leader. I would like to congratulate him for a job well done, and to wish him well on his new career.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EARNEST
"DOC" WALCHER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Earnest "Doc" Walcher of Gypsum, Colorado. After 25 years of retirement, Doc is now lending his hand to the town of Gypsum. He and town manager Jeff Shroll, it turns out, make a great team as well as good neighbors.

Doc Walcher was born in 1921 in Oklahoma, and he moved with his family to Gypsum during the Depression. He enlisted in the Army during World War II as an aircraft mechanic, serving at Guadalcanal and in the Philippines. After the war, he returned to Gypsum, where he has resided ever since.

Doc served the people of Colorado diligently before his retirement, working as head supervisor of the Colorado State Highway Department. He helped build and maintain Highway 24, Tennessee Pass, and Interstate 70 over Vail Pass before retiring in 1976.

Jeff Shroll, Gypsum's Town Manager, "noticed that Walcher, who lives directly across the street. . . had the most manicured and best-kept lawn in town." Jeff asked Doc if he might be interested in helping to keep up the lawns in Turgeonville, a property owned by Gypsum. Walcher eagerly accepted, and now that he is working again, he is "loving every minute of it," according to Julie Imada-Howard of the Vail Daily. The feeling seems mutual; Jeff says that it has been "great to work with" Doc.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Doc Walcher for his continued service and willingness to help the community. He is truly an inspiration to us all.

HONORING DR. RICHARD HOFFMAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Dr. Richard Hoffman, Colorado's chief medical officer and state epidemiologist. Richard recently resigned from his position at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, after serving as state epidemiologist since 1987, and as chief medical officer since 1998.

Richard has remained active, professional, and reliable throughout his time with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. He has drafted laws, seen his writings published in over sixty peer-reviewed journals, written for ten non-peer-review or public health publications, written two book chapters and five published letters.

According to Dr. Sue Binder of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control division of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, he also directed one of the division's most successful traumatic brain injury (TBI) surveillance projects. In addition, he helped to launch the Colorado follow-up registry. These efforts have "led to the first credible estimate of TBI-related disability and health services usage prevalence in the United States." The Colorado TBI registry, wrote Dr. Binder, "blazed the trail for our planned efforts to create spinal cord injury registries."

In addition, according to a draft of the Colorado Board of Health Resolution, Richard "epitomizes public health leadership and leaves an indelible legacy of accomplishments." The resolution says, also, "Dr. Hoffman's efforts have paved the way for significantly improving the health and welfare of our state's population." Jane Norton, the executive director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment agrees; she wrote, "The bottom line is that his efforts have translated into making Colorado a healthier place to live and raise a family."

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Richard Hoffman's expertise, leadership, compassion, and hard work have improved the state of Colorado. I would like to thank him for his positive influence on Colorado's health care, and I wish him well on his future endeavors. His dedication is certainly deserving of this honor.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
RETIREMENT OF WALLY WALDROP

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a remarkable individual who performs a remarkable service, and has for more than 22 years. Just this past May, Capt. Milton R. Waldrop, better known as Capt. Wally Waldrop, retired from Lake Piloting.

Born in Texas, Capt. Waldrop joined the Navy in 1948, serving aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Tarawa*, which served as embassy protection during the Chinese Revolution in 1948. He left the service in 1952 and moved

to the Great Lakes, where he began a career as a Great Lakes Mariner. After 19 years as a mariner, he became a Lake Pilot in 1979.

Now for those of you not familiar with Lake Piloting, it is a fascinating profession. Every cargo freighter that enters the Great Lakes, must, by law, be piloted by a licensed Great Lakes pilot. Even though these ships have their own very capable crews, they still have to have a Lake Pilot aboard during their voyage through our water system. Capt. Waldrop is not only one of these master pilots, he is the best of the best. One day he could be at the helm of a Greek vessel, the next day it's a Russian freighter.

Great Lakes shipping is critical to the regional economy and has an impact on world markets and economies. Without the services of Wally Waldrop, and others like him, safe and efficient commerce through the Great Lakes would not be possible. Please join me in saluting Capt. Wally Waldrop, a great pilot and a servant to the entire Great Lakes region.

H.R. 2273—THE NATIONAL BANK
OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES ACT OF 2001

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I requested of the author of H.R. 2273, the National Bank Offshore Activities Act of 2001, to permit me to lend my support for this legislation. Let me tell you why H.R. 2273 is so important.

As one member who is interested in relations between Asian nations and the United States, I would wholeheartedly endorse the purpose of H.R. 2273 in closing a major loophole in the United States' supervision of the national banks it charters.

My office has been in receipt of numerous press accounts about the treatment of a vitally important corporation in Thailand, Thailand Petrochemical Industries, Inc. (TPI); the second largest business in the country, by a "workout specialist" assigned to act as what we in the United States would call a "trustee in bankruptcy" This "workout specialist", Effective Planner, an agent of the accounting firm Ferrier Hodgson, from Australia, has, with a Thai bankruptcy court approval, become the agent of the United States chartered banks to whom the debt is owed. What should concern us here in the United States is the activities of the Effective Planner. These questionable actions include the diminution of the value of the company (TPI), by the use of questionable accounting procedures and poor business practices, the expenditure of millions of dollars to a bodyguard company which is either not in existence or is not appropriately registered as a legitimate corporation, and the initiation and ultimate culmination of a "debt for equity swap" which was done in an offshore Caribbean Bank in the British Virgin Island. This "swap" has permitted the U.S. chartered banks to own approximately three-fourths of the entire TPI stock. The manager of Effective Planner and several of his associates were arrested in Thailand for violation of the labor laws of that country, and have reportedly even removed themselves to Singapore to manage this Thailand company.

It is the stated goal of our foreign policy to assist our allies and friends around the world during difficult times. The Asia Debt Crisis, like the Mexican Debt Crisis several years ago, has presented a number of nations with difficult choices. Thailand is no different. It is for this reason that our private sector financial institutions should not be permitted to work against the interests of our country with respect to our relations with other nations. Certainly, no bank in the United States could be placed in control of a trustee in bankruptcy with the trustee being left to their own devices in acquiring control of a U.S. business without at least some supervisory or consultative authority, such as the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) or a court, being capable of reviewing their activities. If alleged criminal and actionable civil activities were reported, surely the OCC would at a bare minimum, conduct some oversight of such actions. It should be no different for U.S. chartered banks doing business in friendly foreign country.

Our principal banking regulator, the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury (OCC), continues to believe that it has little or no power to act against U.S. chartered banks implicated in illegal activities abroad, even when such activities may involve crimes such as embezzlement, money laundering, and establishment of secret accounts in offshore tax havens. This position makes H.R. 2273 even more important.

In this global economy, banks chartered and regulated by our government must maintain the highest legal and ethical standards wherever they operate. Simply put, our vital system of banking regulation and our confidence in our financial system is compromised when a U.S. chartered bank or its agents are implicated in criminal activities anywhere in the world. In fact, allowing our banks to enjoy a double standard harms our good relations with our trading partners and allies everywhere in the world.

This major loophole in our banking regulation is dramatically evident in Thailand, a staunch ally of our country and victim of the recent Asian economic crisis. Thailand actually stands to lose its domestic ownership and control of a key public company to foreign interests, including a group of banks chartered by us, through the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

As I stand here today, ownership and control of Thai Petrochemical Industries, or TPI has been transferred to a group of U.S. chartered and foreign banks by an equivalent of a bankruptcy trustee hired, supervised and controlled by those same banks. That trustee, Effective Planner, a foreign company that purportedly specializes in bankruptcy reorganizations, stands accused by TPI's shareholders of embezzlement, money laundering, and other crimes. Incredibly, that same trustee, supported by those same banks, stands accused of sending payments from TPI's own bank account to two of its business associates who have been indicted, convicted, and imprisoned in Laos for embezzlement, destruction of records, and tax evasion.

Unfortunately, instead of stopping such practices and terminating their relationship with the accused trustee, U.S. banks chartered and foreign banks licensed by our government have allowed the trustee to use countless sums of TPI funds to mount a public

relations effort to defame TPI's founder and former CEO, who built TPI into one of Thailand's largest employers. The family who built the company has mounted a lonely crusade to prevent the trustee from disassembling TPI and feeding it to the banks for which the trustee works. Clearly, if those banks had no concern about the legality and fairness of their activities, why would they want their stock owned through a secret, offshore trust account?

Mr. Speaker, the involved banks and their trustee may have an explanation for all these troubling facts. If they do, they should report to the OCC the activities of the trustee for whose actions they must account. That is precisely what H.R. 2273 would require. I would ask my colleagues to join me in seeking passage of the bill.

OPPOSING H.R. 7

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 7 in its current form. Churches and charitable organizations have always played an important role in our society. They operate food banks, provide services for victims of domestic violence, operate after school programs, and provide counseling services. Many of these organizations currently use federal grants or other sources of federal funds to operate these programs.

Use of federal funds for these programs is allowed under current law. I believe faith based organizations should be able to work in partnership with the federal government to operate these programs as they currently do. Communities of faith in this country give of their time and money to help those who are less fortunate. We in the federal government can and should assist them in that mission when appropriate.

While the motivation behind H.R. 7 is honorable in theory, the bill unfortunately has serious flaws. This bill would make it possible for religious groups to use taxpayer money to discriminate, not just on the basis of a prospective employee's religion, but also on the basis of his or her failure to practice that group's religious doctrine. No one should be required to be of a particular faith in order to obtain a federally funded job.

Furthermore, the bill sets a dangerous precedent by allowing government agencies to convert funding for a program into vouchers to religious organizations. By providing such vouchers, the federal government would permit these organizations to use federal tax dollars for sectarian instruction, worship, and proselytization.

In this country, we have a long history of supporting separation of church and state. We have a diverse religious make-up—something we celebrate. We must protect that diversity. By allowing religious institutions to receive federal funds without complying with federal laws, we discourage diversity.

Mr. Speaker, a broad coalition of religious organizations, education organizations, and civil rights groups oppose H.R. 7 in its current form. These groups include the American Federation of Teachers, American Jewish Congress, the Baptist Joint Committee, the