

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride, yet profound sorrow, that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Bonnie Scanlan, an exceptional human being. She left us too soon, with so much to do and so much to say. I will forever remember this beloved friend fondly.

IN HONOR OF AUDREY LEE
JACOBS, MBA, JD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Audrey Lee Jacobs in recognition of her outstanding service to the community.

Audrey Lee Jacobs, MBA, JD is the President and CEO of Lyndon Baines Johnson Health Complex, Inc. In her short tenure, LBJ has made significant gains. Due in large part to Ms. Jacobs' strong business acumen, commitment and leadership, LBJ has earned an 11% increase in patient visits and produced a profit in fiscal year 2000—the first such increases in a number of years; established financial and operational, established a staff development and training program with Medgar Evers College and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.

This child of Brooklyn's 10th Congressional District, having spent a number of years working throughout the United States for several of the world's largest corporations, is pleased to have returned to serve the community in which she was born. Ms. Jacobs attended the New York City public school system, graduating from Andrew Jackson High School as one of the top students in her class. She attended Vassar College on a full scholarship and majored in psychology.

Along the way, Ms. Jacobs developed a keen interest in business as she watched her entrepreneurial parents establish and run their own small businesses. When asked why she chose a business career, Ms. Jacobs remarked, "I have always found business to be an exciting, challenging and rewarding environment where I could use all of my talents and enjoy myself at the same time". She began her career in marketing working for several multi-national corporations, including Mobil Oil Corporation and AT&T. In 1985, with those experiences under her belt and the desire to expand her knowledge in business, Ms. Jacobs entered one of the top business schools in the country, the University of Texas at Austin. In 1988, when she was awarded the Master in Business Administration degree from the University, she decided to enter a law school instead of immediately re-entering the corporate world. In the fall of 1988, Ms. Jacobs enrolled in the law school of her choice, Columbia University School of Law.

Having studied corporate law, Ms. Jacobs "cut her teeth" at two prestigious Park Avenue law firms. Shortly after receiving the Juris Doctor Degree from Columbia in 1991, Ms. Jacobs joined the mayoral administration of David N. Dinkins. Serving as an assistant to the president of the NYC Health & Hospital Corporation. When the Dinkins administration ended, Ms. Jacobs returned to the practice of law.

Though the years, Ms. Jacobs has been active in the alumni associations of Vassar and

Columbia Law School; and she has raised funds for many community and political organizations. She has acted as a mentor to countless youth and has served as a volunteer lawyer with legal clinics representing the poor.

Mr. Speaker, Audrey Lee Jacobs is a Brooklyn success story. She has spent many years building an exemplary academic record and professional career and now she has come home to Brooklyn to share her success with her home community. As such she is more than worthy of receiving this recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

IN HONOR OF JEHNEL DENISE
BANNISTER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Jehnel Denise Bannister in recognition of her religious commitment and service to her community.

Jehnel Denise Bannister was born on January 28, 1967. She was raised by her mother, Dolores Autry, and is the older of two children. She graduated from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1989 where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. Jehnel is currently employed as a Vocational/Recreational Counselor for the Project Return Foundations Women's Day Treatment Program.

In 1991, she became a member of the New Canaan Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Richard J. Lawson. Jehnel is also very active in her community in many other ways; she is a member of the A.L.C. Coral Ensemble, the Putnam Avenue Block Association, and a supervisor of the Youth United in the Body of Christ (which is a body of young Christians trying to make a difference in her church and her community).

Jehnel enjoys working and making a difference in the lives of young people. She believes that it is important to bridge the gap between the youth and the older members of the church.

Jehnel's favorite scripture is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". (Philippians 4:13)

Jehnel believes that whatever God has for her is for her, so she does not worry about people and circumstances. Jehnel just continues to trust in God.

Mr. Speaker, Jehnel Denise Bannister is a young woman of faith who is committed to her church and her community. As such, I believe that she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly spiritual woman.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH R. KNOX OF
GRAND TRUCK WESTERN RAIL-
ROAD AND CANADIAN NATIONAL
RAILWAYS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Kenneth R. Knox upon his re-

tirement from the rail industry after 36 years of service to the Grand Trunk Western Railroad and Canadian National Railways. It is truly an honor to thank Mr. Knox for 36 years of hard work and devotion to the railroad industry.

Beginning his career in the railroad industry as a Yard Helper with Grand Trunk Western Railroad in 1965, Mr. Knox immediately began rising up the ladder because of his well-founded knowledge and expertise. Ever misunderstood, the rail industry in the United States is one of the most important vehicles of U.S. commerce and is the remaining connection between our glorious industrial age past and the future of industry in America. Our railways are a symbol of American freedom and prosperity to the hard-working women and men that staff and service this important part of American society.

During his time in the railroad industry, Mr. Knox served also as Yardmaster, Assistant Trainmaster, Trainmaster, Terminal Manager, District Manager, Superintendent Agreement Administration, Manager of Labor Relations, up to his service as Manager of Operations for the Crew Management Center/Rail Traffic Control. Always dedicated to his job, Mr. Knox is well-liked and respected among all segments of the rail industry, especially by co-workers, upon his retirement he will be missed not only because his friendship with fellow workers, but also because of the knowledge and expertise he brings to work with him every day. His colleagues and I must truly respect the imprint he has left behind.

In addition to his dedication to the railroad industry, his dedication to family and friends and religion is second to none. I wish to thank Mr. Kenneth Knox for his 36 years of toil and sweat in the rail industry, and I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Mr. Knox a happy and healthy retirement.

COMMENDING THE CONTRIBUTION
OF WESTFIELD WORKS WONDERS

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and the American people an event that will raise money for schools, hospitals and charities in Connecticut. The Westfield Works Wonders charity event took place on November 18, 2001 with the goal of raising \$400,000.

This annual event has raised over \$1.2 million since its inception four years ago. An event of this magnitude is possible through the cooperation of the four Westfield Shoppingtowns in Enfield, Meriden, Trumbull and Milford. These malls join forces for the event by extending their hours of operation and donating their workforce.

I would like to commend the thousands of workers, volunteers and hundreds of non-profit organizations who serve their community through this event. This event embodies the spirit of community that will see our Nation through this troubling time.

On behalf of the people of Connecticut's 5th District, I congratulate and thank all of the citizens who participate in the Westfield Works Wonders event for the wonderful contributions

they have made to our community and country.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3447, the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001. This important legislation makes changes to and additions of several important health benefits for our Nation's veterans.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Mr. SMITH and Mr. EVANS, and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Health Subcommittee Mr. MORAN and Mr. FILNER, and my colleagues on the Committee for their work on this bill.

Although there are several important health benefit enhancements in this bill, I would like to speak specifically about the provisions regarding VA nurse retention and recruitment, which are taken from a bill that Representatives SUE KELLY, CAROLYN MCCARTHY, MIKE DOYLE, and I introduced on October 3, 2001.

The legislation we introduced, H.R. 3017 the Department of Veterans Affairs Nurse Recruitment and Retention Enhancement Act of 2001, is companion legislation to S. 1188, which was introduced by Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER on July 17, 2001.

S. 1188, H.R. 3017, and now the provisions in H.R. 3347 seek to address the current nursing shortage in the VA health care system, and to ensure that the shortage is not exacerbated.

The provisions in H.R. 3347 modify existing scholarship and debt reduction programs for VA nurses, requires the VA to establish staffing standards at VA health care facilities, makes pay more consistent for various VA health professionals, and rectifies unequal retirement policies to improve retention of nurses in the VA health care system.

This legislation also requires the VA to report to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs regarding VA nursing issues, including the use of overtime by licensed nursing staff and nursing assistants in each facility in order to help determine what can be done to reduce the amount of mandatory overtime.

This legislation is a critical step in addressing the nursing shortage in the VA health care system. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3347 and support our VA nurses and health care system, as well as the men and women who have fought for our country and now receive care at these facilities.

TRIBUTE TO CENTRAL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize, and offer my con-

gratulations to, Central Elementary School, located in Paintsville, Kentucky. Earlier this year, students from Central Elementary participated in the national We the People * * * Project Citizen competition in San Antonio, Texas and were awarded honorable mention for their project, Speed Limit Signs. I was very gratified to learn of this and want to take this time to congratulate the teachers and students of Central Elementary affiliated with this program.

They are: Paula Goss, Annette Rouse, Brooke Bergeron, Katie Borders, Kalylia Brachett, Chelsea Burchett, Kelsea Castle, Shaina Kestner, Matthew Oney, Zac Sergent, Brittany Skaggs, Jasmine Watson, Chelsea Webb, and David Zitzelberger.

Project Citizen is a valuable program and I support it. Administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded through the Department of Education, Project Citizen is designed to engage public school students and their teachers and parents in important public policy issues. During competitions, students select an issue, study its affect on local communities, and share their findings. Schools invited to participate at the national conference won their state competitions.

Mr. Speaker, civic education and participation in the democratic process is vital to the stability of our Nation, and we must encourage people of all age groups, especially young students, to assume a role in local, state, and federal affairs. We the People * * * Project Citizen fosters this, and I hope the more schools will decide to participate in this program. Again, I want to congratulate the students and teachers of Central Elementary. They and all participants deserve our thanks and respect.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, family illness necessitated my return to Alabama. Thus, I was unable to vote during roll-call No. 482 (On Agreeing to the Conference Report for the District of Columbia Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001, HR 2944). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO THE MICHIGAN
CHRONICLE 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the *Michigan Chronicle*, which celebrated its 65th Anniversary on Friday, September 21, 2001. Truly a milestone occasion, 2001 marks 65 years of outstanding commitment to its readership and dedicated journalism.

Pioneered from the Detroit edition of the famous *Chicago Defender*, the *Michigan Chronicle* has come to signify excellence in African-American journalism in its 65 years of commitment to the African-American community in Michigan.

Printed for the first time in 1936, as part of the *Chicago Defender*, the paper gained immediate importance in the African-American community and became an institution in Detroit. Independently established from the *Chicago Defender* in 1937, the paper's first editor, Louis Martin, created the cornerstone of excellent journalism, with just under 1000 paid subscriptions that year. The paper, not seen by many as respectable journalism, was building interest in the community and became known as "the colored paper." Soon after, paid subscriptions grew to 15,000 in 1940, 25,000 in 1944, and to today's readership of 47,000. In 1984, Sam Logan was named Vice President and General Manager of the *Michigan Chronicle*. His ingenuity took the paper to new heights, moving the paper to the four color format and computer-based journalism.

Longworth Quinn became the General Manager in 1944, and eventually was promoted to publisher of the ever-growing *Michigan Chronicle*. He dedicated his life to the paper and the communities it represents and informs, training young journalists to follow in his footsteps. He served at the helm for 42 years until his passing. This year, the Longworth M. Quinn Community Service Award will be presented to an individual in the Detroit Metro area that embodies Mr. Quinn's commitment to community, diversity, and serving the public through volunteerism.

Dedicated to helping promising scholars, the *Michigan Chronicle* will also be a proud sponsor of the John H.H. Sengstacke Scholarship Award. This award will be given to an outstanding high school student in Wayne, Oakland, or Macomb County to help in the pursuit of a journalism degree.

Today the *Michigan Chronicle* is making new headway under publisher Alisa M. Giddens. I believe she has the vision to expand readership, help end racial prejudice, and provide true public service through journalism to the African-American communities in Michigan. I ask that all my colleagues join me in celebrating the *Michigan Chronicle's* 65 years of journalistic excellence.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DIANA
STOUT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Diana Stout of Charleston, West Virginia for being elected the National President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Since 1914, the Ladies Auxiliary VFW represents the families of those who have sacrificed for our country. The organization fosters our American heritage by conducting an annual patriotic ceremony and providing financial assistance for the preservation of this nation's most treasured symbol of freedom, the Statue of Liberty.

In her acceptance speech, Ms. Stout introduced her theme, Liberty and Justice for All, which is derived from her background in law and one of the Auxiliary's main objects, to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and equal rights and justice to all men and women.