

health care system to be. In an emergency, at that critical moment, the EMS unit is that critical link to our health care system that makes the difference between life and death.

Unfortunately, be it ground or air, EMS for communities throughout America is under enormous financial pressure. For many rural communities, EMS is in jeopardy of collapse. Typically, rural EMS is a small one or two unit service, staffed by volunteers, not affiliated with a hospital or medical facility, that responds to 300 to 500 calls per year within a large radius (37 miles average) who's greatest danger to its existence comes from Medicare. In a growing number of instances, unrealistic and unresponsive Medicare reimbursement fee schedules have done more to erode EMS in America than any other threat to medical care in this country. Because Medicare fees fail to accurately define or reflect the rural medical environment, EMS is facing grave danger of being put out of business by fee schedules that fail to recognize and reflect the actual costs confronting rural ambulance/EMS service.

Therefore, I am introducing the "Medical Rural Ambulance Service Improvement Act of 2001". This legislation will increase by 20 percent the payment under the Medicare program for ambulance services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas, require CMS to define rural areas on population density by postal zip codes, increase mileage rates for the first 50 miles and require the use of most recent data by CMS in determining payment adjustments.

For rural ambulance and EMS, the majority of their revenue comes from Medicare reimbursements. Yet existing Medicare fee schedules are not accurate, nor do they reflect real-world costs confronting rural services. Due to their low-volume of calls and transfers, rural EMS providers will remain the hardest hit under CMS' fee schedules unless decisive and corrective action takes place now.

Timely and accurate reimbursement and fee schedules for ambulance/EMS services will be critical to seeing that rural America continues to receive emergency medical services. Citing financial loss as the number one contributing factor for services closing down, the "Medical Rural Ambulance Service Improvement Act of 2001" will level the playing field for rural EMS.

Good health requires an effective and thorough health care system. We all have something to lose by not putting a halt to the erosion of EMS care in rural America. Therefore I am calling on all Members to join with me and sponsor passage of this important and critical piece of health legislation.

HONORING WILLIAMSON BROTHERS BAR-B-Q, MARIETTA AND CANTON, GEORGIA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events of the past few months have brought out the best in the hearts of Americans across the nation. Our citizens have reached out their hands, opened their wallets, and given of their time, energy, and compassion in unprecedented ways. Some have trav-

eled thousands of miles and, sacrificed time they could be spending with their own families, in order to take care of another's.

At the same time, corporate and small town businesses alike have also searched for ways to help the victims of the September 11th attacks; to speed along the search and recovery missions, and to lift the spirits of dedicated workers still at the sites today. At this time I would like to highlight one such business from Marietta and Canton, Georgia.

Williamson Brothers Bar-B-Q is a beloved local landmark that came to Georgia from Talladega, Alabama in 1989. Upon watching and learning of the events of September 11th, the restaurant's owners, Larry and Danny Williamson, asked themselves what they could personally do to help. The answer was to load up two U-Haul trucks and drive up enough food to serve 2,000 Pentagon employees and relief workers for a traditional southern feast—the Williamson Brothers Southern Salute. The trucks carried 300 chickens, 300 pounds of barbecued pork, 2,000 hamburgers and hot-dogs, 50 gallons each of Brunswick stew, baked beans, and potato salad, and 500 chocolate chip cookies; enough to truly feed a small army.

The feast was a huge success and a tribute to the majesty of the Pentagon and the men and women who serve there. The Williamson brothers are now considering making the Southern Salute an annual event. I would like to acknowledge Williamson Brothers Bar-B-Q, and its employees, for their unparalleled spirit of community and patriotism, and thank them for a job well done.

HONORING HUNTER HALL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to express gratitude and congratulations to one of Colorado's outstanding young citizens, Mr. Hunter Hall, of Greeley, Colorado, who recently traveled to Washington D.C. to sing at the White House.

This is certainly a high honor for him and for Colorado. Hunter, an eighth grader at Brentwood Middle School, performs about 50 times a year with Colorado's Children's Chorale. Hunter Hall is a hard worker and has performed with the highest degree of excellence. Everyone who has been fortunate enough to know Hunter speaks of his deep commitment to performing and the arts. I am glad to say Hunter Hall has been an inspiration not only to other members of the chorale but also to his family and friends.

Hunter and his parents make great sacrifices for him to perform, and his commitment never falters. This is an experience he will look upon with pride. I stand today to honor his persistence and dedication to the performing arts. Hunter Hall has dedicated much of his time to the arts and I hope he will continue to do so in the future. He is truly a fine example for all Americans.

A constituent of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, Hunter not only makes his community proud, but also of his state and his country. It is a true honor to know such an extraordinary citizen and we owe him a debt of

gratitude for his dedication. I ask the House to join me in extending hearty congratulations to Mr. Hunter Hall.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1, NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues Mr. MILLER and Mr. BOEHNER for their hard work in crafting a bipartisan education bill that provides real reform and real investments to make that reform a reality. I am pleased that in the midst of fighting the war of terrorism, we were able to remain focused on our most pressing domestic priority—the education of our children.

This bill tackles the persistent achievement gap between poor and more affluent school districts. Now more than ever education funding will be targeted at the students who need it most. For students in Providence and Cranston, Rhode Island, the revised Title I funding formula will translate into desperately needed books and supplies, bilingual education, more high-quality afterschool programs, and expanded access to technology. In addition, H.R. 1 authorizes critical funding for school construction and modernization. With three-quarters of our schools in disrepair, this need is overwhelming and cannot wait.

H.R. 1 also expands access to teacher quality programs to give teachers better support, mentoring, and salary incentives. The more support we provide to our teachers the more effective they will be in the classroom and—most importantly—the more students will learn.

While I was disappointed that the conferees were not able to work out a compromise on funding for students with disabilities, I am looking forward to working with my colleagues next year to ensure that IDEA receives the investment it deserves. Schools across the country are bleeding from the cost of educating students with special needs. The federal government made a promise to help ease the financial burden of educating these students, and we owe it to our schools and our children to honor that promise. But despite its lack of full funding for IDEA, H.R. 1 is a strong bill, and I am proud to support it.

DAVID GRAUE, "ALLEY OOP"
CARTOONIST

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America lost a beloved citizen, World War II veteran, artist, and creative talent when David Graue, 75, of Flat Rock, North Carolina, was tragically killed in an early morning traffic accident on December 10th. Dave was a native of Oak Park, Ill., and was a prior resident of Sarasota, Fla., and Brevard before moving to Henderson County in 1987. He was a 1944

graduate of Sarasota High School and trained at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. He was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War II.

In 1950, he rejoined V.T. Hamlin, the creator of the comic strip "Alley Oop," whom he had briefly worked with prior to the war. He took over sole production of the cartoon in 1970 and created both the art and continuity for the strip until entering semi-retirement in 1991. Upon retirement he turned his attention to the fine arts and painting, working mostly with oils, and won several awards for his work.

Dave Graue will be dearly missed by his family, friends, members of the community, and countless "Alley Oop" fans around the country. Dave will be remembered for the special Christmas cards he sent to all his friends, cards that showcased his artistic talents. His last one commemorated the September 11th terrorist attacks on America.

I know my colleagues join me in expressing sympathy to Dave's family: his loving wife, Eliza B. Graue, sons Jeff and Dan, daughter Karin Dowdy, seven grandchildren: Jordan Dowdy, Griffin Dowdy, Kelen Dowdy, Kristin Graue, Lauren Graue, Shannon Graue and Cian Graue.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MASTER SERGEANT JEFFERSON DONALD DAVIS

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the Congress to honor the memory of Master Sgt. Jefferson Donald "Donnie" Davis, an American hero.

Master Sgt. Davis was killed in action in Afghanistan on December 5th while participating in Operation Enduring Freedom. He was a member of the Army's 5th Special Forces Group stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Yesterday, Master Sgt. Davis was buried with full military honors near his birthplace in Watauga, Tennessee. He had made a career out of the military, serving in Korea, the Middle East during Operation Desert Storm, Somalia, and Afghanistan.

It is the ultimate sacrifice when a soldier dies for his country. We are able to enjoy the freedoms we have today because of men like Master Sgt. Davis and the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have given their lives in the fight for American principles over the past 225 years. Master Sgt. Davis knew the particular risks of being a Green Beret and gladly accepted them. He was aware of the immediate dangers faced by those men, the elite fighting soldiers that this country depends upon in times of crisis. Time and time again, Master Sgt. Davis answered the call of his country, left his family and home, and served with distinction wherever he was sent.

Master Sgt. Davis was a professional soldier, a man who had earned the respect of his fellow soldiers, and he was remembered fondly by all whom had come to know him over the 39 years of his life. He was also remembered locally as the kind of young man that every parent wants his or her son to be like.

I know I speak for the entire Congress when I extend sympathies to Master Sgt. Davis' wife Mi Kyong, his children Cristina and Jesse, his

parents Lon and Linda, and the rest of his family and friends who are grieving during this difficult time.

When the terrorists struck our country, our President made the difficult but appropriate decision to respond with our military. Throughout history, in any conflict involving American troops, Tennesseans have volunteered to serve. They have fought and died in every corner of the world to protect freedom. Master Sgt. Davis answered the call of his country, and his death will forever inscribe his name on the roll of heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their life in order to protect the lives of others. His efforts should remind us all that the liberties we enjoy do not come without a price. Let us always remember these costs, and always remember Master Sgt. Jefferson Donald Davis.

COMMENDING ST. CHARLES SCHOOL IN LIMA

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the care and concern that students at St. Charles School in Lima, Ohio are showing for children in Afghanistan.

The students in Lima learned about the desperate condition of Afghanistan's children. Through no fault of their own, the children of this war-ravaged nation are facing a hard winter without many of the basic necessities of life. Their families often must struggle just to find their daily food.

St. Charles School students took the initiative and collected \$1000 to donate to the Afghan Children's Fund at the White House. They presented the check to my office during a school assembly. I, in turn, will make sure that the donation is delivered to President George W. Bush.

Since the events of September 11th, the President has said many times that the United States is at war with terrorists—not with the country of Afghanistan, and certainly not with its innocent children. It is my hope that Afghanistan's new government will devote itself to building a peaceful society where children are able to lead normal lives free of war and hunger.

The donation by the students at St. Charles School will bring comfort to needy children a half-world away. I commend them for the generous spirit that they have shown during this season of peace and goodwill.

HONORING THE BARBARA MASHBURN SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND THE BARBARA MASHBURN SCHOLARSHIP SINGERS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Barbara Mashburn Scholarship Fund and the Barbara Mashburn Scholarship Singers.

Recently, the Barbara Mashburn Singers gave three very patriotic and festive holiday

performances in the Third District of Arkansas. These singers and their foundation have traditionally been special invited guests of the White House in several previous Christmas seasons. However, the events of September 11th and the recent Executive Order closing the White House to public events this Christmas has led the foundation to use their vocal talents back home in Arkansas instead by performing at three different Northwest Arkansas locations to honor the victims of September 11th and our nation.

The Barbara Mashburn Foundation, as the only vocal music scholarship program of its kind in the nation, was formed in 1993 by Dr. James and Barbara Mashburn of Fayetteville. The Foundation, funded entirely through donations, fundraising events, grants and an annual gift by the founders, the Mashburns themselves. Patrons of these events have told me of the excellent job these young people have done in promoting patriotism during this holiday season.

On this day, when we remember the importance of the holidays before us and the resurgence of patriotism in this country, I would like to salute the Barbara Mashburn Singers for their efforts to promote the well-being of our nation. We don't often see individuals with foresight and personal sacrifices as the Mashburns have displayed. They continue to invest their personal time and finances to mentor a new generation of contemporary musicians, vocalists and performers. Each of the Barbara Mashburn Foundation Scholarship students gains much more than a musical scholarship, these students take part in leadership conferences; attend financial seminars and luncheons on manners; prepare and meet budgets and they become goodwill ambassadors through the promotion of their positive lifestyles and the role music can play in everyday life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in honoring the great tradition of the Barbara Mashburn Scholarship Foundation and its talented singers. Their usual performance at the White House this Christmas season will certainly be missed. May they soon return to Washington, DC and the White House Christmas celebrations of future years, and may they continue to serve as role models for the young people of America.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO CLARIFY TAX TREATMENT OF CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL ESCROW ACCOUNTS

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from California, Mr. BECERRA, together with my colleagues, Mr. BOEHLERT from New York and Mr. COYNE from Pennsylvania, in introducing a bill intended to clarify the tax treatment of certain environmental escrow accounts. The provisions in the bill would encourage prompt and efficient settlements with the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") for the clean-up of hazardous waste sites.

Currently, there is some uncertainty in the tax treatment of certain "settlement funds"