

EXTENSION OF REMARKS/STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN BOEHNER TO COMMEMORATING NATIONAL ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2001*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Alcohol Awareness Month to recognize the Century Council and the distilled spirits industry for their latest efforts to fight drunk driving.

On April 10, 2001, in a landmark announcement, the Century Council joined by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) announced that they will work together to help states implement comprehensive legislation to combat the devastating problem of drunk driving.

America's leading distillers have had a long-standing commitment to fighting drunk driving and maintain that it is the responsibilities of the states to enact an appropriate blood alcohol concentration level.

Launched in May of 1991, the Century Council is funded by America's leading distillers to promote responsible decision-making regarding alcohol consumption and to fight alcohol abuse, focusing on drunk driving and underage drinking problems.

I am pleased to join President Bush and Secretary Mineta in commending the Century Council, the distilled spirits industry, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving for their lifesaving efforts.

IN HONOR OF BR. JAMES SPOONER, CSC PRESIDENT OF ST. EDWARD SCHOOL

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Br. James Spooner, CSC, President of St. Edward High School.

Born on January 4, 1946, Br. James Spooner grew up in Westpark where he attended Our Lady of Angels School. He eventually went to St. Edward High School in Lakewood where he graduated in 1964 and later attended Eastern Michigan University graduating with a B.A. and M.A. in Science.

Br. Spooner entered the congregation of Holy Cross in 1964 where he served his Postulancy at Sacred Heart Academy in Watertown, Wisconsin. He then served his Novitiate at St. Joseph Novitiate in Rolling Prairie, Indiana from 1964–1965 and his Scholasticate at Dujarie Hall in Notre Dame, Indiana from 1965–1967.

Br. Spooner has traversed throughout the Midwest Province serving as teacher and role model for high school students. He was a dedicated teacher and dorm counselor in Boysville School in Clinton, Michigan. He also spent time in Kentucky and Ohio offering his service at different high schools. From 1986–1988 he served as Associate Principal of Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron and

then in 1988 became President and Principal of St. Edward High School in Cleveland.

Under his leadership as President of St. Edward High School, Br. James Spooner has led the school to many great achievements. In 1996, St. Ed's was honored as a Nationally Recognized School of Excellence by the United States Department of Education. He spearheaded the St. Edward Technology Plan, a \$1 million program to incorporate technology in the classroom. He also raised the school's endowment from \$300,000 to over \$5 million for student financial aid and faculty development. He has worked tirelessly with the staff and faculty to create and foster the Community Service and Community Meal programs which allows St. Edwards staff and students help and serve others. He has also worked for the school accreditation as a College Preparatory School.

Most recently, he worked to launch the Generations of Eagles campaign, an ongoing capital campaign that will change the landscape of St. Edward High School from a Student Activity Center to be opened this fall, to the Jack Kahl Student Life and Leadership Center to break ground this summer, and the complete renovations of the Chapel starting next year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Br. James Spooner's hard work, dedication and his commitment to the St. Edward High School community.

TRIBUTE TO THE AUXILIARY OF RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL ON THEIR 75th ANNIVERSARY

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2001*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, my congressional district in Riverside, California is extremely fortunate to have a dynamic and dedicated group of community volunteers who willingly and unselfishly give of their time and talents to ensure the well-being of our city and county. These individuals work tirelessly to enrich and brighten the lives of so many at Riverside Community Hospital. It is my distinct pleasure to honor and commend the Auxiliary of Riverside Community Hospital today as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary on April 28th.

Volunteers of the Auxiliary of Riverside Community Hospital have donated millions of hours of service to the hospital and the community over the last 75 years. Fund-raising before 1997 helped to significantly improve services at the hospital. And since then, the Auxiliary has raised \$50,000 for defibrillators for the Riverside City Fire Department, \$75,000 for a mobile health vehicle to deliver free health services throughout the riverside area, and most recently \$50,000 for dental equipment and \$25,000 for health educational materials for the Eastside Health Center. The Auxiliary volunteers also raise funds for educational scholarships and seminars.

Volunteers of the Auxiliary give over 60,000 volunteer service hours a year to the Riverside Community Hospital in addition to all of their community work. Services that Auxiliary volunteers perform to augment the quality of health

care at the hospital include: Discharging patients, clerical work, visiting patients, information desk, messenger service, maternity tea, lobby host and much more.

As we approach National Volunteer Week, from April 21 to April 28, it is fitting that we thank the Auxiliary volunteers for their dedication and service to better the lives committed to Riverside Community Hospital's care and the enriched atmosphere that their presence creates. 2001's designation as International Year of Volunteers also reminds us that the men, women and youth across our nation who volunteer deserve recognition and thanks for giving back to their local community, state and nation.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Auxiliary of Riverside Community Hospital on its 75th anniversary and commend its local community and city service.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ARTHUR I. CERALDI ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2001*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Arthur I. Ceraldi of Oak Harbor, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, Arthur's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming midshipman class of 2005. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and regarding undertakings of their lives.

Arthur brings an enormous amount of leadership, service and dedication to the incoming class of Naval Academy Midshipmen. While attending Oak Harbor High School, Arthur has attained a grade point average of 3.75, which places him 21 in a class of 175. Arthur is a member of the National Honor Society, and received a superior rating at the Ohio State Science Fair during his sophomore year.

Outside the classroom, Arthur has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Arthur has earned varsity letters in football, track and swimming where he is the team captain. Arthur has also been active in the Boy Scouts, the French Club, the Science Club, the Varsity Club, and Buckeye Boys State.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to pay special tribute to Arthur Ceraldi. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am confident that Arthur will do very well during his career at the Naval Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the nation.

COMMEMORATING RETIREMENT  
OF J. RICHARD HARRIS FROM  
THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT  
AT LEHMAN CATHOLIC HIGH  
SCHOOL

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2001*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, at 78 years of age, Mr. J. Richard Harris remains an active member of the Piqua community. Dick is a Troy native and graduate of Troy High School. He served his country during World War II in the US Navy and saw active duty aboard the U.S.S. *Bunker Hill* and the U.S.S. *Wasp*. Upon his return to Ohio, he served on the Highway Patrol Auxiliary and worked for Waco Airplane Company in Troy before becoming advertising director and later publisher of the Piqua Daily Call. He also worked for the Piqua Battery Company for a number of years before opening a Development Office at the Lehman Catholic High School in the late 1980's.

During his 12-year tenure at Lehman, he helped raise over \$5.5 million in the Twenty-First Century capital campaign to benefit the school. He remains active with the Piqua Area Chamber of Commerce and founded the Piqua Ambassadors, a group dedicated to promoting the city of Piqua and its communities. He has served as a United Fund chairman and has continued his work with Border City Savings & Loan, the YWCA and the YMCA.

In both a professional and personal capacity, Mr. Harris has gone above and beyond in providing service to his community. His hard work and dedication should serve as an example for us all. Every American should aspire to this kind of enthusiastic commitment to service. I am proud to know and represent a person like Dick Harris in Congress. A hard-working man who has spent his life striving to live up to the ideals that will help insure our country remains a great place to live with hope and opportunity for all.

IN HONOR OF CLAIRE A. VAN  
UMMERSEN, PH.D.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tireless efforts of Dr. Van Ummersen. Dr. Claire A. Van Ummersen has gone above and beyond her duty in furthering the mission of Cleveland State University as one of the great urban universities in the nation.

Dr. Claire Van Ummersen became president of Cleveland State University in April of 1993. Since that time, she has granted diplomas to over 20,000 graduates. Under her leadership, Cleveland University executed an extensive building construction program and implemented several resourceful degree programs. The University's endowment grew fourfold during her tenure. Recently, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Institutions of Higher Education sug-

gested that Cleveland State University be honored continuing accreditation without qualification for the next ten years.

Prior to her appointment at Cleveland State University, Dr. Van Ummersen facilitated as chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire. She also served as a vice chancellor of the Massachusetts Board of Regents of Higher Education.

Dr. Van Ummersen has been continuously active on numerous boards and commissions. She earned her B.S. summa cum laude from Tufts University. Furthering her education, she earned an M.S. and a Ph.D. from the same university. Achieving high honors in her field of study, Dr. Claire Van Ummersen has been awarded two honorary Doctor of Science degrees, and she is a member of both Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi honorary societies.

In November, Dr. Van Ummersen announced she accepted an opportunity to work for the American Council of Higher Education as Vice President and Director of the Office of Women in Higher Education.

In honor of Dr. Claire A. Van Ummersen's hard work and dedication, I ask my colleagues to join me today to recognize her efforts as a community leader and role model.

**SUPPORT THE EARTHQUAKE LOSS  
REDUCTION ACT OF 2001**

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2001*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, when a major earthquake hits our communities in California, one of the first things firefighters and police must do is make sure local hospitals are ready to handle injuries. Falling walls, buckling roads, flaming gas-main breaks—the aftermath of an earthquake can quickly turn an entire hospital into an emergency room.

Imagine, then, what a disaster it would be if one of the buildings destroyed in an earthquake is the only hospital for 100 miles around. This is the prospect faced by many residents in remote rural areas in California, like the Mojave Desert in my district. It is a chilling thought, and it is something that we must not allow to happen.

The California Legislature has mandated that it will not happen. By 2008, all hospitals in the state must be retrofitted or rebuilt to ensure they will remain standing in a major quake. This is an admirable goal and an absolute necessity. But it is also so expensive that small rural hospitals and major urban medical centers are worried they cannot afford the upgrade.

To help avoid this, my colleague MIKE THOMPSON and I have introduced the Earthquake Loss Reduction Act of 2001. It would begin the process of investing in mitigation rather than paying tens of billions of dollars in disaster relief for every natural disaster that occurs in this country.

In support of this measure, I would urge my colleagues to consider the following information provided to me by the California Healthcare Association:

**HISTORY OF HOSPITAL SEISMIC MANDATE**

The state of California in 1994 enacted sweeping legislation mandating stringent

new hospital building seismic standards (SB 1953, Chapter 740, Statutes of 1994).

The legislation was approved in the wake of the January 1994 Northridge earthquake, which caused 23 hospitals to suspend some or all of their services and resulted in more than \$3 billion in hospital-related damages.

No patient who was hospitalized during the Northridge earthquake died as a result of the tremor. No patient in any California hospital has died as a result of a building's structural failure due to an earthquake since 1971.

The seismic mandate requires all hospital buildings in the state to comply with more stringent seismic-safety mandates by specified deadlines—(1) by 2002, major non-structural

The specific regulations for this statute were not finalized until 1997, and the cost of the mandate was not fully understood until engineers thoroughly evaluated all of the state's hospital buildings as required by Jan. 1, 2001.

Thorough hospital building evaluation reports were submitted by hospitals throughout the state by Jan. 1, 2001. These reports were made public by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) on March 28, 2001.

Based on the evaluation reports, 78 percent of the hospitals in California have at least one building that is at risk of collapse during a major earthquake.

**IMPACT OF LEGISLATION**

There are approximately 2,700 general acute-care inpatient hospital buildings (at approximately 470 hospitals) that are required to meet the mandates of the seismic law.

The seismic mandates enacted by the Legislature in 1994 did not provide any financial assistance to hospitals to help defray the costs of these upgrades. The state's seismic law is an "unfunded mandate" on hospitals.

The current "hard construction" cost estimate to comply with the requirements of the state's seismic law is \$24 billion. This cost is equivalent to the total undepreciated assets of all of California's hospitals. Additionally, hospitals will face significant additional costs including the cost of financing, land acquisition, reconfiguring parking and revenues lost during seismic retrofitting or construction.

California hospitals face mounting financial pressures. More than 60 percent of California's hospital—2 out of every 3—are currently losing money from operations. Nearly a third of the state's urban hospitals and more than 50 percent of rural and inner-city hospitals are losing money from all sources of income.

Many hospitals—especially rural and inner-city facilities—may not be able to raise the necessary capital to comply with the state's seismic law. Those that can't will be forced to close their doors or significantly reduce their services.

According to a December 2000 Standard & Poor's report, California's hospitals face "... deteriorating credit quality and more limited access to capital" than hospitals in other parts of the country. "Given the volatility of the health care sector, access to capital through bond financing has been greatly reduced for all but the strongest credits. Bond insurers have retreated from the sector, limiting exposure to higher-rated credits and charging significantly higher fees."

The seismic mandates do not account for the additional operating burdens faced by hospitals, including rising costs for pharmaceuticals and new technologies, and reduced