

faced with waiting periods for the necessary outpatient visits that stretch from several months to over a year. This places an unnecessary financial burden upon our veterans who may be forced to pay retail prices for prescription drugs in the months before they can get in to see a VA primary care physician. This policy can also impose a health burden, as this extensive wait sometimes discourages veterans from seeking VA medication treatment altogether.

My legislation would allow veterans immediate access to prescription medications offered through the VA by allowing our veterans to use prescriptions written by their family physician to receive the VA's reduced-cost prescription drugs.

Not only will this facilitate timely access to needed medications, but this bill would reduce the caseload of outpatient visits that health care personnel at VA facilities must cope with daily in the delivery of care to our veterans. The effect of this legislation would be to permit VA facilities to devote more time and resources to assisting those veterans who require inpatient care.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation to give our nation's veterans prompt access to the prescription medications that they need and have earned.

#### PRE-PEACHTREE ROAD RACE TRAINING CAMP FOR WHEEL- CHAIR ATHLETES

#### HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Anytime a world-class sporting event is hosted in an area, the community benefits. Georgia's annual Peachtree Road Race is no exception. Athletes of every skill level come from all around the world to participate in the 10 kilometer race and sports exposition. Once again, the city of Cedartown, Georgia, is carrying on a tradition of sports excellence by hosting the second annual Cedartown Pre-Peachtree Training Camp for the world's premier wheelchair athletes.

This event, hosted by Cedartown's own Krige Schabert, 2000 Olympic marathon silver medalist, will bring championship wheelchair racers from many countries to the camp, scheduled for the week of June 26, 2001. Not only will these top athletes be able to train in conditions that simulate the Peachtree Road Race, but they will have the opportunity to compete in front of the community in two organized race events.

Athletics enrich our lives and serve to bring our communities together. In recent years, Georgia has become known as one of the top sports centers in the world. I am proud to say the city of Cedartown is contributing to that sports reputation with the Pre-Peachtree Training Camp for wheelchair athletes. I join in welcoming these world-class athletes to Georgia's Seventh District.

#### BACK TO HEALTH MONTH

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, back pain will affect eight out of ten Americans at some point in their lives, and is the second most common reason that people visit a physician. For this reason, I rise today to draw attention to a national campaign which recently concluded: "Back to Health" Month.

Launched by the North American Spine Society (NASS), April served as Back to Health Month. In reality, if you are one of the millions who suffer from back pain, this is an issue of importance all year. NASS seeks to raise awareness of the impact of back pain on the lives of the American public and steps we all can take to maintain a strong and healthy back. Back pain represents a serious quality of life issue that is an all too common reality for many Americans, Mr. Speaker. Back problems also bring major economic consequences as well. Each year, back pain results in more lost days from work than any other ailment, except general bone and joint "problems." In fact, there are more back injuries and disorders per 10,000 U.S. workers than any other musculoskeletal condition.

In the month of April, Mr. Speaker, the North American Spine Society sponsored regional events around the country to highlight the importance of a healthy back, including "Back to Health Day" on Capitol Hill on April 24th.

I encourage my colleagues to share this information with their constituents. Back pain is a problem which affects nearly all of us, but it is a problem that can be properly treated. I applaud NASS' efforts to get America "Back to Health."

#### HONORING DOCTOR GUNVANTRAY B. MEHTA

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize an outstanding man in my district, Gunvantray B. Mehta, MD. Dr. Mehta was awarded the Key to the Golden Door Award by Toledo's International Institute on March 31, 2001. This award is given to a naturalized citizen who has made a significant contribution to the betterment of people. I join with people from throughout my community in congratulating Dr. Mehta on his receipt of this award.

Born in Gujarat, India, Dr. Mehta first traveled to New York in 1972 for advanced medical study in Radiology at the Nassau County Medical Center. He arrived in Toledo later in that decade, where he joined X-Ray Associates in 1978. Initially drawn to Toledo to be nearer family, Dr. Mehta was soon immersed in its vibrant and active Indian community. As a strong leader in that community, Dr. Mehta has long been involved in its signature events including productions of Ramayan and shakunthla. He organized a memorable seven day celebration culminating in the 1989 opening of Toledo's Hindu Temple and served as

its first president. Dr. Mehta is also a leader in the medical community, and is an active participant in several local, state, and national professional organizations. He is currently the president of X-Ray Associates. Married to I'la, the couple has two children, daughter Dr. Minal and son Sandip.

The International Institute's tribute notes, "When asked who was the one person who made the greatest impact on his life, Dr. Mehta quickly answers his mother. From her, he learned that helping people should become second nature, and without having to think about it, a way of life. She motivated him to strive for excellence." I have known Dr. Mehta for many years. He is a caring, generous, and deeply committed man. While putting the American Dream into action, he never lost touch with his ancestry, his faith, or his country of origin. He is an ambassador in the truest sense of the word. How fortunate our community has been to have the Mehta family a part of us.

#### COMMUNITY CARE FOR THE ELDERLY RECOGNIZED FOR TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

#### HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on May 15th, 2001 Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) will celebrate 10 years of providing quality care and opportunities to improve the quality of life for Milwaukee's low-income elderly through the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). During the past 10 years PACE has helped over a thousand vulnerable seniors avoid nursing home placement and maintain their quality of life. PACE is a shining example of excellence in elderly health care.

Milwaukee's CCE Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly is the fourth site of its kind in the United States. Milwaukee's PACE site is staffed by an extremely dedicated group who also work to assist elderly care providers around the nation to implement this innovative health care delivery system.

Community Care's PACE site provides comprehensive case management and access to a multi-disciplinary team of health care providers that includes primary care physicians; registered nurses; nurse practitioners; personal care workers; rehabilitation and recreational therapists; nutritional services staff and social workers.

PACE enables the frail elderly to remain in their homes as a viable alternative to nursing home placement. Many seniors they serve only need assistance with household and personal tasks, along with monitored health-care, to allow them to stay in their neighborhoods and connected to the people and places they love.

Because of PACE, over 1,300 Milwaukee County elderly residents have been able to avoid nursing home stays and remain in their communities, serving as role models and inspiration to younger generations. These individuals have been able to participate in community life and serve as living keepers of our city's stories and history.

And so it is with great pride that I congratulate the Community Care Organization's Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly on

their 10th anniversary, serving Milwaukee County's elderly community.

COLONEL J. DAVID NORWOOD

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to extend my utmost appreciation of Colonel J. David Norwood, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District. Colonel Norwood deserves special recognition for the hard work and dedication he demonstrated during the past three years; balancing a multitude of competing needs along federal waterways in the Southeast during one of the longest droughts on record.

The drought conditions began in the Southeast just prior to Colonel Norwood assuming command of the Mobile District. One of the most critical waterways within the Mobile District is the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint, which begins in north Georgia at Lake Sidney Lanier and terminates in Apalachicola Bay in Florida. Along this waterway are a multitude of competing interests. These interests include recreation, municipal and industrial water supply including the City of Atlanta, hydropower, environmental, flood control and navigation.

As you can imagine, meeting these needs with a decreasing water supply due to the drought required a monumental effort. Colonel Norwood and his staff were very proactive in keeping all users informed through numerous public meetings and information sessions, the development of a special drought internet site, press releases and personal communication.

Colonel Norwood worked with the Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA) to reduce the necessity of using waters from the four reservoirs with hydropower capability to reduce water usage. He personally participated in every decision involving supplying water for navigation, and kept the usage of water to a minimum in order to conserve as much as possible.

In addition to operating the ACF system to meet these competing needs, Colonel Norwood also had to factor in the ongoing negotiations between the States of Alabama, Florida and Georgia in their Compact negotiations for future water usage.

This particular attention to the Southeast drought and the managing of water, one of our nation's most precious resources, under these conditions was exceptional. It becomes even more so when you look at the full scope of the Mobile District mission, which includes civil works in four states and military programs in five states and Central and South America.

I would like to personally thank Colonel Norwood and his staff for their dedication and commitment to all the various publics they serve in the Southeast and particularly in Georgia.

I and everyone else affected by the Southeast drought extend our sincere appreciation for a difficult job well done.

## SIBLINGS DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the importance of Siblings Day, a day to honor our sisters and brothers for the many ways in which they have enriched our lives. This celebration gives us the opportunity to show our appreciation for our siblings, much the same way that Mother's Day and Father's Day are celebrated. Founded by a Manhattan constituent, Claudia Evart, Ms. Evart has worked tirelessly to encourage everyone to honor their siblings on April 10th.

Siblings make an important contribution to who we are. Often, when our parents are gone, our siblings are our only remaining family. And sometimes, as in the case of my constituent Claudia Evart, Siblings Day will help us remember siblings who we have lost at an early age.

April 10th marks the birthday of Claudia's sister Lisette, who died tragically in 1972 at age 19 in a car accident that also killed their father. An additional tragedy struck in 1987, when Ms. Evart's older brother, Alan, died in an accident at his home. He was 36 years old.

This holiday was recently marked, according to the Siblings Day Foundation, in 20 states (Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin); each of the 20 governors proclaiming the 10th of April as Siblings Day.

I call on the Congress to recognize the importance of family members by recognizing the contributions made by our siblings. I applaud the work of Claudia Evart, who has created a loving tribute to her deceased siblings by her work to establish Siblings Day. Her inspired work should serve as a lesson to us all.

## HONORING THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF TOLEDO AND LUCAS COUNTY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the sesquicentennial of the Academy of Medicine of Toledo and Lucas County in my district. The organization celebrates this anniversary on June 22, 2001.

Eight Toledo physicians originally came together in 1851 to form the Toledo Medical Association, founded "for the cultivation of the science of medicine and the promotion of public health, the advancement of the character and honor of the profession, and the elevation of the standards of the medical education." From the outset, the organization was aggressive in its efforts to raise the standard of medicine. This goal was accomplished by fighting quackery, stopping advertising by physicians, introducing professional standards and across-the-board fees for physicians, sharing knowledge of difficult cases and medicate advance-

ments, and improving the quality of medical education by promoting a medical school. The Toledo Medical Society played an integral role in the development, birth, and growth of the former Toledo Medical College which was established in 1882.

Following the Civil War, the Toledo Medical Association pioneered efforts in the new field of public health. The association worked to insure a safe milk and water supply, advocated for state-of-the-art treatment of tuberculosis, and promoted immunizations against devastating contagious disease. During this time the organization also helped the establishment of Toledo's hospitals.

As the Toledo metropolitan area grew by the turn of the century, the Toledo Medical Association merged with the Lucas County Medical Society to form the current Academy of Medicine of Toledo and Lucas County. This combined organization enabled the medical profession to unite in a larger, more effective, political force and stronger advocates.

As physicians in record numbers enlisted in the battle of World War I, the Academy supported their families and maintained their practices. At the end of the war during the influenza epidemic of 1918, many Academy members lost their lives including its first President, Dr. Julius Jacobson. In the decades between the two World Wars, the Academy continued to expand its outreach, forming a physician answering service—the first medical society to do so—and further developing effort to address diseases scourging the population like tuberculosis. Many society members answered the call during World War II, and in response to the Cold War which followed the Academy aided in the area's civil defense response. Public health initiatives continued, with the Academy focusing on public education in the 1960s and 1970s.

As the nation reached a critical shortage of physicians in the 1970s, the Academy again spearheaded the establishment of a medical school. The Medical College of Ohio was established in Toledo in 1976 and trains physicians yet today. The Academy provides financial scholarships to outstanding students, and more than one-third of the school's graduates remain in the Toledo area.

Meeting the challenges of the times, the Academy has been a driving force behind HIV/AIDS education, smoking prevention and cessation programs, childhood immunization programs, the battle against environmental degradation, and it has sought to find a role in the development of HMOs and other government health initiatives. Even while serving the Toledo area population, the Academy has also sponsored several medical missions promoting international health to the most impoverished of our world.

From its beginning 150 years ago, the Academy of Medicine has been an organization at the forefront of quality health care, evolving as the times demand so that the organization and its members remain effective. I know it will continue to be a viable force for decades to come. I join with our community in recognizing the Academy of Medicine's achievements in the past 150 years, and look forward with anticipation to its future. No community in America could be served by a finer organization than ours. Onward.