

diseases—is one of the greatest public health challenges we face in this country, particularly as our population ages and thus becomes more susceptible to cancer. If we are to meet this challenge, if we are to take full advantage of the many opportunities presented by the exciting discoveries of basic science in recent years, and if we are to fulfill the promise of quality cancer care for all our citizens, it will require visionary and energetic leadership. That kind of leadership has been provided for more than a decade by my friend and constituent, Dr. Joseph S. Bailes. Dr. Bailes is currently the Executive Vice President of Clinical Affairs at US Oncology, the largest private oncology practice in the United States.

Dr. Bailes has recently completed more than a decade of service to the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), which is the leading medical professional society for physicians involved in cancer treatment and research. Under the public policy guidance of Joe Bailes, ASCO has been involved in almost all significant legislative and regulatory initiatives during this past decade of great change in the health care delivery system generally and in cancer care specifically.

During Dr. Bailes' long tenure as Chair of ASCO's Clinical Practice Committee, he was confronted with various challenges, each of which posed a threat to quality cancer care. Among

Dr. Bailes also served as President of ASCO, the first in more than 20 years to be elected as a community oncologist rather than an academic. His election reflected widespread recognition within the cancer community of Dr. Bailes' important and diverse contributions to oncology beyond considerations of reimbursement or coverage for the private physician. His voice has been a powerful one for everybody with cancer, as well as for the professionals who care for them.

Aside from these public policy activities, I also commend Dr. Bailes for his dedication and skill as a physician who cares for individual patients in a thoughtful and compassionate manner. In fact, Dr. Bailes has successfully treated members of my own family for cancer-related illnesses and I am grateful for his dedicated service to patients in the Houston area. I know no one better at cancer diagnosis and treatment than Dr. Bailes, and his motivation is not public acclaim but the welfare of his patients. This is the ideal we expect of all our doctors.

This May Dr. Bailes will be recognized and honored by the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCC), the largest national organization advocating on behalf of people with all kinds of cancer. The occasion will be the 37th Annual meeting of ASCO in San Francisco, where colleagues from all over the world will assemble to hear the latest developments in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. It is fitting that Dr. Bailes will be individually honored in this impressive context.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Bailes on his many years of service in the fight against cancer and for his many achievements. He is an inspiration to all advocates against cancer, whether they are patients or former patients, parents or friends of cancer patients, the physicians or other health professionals who treat them, or the research organizations that seek improved cancer therapies.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAINE ADMINISTRATORS OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities, or MADSEC. MADSEC has been a leader in the provision of educational and support services to children with disabilities in Maine since 1976. In that time, Maine has developed a model program which benefits the children of my state in many ways.

Maine was unique among several states in the development of special education services. From its earliest days, MADSEC has maintained an open and positive working relationship with the Maine Department of Education's Special Services Division. By collaborating with the state agency, MADSEC has been able to help effectively address concerns, issues, and complaints in a productive manner which eventually helps all parties involved find a reasonable outcome.

In addition to its problem-solving function, MADSEC has been a joint-sponsor of several successful Professional Development training opportunities for administrators, teachers, and support staff. The "Select Seminars" offered by MADSEC and the Special Services Division are intensive work sessions which focus professional attention and problem-solving skills on some of the most troublesome issues in the special education arena.

MADSEC also publishes a professional journal for special education administrators and staff which has provided consistent information and commentary on many issues. Members can access a website for instant information, professional resources, and the latest news in the field.

On a national level, MADSEC sponsors the annual Maine Director's Academy, a professional development and policy study event for special education administrators from across the country. Special educators from more than 30 states and Canadian Provinces have attended in the Academy's 20-year history, and the Academy has been recognized by several national professional organizations.

I am proud to bring the anniversary of this important organization to the attention of Congress here today. The children of Maine and the nation have benefitted greatly from the leadership provided by MADSEC over the last 25 years. I look forward to continuing advances in special education administration and technology that groups such as MADSEC will facilitate. Children with disabilities must not be forgotten or allowed to fall behind. For the last 25 years, members of the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities have worked to ensure such children get every chance they can to succeed. I thank them for a quarter-century of fine work, and look forward to their next 25 years.

HONORING WESTERN STATE COLLEGE GRADUATES, RICHARD AND GRACE NUGENT

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate two Western State College graduates. Richard and Grace Nugent will graduate in May with degrees in art and English. But they are not your typical grads. Richard is going on 69 and Grace will soon turn 64 years old.

Richard and Grace have been students at WSC since 1998. Grace attended college for the first time, while Richard is finishing his education, which was cut short in the 1950's. "We've always had some kind of goal—some kind of plan we were working towards," Grace said in a recent Denver Post article. "A lot of people our age figure they're done. We continually have something to look forward to."

Richard and Grace had been operating a bed and breakfast in Crawford, Colorado when they decided they needed a new challenge. They were not your ordinary nontraditional students. Instead of just attending classes, Richard and Grace decided to immerse themselves in the college experience. They moved into the dorms, ate college food and hit the hot college hang outs on Friday nights. "They blend in well. They seem to belong," said Robert Sewell, a student who works out with Richard.

"This is so great," Richard said. "Have you ever been in nursing homes? They're just sitting there. But look around here, there is life here." After graduation, Richard and Grace will start their new careers as English teachers in China.

Mr. Speaker, it is great to see two people so far along in life return to their youth. I want to congratulate Richard and Grace Nugent on their graduation and wish them all the best teaching English in China. I know they will put forth the same effort and enthusiasm with their new career as they did in college.

Richard and Grace, job well done!

TRIBUTE TO ENSIGN RICHARD J. BENSING

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ensign Richard J. Bensing, a member of the U.S. Navy EP-3 aircraft crew who was detained on the island of Hainan, China, last month following their harrowing collision with a Chinese F-8 fighter.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of joining more than 200 people in welcoming Ensign Bensing back to his alma mater, Brandon High School, in my hometown of Hillsborough

County, Florida. The crowd packed in the school's auditorium was evidence of the impact that last month's incident had on citizens across America.

The ordeal that Ensign Bensing endured may have occurred halfway around the world, but it captured the minds and hearts of the entire nation. The flight, and the eleven long days following, reminded us of the great risk that our men and women in uniform take every day to keep our nation free. Our service men and women, wherever they are stationed, represent the best of our country—they are our nation's sons and daughters. We can never take their sacrifice for granted, and in this case, we should be extremely grateful that Richard and the entire crew returned home safely.

I would like to commend Richard Bensing and all of his fellow crew members for the extraordinary dedication and professionalism they demonstrated throughout their ordeal. By your example, you have made us proud to be Americans. We are glad to have you home.

REINSURANCE TAX EQUITY ACT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining my colleague, Representative NANCY JOHNSON, in introducing legislation to put an end to the Bermuda reinsurance tax loophole.

During the past few years, several Bermuda-based companies have either acquired a U.S. property-casualty insurer, or U.S. reinsurers have relocated to Bermuda. One reason for these actions was to allow insurers to avoid U.S. income tax on investment income by reinsuring their U.S. owned subsidiaries' reserves to a parent located in a tax haven such as Bermuda, which has no income tax. It works like this: the company pays a one-time 1 percent federal excise tax to reinsurance offshore, and in return, the foreign reinsurer earns tax-free investment income on the transferred reserves for as long as they are held offshore. By escaping all U.S. income tax on investment income, these companies can have up to a ten percent pricing advantage over U.S. taxpaying companies in the U.S. in the "long-tail" insurance marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, such an advantage for some foreign companies over U.S. owned companies is patently unfair and should be eliminated immediately. Our legislation solves the problem by deferring the deduction for reinsurance premiums until the loss is paid in recognition that the primary insurance covers U.S. business risk. Again, this would only apply when reinsurance to parent companies in tax havens is used. Of course, these companies would have the option of being taxed like a U.S. company and thereby avoid this provision.

This is not a trade issue, as some would like to make it. The purpose of reinsurance is to enable property-casualty companies to spread risk among several companies. The practice of reinsurance allows greater access to insurance for consumers, promotes solvency in the marketplace, and helps ensure claims are paid to customers. But this is not

the true purpose of the transactions affected by this bill. In these cases, reinsurance is written between related parties—a U.S. subsidiary cedes U.S. business to its foreign based parent—to obtain a tax benefit. No risk has been spread in this transaction, the company is simply moving money from one pocket to another pocket within the same corporate entity.

Mr. Speaker, this is clearly a very technical issue, but that should not stop Congress from moving quickly to shut down this loophole. If we do not stop this practice, other U.S. companies will be forced to relocate to Bermuda, or be bought by a Bermuda based parent, in order to stay competitive. This, in turn, will result in a significant reduction in U.S. corporate tax payments, and has implications not only for the property casualty business but also for affiliated corporations, especially life insurance companies, who could in theory benefit from this loophole.

Mr. Speaker, this may be simply one issue in a series of issues that may need to be addressed by Congress. For example, there is another, separate issue, emerging involving hedge funds and Bermuda insurance companies. When U.S. taxpayers invest in hedge funds, they pay taxes each year on realized profits, usually at the ordinary income tax rate. However, if they invest in shares of an offshore reinsurance company in a tax haven country like Bermuda, they pay nothing on trading profits until they sell shares of the company and those profits are taxed at the capital gains rate. Congress has taken the position several times over the past few years that investors should not get better tax treatment by investing indirectly than they would have gotten if they had made a direct investment in an asset. To quote one article, "The Bermuda reinsurance game is a thing of beauty. High-net-worth investors get the double tax advantage of investing in a Bermuda insurance company while literally capitalizing on hedge fund returns. Institutional investors that might be prohibited from investing directly in hedge funds can do so through an insurance company . . . You are effectively taking U.S. assets and moving them offshore. . . ."

Mr. Speaker, I believe we need to look generally at these issues. However, the matter at hand is one specific transaction that has been studied for a year at the Treasury Department, and it is time to either create fair competition for U.S. businesses, or declare that the U.S. government does not care if U.S. tax laws give a competitive advantage to foreign companies doing business in the United States.

BASE-SPONSORED VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK

HON. FELIX J. GRUCCI, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and dedication of literally thousands of students, parents, teachers, school districts and officials of government from New York's First Congressional District who come together to promote and participate in the first annual Violence Prevention Week, May 1–7, 2001.

BASE, or Building A Safe Environment, is a grassroots community awareness group

founded by Janine Giordano and Tracie Jedlicka.

BASE reached across to 11 school districts and communities to encourage children to be better people, more caring and considerate to one another, and active participants in making their neighborhoods a better place.

As the former Town Supervisor of Brookhaven, I worked with BASE on this worthwhile and important initiative.

Young people and community groups throughout the First District of New York and Suffolk County expressed their support by displaying lavender ribbons, creating banners and signs marking Violence Prevention Week, and held community meetings and student assemblies.

BASE's goal could have only been achieved through the hard work and support of many volunteers, parents, students, schools and government officials. These schools and groups include:

Miller Place, Rocky Point, Shoreham-Wading River, Comsewogue, Sachem, Longwood, Middle Country, Patchogue-Medford, Bellport, Bayport-Bluepoint and Commack, the North Shore Youth Council, Brookhaven Town and Suffolk County.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add my voice and that of the First Congressional District of New York in congratulating the fine work of BASE and all those who participated in making Violence Prevention Week in Suffolk County a success.

ACHIEVING POLITICAL STABILITY AND BALANCE IN HAITI

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on the heels of a successful OAS summit in Quebec, Canada, Haiti President Jean Bertrand Aristide has redoubled his personal efforts to include all parties in achieving political stability and balance in Haiti. In an effort to achieve this objective, on his return from the Summit, President Aristide, publicly stated, "This is the hour of dialogue, this is the hour of consultation, this is the hour of consensus, this is the hour of compromise. Our arms are open to receive all our citizens in mutual respect to continue to find those essential solutions for democratic growth."

Putting words into action, the President invited all opposition groups, as well as members of the private sector and civil society to meet with him at the National Palace on May 2, 2001 to "promote transparency and expand the dialogue toward a solution to the crisis resulting from the 2000 election."

Although 12 opposition groups accepted the invitation to the meeting, one of the opposition groups known as Convergence continues to refuse to meet and talk with the President. President Aristide invited Convergence representatives to meet at the Presidential Palace and work towards solutions in Haiti's remaining political and election issues. Despite this personal invitation and the President's demonstrated intention and willingness to work with all groups to establish the strongest possible democracy in Haiti, Convergence continues to refuse to participate.