

over. Anyone age 55 and over is eligible to extend the 5 year limitation on COBRA coverage. They are able to keep their COBRA coverage until they become eligible for Medicare. If they choose to extend this coverage beyond the 5 year limitation, they will be responsible for premium payment of 125% the cost of the employer plan.

(3) It makes all COBRA recipients eligible for a refundable federal tax credit worth 50% of their premium costs.

The attraction of the COBRA program is that it enables people to maintain continuity of coverage when they are between jobs, or temporarily in a job that doesn't offer health benefits. It also usually allows them to maintain much more comprehensive coverage than would be available in the individual health insurance marketplace at a similar cost. Unfortunately, 18 months is often not enough time for someone to obtain a new job with comprehensive health care benefits for themselves and their family.

Our legislation would allow people to maintain the safety net of COBRA for up to five years—which should provide ample time for a new position with solid benefits to be found. Because the worker pays 102% of the premiums, there is no cost to the employee of maintaining them in their group plan.

Our legislation goes even further for people age 55 and older because many people in this age category retire before becoming eligible for Medicare or find themselves "downsized" out of a job. These people are the least likely segment of our population to be able to obtain affordable coverage in the individual health insurance marketplace. And, with the aging of the baby boom generation, this is a quickly growing segment of our population. In 1999, there were 23.1 million Americans in this age group. This number is expected to grow to 35 million by 2010 and to 42.5 million by 2020.

For these people, we would enable them to extend COBRA coverage until they become eligible for Medicare. This provision would provide them with stable health insurance until they become covered by Medicare. The bill recognizes the fact that this age group is more expensive to insure and compensates business accordingly by increasing the cost of participation to the worker from 102% of the premium to 125% of the premium cost if they maintain COBRA more than the standard of five years put forth in the first provision of our legislation.

Finally, we are especially excited about the provision that provides a new, refundable tax credit worth 50% of the premium costs. This tax credit is vitally important because health insurance is expensive! We are requiring people to pay 102% of the premium and these are often people with no job—or seriously underemployed for a temporary period of time. Overall premiums for health insurance have an average annual cost of \$2400 for an individual and more than \$6000 for a family.

The tax credit will defray some of the otherwise potentially unaffordable new cost forced on workers who wish to take advantage of the COBRA continuation option. They will still be responsible for much more of the cost than under a comprehensive employer-provided health plan in which the employer pays 80% and the employer pays 20%. But, this tax credit will enable many more people to take advantage of the opportunity to remain insured until another employer-provided plan becomes available to them.

Many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are enamored of a tax credit approach to solve the problem of the uninsured. Unfortunately, those members refuse to create a marketplace where health insurance would be made affordable and be fairly offered. The beauty of attaching a tax credit to COBRA continuation benefits is that you have guaranteed buy-in to a group health plan with comprehensive benefits that does not underwrite the price of the premium based on an individual's—or their families'—health status.

This bill has something in it for everyone. It builds on the existing COBRA law. It helps people who are between jobs maintain affordable, comprehensive health insurance for themselves and their families. And, it includes the favorite solution put forth by the Republicans to reduce the number of uninsured—a tax credit approach.

Again, we know this bill is no panacea for solving all of the health insurance problems facing our nation. However, it certainly makes dramatic improvements on the status quo.

We look forward to working with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to enact the COBRA Coverage Extension and Affordability Act and make important strides to help workers maintain affordable, continuous health insurance coverage for themselves and their families.

MEMORIAL TO BOYARSKI FAMILY ESTABLISHED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the law enforcement officers of Luzerne County and other members of the community, including the Hazleton Standard-Speaker, who have worked to establish a memorial to the late Luzerne County Deputy Sheriff Eugene Boyarski and his family.

Deputy Sheriff Boyarski faced threats for doing his job, and when he refused to give in, he and his family were murdered by a firebomb thrown into their home in the middle of the night on February 14, 1976.

The stone memorial will be dedicated next week outside the Luzerne County Courthouse Annex in Hazleton. It will read: "Deputy Sheriff Eugene Boyarski, his wife Lorraine and his family who tragically died in the intentional fire bombing of their home on Feb. 14, 1976, and all the deputy sheriffs from the Greater Hazleton area and Luzerne County who serve their community and elected sheriff with pride and honor."

The ceremony will also include the presentation of the Boyarski Memorial Award, which will be given each year to a law enforcement officer. The first recipient of this award will be State Trooper Thomas McAndrew of Troop N in Hazleton "for his dedication, resourcefulness and tenacity above and beyond the call of duty during the recent Algar/Molina homicide investigation."

Trooper McAndrew certainly deserves this award for his efforts as the lead investigator, spearheading the intensive probe that led to two arrests and convictions. I am honored to have been asked to participate in this solemn ceremony.

Deputy Sheriff Boyarski's memory will also be perpetuated at the county courthouse in Wilkes-Barre with a plaque and a display of photographs and news clippings. In addition to these memorials and the award, a scholarship in his name will help students to pay for the six-month course at Lackawanna Junior College's branch campus in Hazleton that certifies them to become deputies or police officers.

Every day, our law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to protect our communities. Too often we take their service for granted, and I am pleased that Deputy Sheriff Boyarski's courage will continue to be remembered and honored in Luzerne County.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives these efforts to honor the memory of the Boyarski family, and I commend all those who worked to created this lasting memorial.

CONGRATULATIONS DON AND MARY LOU JACOBS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don and Mary Lou Jacobs of Bay City, Michigan, as they prepare to celebrate fifty years of marriage and a life-long commitment to each other and their nine children. The Jacobs' dedication and loving relationship serves as an excellent model for their family, friends and neighbors.

Don and Mary Lou met at LaLonde's Ballroom on Center Avenue in Hampton Township, Michigan. After a year and a half of courtship, Don proposed, and Mary Lou accepted. They were married on the twenty-sixth of May, 1951, and their marriage has been blessed with nine wonderful children: Maureen, Marie, Marlene, Donald, Darrell, Michele, Darin, Duane and Marcia. Mary Lou has devoted her life to raising and nurturing the children and providing a stable and supportive family environment. Don had a long and distinguished career in the automobile industry and, in 1988, retired from the UAW International staff giving him more time to spend with Mary Lou, their children and their grandchildren.

In today's society, it is a rare and praiseworthy occasion for a couple to spend fifty years together. Over the years, Don and Mary Lou have had many good times and much happiness to celebrate. Like any strong relationship, they also depended upon each other and their family to overcome some hardships. Their enduring love helped them make it through those times of strife and only served to deepen and enrich the joy of their partnership.

A good marriage is one of life's greatest covenants because it represents a declaration of love, and, as Paul said in his Letter to the Corinthians, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, but do not have love, I am nothing." Don and Mary Lou exemplify the promises outlined in the marriage pledge that so many others have invoked: through sickness and health, for richer or for poorer, their commitment and their love has remained strong.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Don and Mary Lou Jacobs

for the strength of their commitment to their family and to each other and in wishing them many future years of happiness.

TRIBUTE TO CYRUS M. "RUSS"
JOLLIVETTE

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated himself to the advancement of higher education and public service, Cyrus M. Jollivette, who is affectionately known as "Russ."

For 24 years, Russ Jollivette has compiled a remarkable record of achievement as the representative of the University of Miami, not only in these halls and in this city, but throughout Florida and the nation. He has announced his decision to leave the University now in further pursuit of his many interests. He leaves at the same time that the University's beloved president, Edward T. Foote, retires after 20 years at this institution. They leave together, two very extraordinary men whose mutual trust, skill, hard work and vision have left a permanent mark on the University and our entire community.

Russ is long-time personal friend and one of the finest men that I know. He has had a remarkable impact on improving the lives of students at U of M and creating new opportunities for dozens of talented students and researchers in fields like biomedical research, international education and development and marine sciences. Through Russ' efforts, the University has secured almost \$200 million in federal support for cutting-edge education, training and research objectives. He has worked with me on minority health and education issues, cancer, diabetes and marine research and environmental science issues. His abilities as a problem-solver are legendary. There are very few University representatives who have Russ Jollivette's professionalism, knowledge, commitment judgment and persuasive ability, or who can match his success.

But his achievements do not begin or end with his service to the University. He is a special leader in the world of higher education and public service, and a leader in the African-American community. He understands the meaning of friendship in the truest sense. He comes from a prominent S. Florida family with a long history in our

Russ Jollivette's name is synonymous with academic service and excellence. He holds a Masters in Business Administration and a law degree. At the University of Miami, he served for more than two decades as Vice President for Government Relations, as the Secretary of the University, as Director of Public Affairs, Director of the Foundation and Corporate Relations, and, for many years, as the Executive Assistant to the President. In recognition of this service to the University, Russ was just awarded the 2001 Alumnus of the Year Award. Standing ovations at that ceremony and at meetings of the University's Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees reflect the depth of feeling and respect for him throughout the University.

In Florida, Russ Jollivette's reputation for public service and civic activities go well be-

yond U of M. Russ helped to shape the Florida Education as its Board Chairman and a Director—a fund dedicated to the advancement of African-American students with special promise to seek advanced degrees in many fields. He has served as a Chairman and Trustee for the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and as a Chairman and Trustee of the Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County. He serves as Board Member and Secretary-Treasurer of the Miami Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community and a member of the Orange Bowl Committee. He was a Board member of The Dade County Foundation and We Will Rebuild coalition following the devastation of Hurricane Andrew. The list goes on and on.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Miami; the Florida Congressional Delegation and the Congress; the world of higher education and countless young lives have been well-served by Russ Jollivette. I know my colleagues join me in thanking him and wishing him well. We can hardly wait to see what he will accomplish next.

MILITARY PAY

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to restore a small measure of balance to the way military retired pay is handled during a divorce.

Under the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act, courts were given the authority to divide military retirement pay as property. This has resulted in certain injustices to many divorced military retirees. Chief among them is the fact that former spouses continue to receive a share of the retired pay even after one or more re-marriages—unlike other federal agency pensions, such as those of the CIA and Foreign Service, which terminate after a spouse remarries. Moreover, since there is no limitation on when former spouses can seek a division of retired pay, some former spouses seek this action many years after the divorce.

My bill has four principal components addressing problems created by the original legislation. First, it would terminate payments made as a division of property from retired pay upon remarriage of the former spouse. Second, it would require computation of the former spouse's portion of retired pay based on the servicemember's rank and year of military service at the time of divorce, not at the time of retirement. Third, it would limit the period of time after divorce in which a former spouse may seek a division of retired pay. Fourth, it would protect any veterans' disability compensation from division with the former spouse, which was originally intended, but has either been circumvented or ignored.

I urge my colleagues to join me in seeking equity for military retirees by cosponsoring this bill.

MEMORIAL DAY IS A DAY TO
REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day was established in 1868 to pay tribute to individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice to the United States and their families. The men and women of the armed services of today and yesterday took an oath to uphold and protect the constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. Those who served in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps have been willing to lay their lives on the line to keep this greatest nation on the earth free. We must never forget the importance of this oath and this sacrifice.

Last year, when Public Law No. 106-579 was signed into law, we reaffirmed the importance of remembering and renewing the legacy of Memorial Day. We as a nation need to reclaim memorial Day as the sacred and noble event the day was intended to be. We can do this by taking greater strides to domestic appreciation for those loyal people of the United States whose values, represented by their sacrifices, are critical to the future of the United States. As a Government, we have a responsibility to raise awareness of and respect for the national heritage, and to encourage citizens to dedicate themselves to the values and principles for which those heroes of the United States died.

As part of this reaffirmation, Congress and the President called on the people of the United States to pause at 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day to observe a National Moment of Remembrance. By doing so we honor the men and women of the United States who died in the pursuit of freedom and peace.

Memorial weekend has become the signal in this country that summer has begun. In Indianapolis this weekend we have the great Indy 500 race and festivities. It is a great weekend for Hoosiers. I hope that each American as we go about our holiday weekend will at the very least remember to take that moment on Monday and pause at 3:00 p.m. for a moment of remembrance through prayer, quiet reflection, or meditation.

We have been blessed this week to have a great media focus on the heroes of our armed services. Last Sunday night the James Keach Movie, "Submerged" aired on network television. This movie portrayed the heroics of the submariners of our early Navy and told the true story of raising a submarine and saving many of its crew. This Friday the movie "Pearl Harbor" will premier in theaters across the nation. I am pleased that these artists have used their talents and efforts to share with the world the stories that are such a vital component of our nation's history.

I am also pleased that we are preparing a sixty-year remembrance event at Pearl Harbor. We are fortunate in the 107th Congress to have heroes among us. The following are members of the House and Senate who served in the armed services during World War II. From the House of Representatives: CASS BALLENGER, JOHN D. DINGELL, BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, RALPH M. HALL, AMO HOUGHTON, HENRY J. HYDE, JOE MOAKLEY, RALPH REGULA, Norman Sisisky, JOE SKEEN, and BOB STUMP.