

Special Olympics, The Missouri Law Enforcement Memorial, The National Law Enforcement Memorial, The Missouri Police Chiefs Foundation and many others.

The law enforcement community is of paramount importance to our cities, our states and our Nation. This organization represents some of Missouri's finest members of the law enforcement community and is worthy of the esteem of this body. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the great work of The Missouri Officers Association on their 70th anniversary.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
DEZIE WOODS-JONES, PERALTA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR EXTER-
NAL AFFAIRS, FORMER CITY
COUNCILWOMAN AND VICE
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OAK-
LAND

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dezie Woods-Jones for her 40 extraordinary years of educational leadership and public service to the City of Oakland. She will retire on July 14, 2002 from her position as Vice-Chancellor for External Affairs for the Peralta Community College District, leaving behind a legacy of excellence in education and community activism.

Dezie Woods-Jones has served the community as a committed activist, working diligently on behalf of the underprivileged, the underserved, the disenfranchised, youth, and for women's rights.

Born in Ruston, Louisiana, and raised in Fresno and Oakland, California, Dezie Woods-Jones began her civic involvement as a high school student, serving as president of the Fresno Youth Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Heavily involved in the Civil Rights Movement, she also worked with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Black Conference Planning Committee (BCPC), and the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Hayward.

In 1968, Dezie Woods-Jones accepted her first position with Peralta Community College District, as Director of the Community Outreach Center in North Oakland. Before being promoted to Vice-Chancellor for External Affairs, she held a number of management positions in the District, including Director of Governmental Affairs, where she served as the District's lobbyist for almost eight years. She also served as an instructor, and she still considers herself first and foremost an educator and teacher.

In 1991, Dezie Woods-Jones was elected to the Oakland City Council, and she served as the city's Vice Mayor from 1996–1997. She was also the first woman to run for mayor of the city of Oakland. During her tenure on the council, she served as chair of the Council's Rules Committee, and as a member of the Finance and Legislation Committee and the Public Safety/Health and Human Services Committee.

A dedicated advocate for women's rights, Dezie Woods-Jones was a founding member of the pioneering organization Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA), and has served as the organization's statewide president for over 30 years.

Dezie Woods-Jones was named one of the "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" by Women's Enews in 2002, and she received a nomination as one of the "Bay Area's 10 Most Influential Leaders," in City Flight Magazine in 2001. She was also included in "Women of Courage," a book published by Nestle, Inc. that featured stories of 35 women from across the country. She is a frequent guest on Bay Area radio and television shows, and has been invited as a guest speaker in South Korea, West Africa, South America, and Mexico.

She has held membership in over 50 community, state, and national organizations, chaired over 20 commissions, committees and boards, received hundreds of awards and recognitions, and has been appointed to special task force projects by the governor of California and several Oakland mayors.

I am honored to congratulate Dezie Woods-Jones on all of her remarkable accomplishments. Her tireless dedication to education and her community have touched the lives of countless Oakland residents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday June 17th, Tuesday June 18th, and Wednesday June 19th, I missed rollcall votes 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235 and 236 due to my previously scheduled surgery being conducted in Alabama. If I had been present I would have voted "aye" on each of these votes.

2ND LT. WILLIAM WOLBER, ONE OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, the freedoms we enjoy and the opportunities that abound for all Americans are the products of sacrifice on the part of so many. Often at far distant places in the world and under great stress.

There are literally tens of thousands of stories, so many of which involve what it is widely acknowledged to be "The Greatest Generation." One such story, that of Army Air Force Second Lieutenant William Wolber, is of heroic dimensions. It was relayed to me by a mutual friend and neighbor, Fred Carville of New Hartford, New York. Here it is, in the words of Mr. Carville:

Second Lieutenant William Wolber served in the Army Air Force during World War II. He was a bombardier serving in the 8th Air Force, 466th Bomb Group, which flew the B-24 Liberators out of England.

On one mission into Germany there were 12 planes in the formation flying in three flights of four planes each. Wolber's plane

was flying in formation as plane three of the first flight. The standard procedure was for all planes of the mission to follow the lead plane of the first throughout the entire mission. Radio silence was of the utmost importance.

On this particular mission planes one and two of the first flight were downed by enemy flak. Plane three (the one Bill was in) then took on the role of "the lead plane" for the return flight to England. All remaining planes were now taking their lead from plane three. However, Bill's plane, number three of the first flight, (for some reason) did not have a navigator on board during this particular mission.

Second Lieutenant William Wolber, bombardier, assumed the role of navigator. He evaluated the situation, looked at the navigator's maps and equipment. Based on target information Wolber determined a heading for the return flight and passed the bearing he had calculated on to the pilots to follow.

According to Bill's recollection, it was a very overcast day and the entire return flight was over cloud cover. There were no visual observations to aid in determining the correct return flight path. Bill continued to estimate the progress of the flight using the maps, heading, air speed, etc. All of the remaining planes of the mission continued to follow the lead of his plane.

At one point Bill told the pilot "we should be over the field, drop down through the cloud cover." The pilot dropped down through the cloud cover and lo and behold there was the field as Wolber had calculated. All remaining planes of the mission landed without incident. Bill continued his role as bombardier and flew 32 missions.

I have thanked Carville for sharing that story with me. Because it says so much about the character and courage of a fellow American, I want to share it with you, my colleagues in the House of Representatives. But I want to add a postscript.

I, like Mr. Carville, have been a friend and neighbor of Bill Wolber for years and yet never learned of that eventful mission in enemy territory during a peak period in a great world war until just recently. I wasn't surprised. You see, Bill Wolber is one of the finest, most decent, patriotic citizens I have ever had the privilege of meeting and getting to know.

Bill Wolber is a quiet, unassuming guy who, I suspect, was always a giver, one who did things for others whenever the opportunity was there because it was "the right thing" to do. I'll bet deserved recognition never crossed his mind. I know he doesn't talk much about helping others, he just does it. And that is why he and his contemporaries like him have earned the accolade "The Greatest Generation."

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH BENEFITS CLAIMS PROMPT PAY- MENT ACT OF 2002

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, our nation's doctors and hospitals face funding challenges. Today, to help address these challenges, I introduced the Health Benefits Claims Prompt Payment Act of 2002.

We have heard a lot about the need to stop the declining payments from Medicare, especially since the proportion of patients on Medicare continues to grow. Further, doctors and

hospitals face great uncertainty as to when they will be paid by health care plans for services rendered. As a result of this uncertainty, doctors and hospitals have no guarantee that they can pay their own obligations in a timely manner. That's unfair. That's bad business.

This week, several congressional committees began the arduous process of considering Medicare legislation. Among the provisions that have received widespread bipartisan support in that legislation are payment updates for hospitals, doctors, and other health care providers. These provisions attempt to address the decrease in Medicare payments to doctors and other providers by 5.4 percent this year. They also help to address similar hospital funding shortfalls, especially in rural areas where hospitals are paid less than their urban and suburban counterparts due to the use of a biased and outdated formula. While these changes will not fully address the decline in payments and the funding shortages from Medicare that our providers face, they are a good first step.

But, addressing the Medicare funding problems is not enough. Doctors and hospitals need to be paid, and paid on time, by the private group and individual health plans. On-time payments are critical for doctors to pay their own bills and for the longterm financial survival of medical practices and hospitals.

Several states have passed legislation to ensure prompt payment for health care claims. However, the shortsightedness of politicians in some states—as in my home state of Texas—has prevented such legislation from becoming law. Even in states where laws are on the books, doctors and hospitals face possible federal ERISA preemption of state laws—meaning that without a federal “prompt pay” law, health plans will continue to be able to manage their cash flow on the backs of doctors and hospitals.

Today, I introduced the Health Benefits Claims Prompt Payment Act of 2002. This legislation will ensure that doctors and hospitals are paid “promptly” for the health care services they provide to participants in private health care plans. Failure to pay such claims on time would result in interest penalties being imposed on health plans.

This bill also specifically protects a state's right to provide doctors and hospitals with even more certainty—allowing states to impose harsher penalties or stricter standards on the payment of claims.

The Health Benefits Claims Prompt Payment Act of 2002 is one way to help ensure that doctors and hospitals can focus on what they do best—treating patients and practicing medicine.

SPEECH BY RACINE EVANS OF
WYANDANCH, NEW YORK

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following words to you and all of our colleagues, Racine Evans of Milton Olive Middle School in Wyandanch, New York delivered this speech on May 13, 2002.

Hello Congressman Steve Israel, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, my name is

Racine Evans and I'm a six grade student at the Milton L. Olive Middle School. My desire is to be a teacher. I have been inspired by two powerful human beings, my mother, Theresa Johnson and my teacher Mrs. Deborah Charles. Mrs. Charles is always instructing me about the fact that knowledge is power. My mother Theresa is an assistant pastor and is also the Evangelist of my church. She also preaches to me how knowledge is power and knowledge is the key to life. I'm inspired by both my teacher and my mother with their words of wisdom and inspiration. Between church and school, teaching seems to be my calling. When I have the opportunity to become a teacher, I'll make sure that I'll share the wisdom that was passed on to me down to my students. I just want to be able to pass down my knowledge to someone else, because knowledge is a powerful thing. I am determined to be successful. I plan to come back to my community, and set an example for others. When they see that I have reached my goal, then they will know it's possible for them to be successful as well.

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL AND THE COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, a columnist for the Omaha World-Herald wrote, “What do you get when you cross Notre Dame with the College World Series? Magic is what you get.”

This entire baseball season has been magical for the Notre Dame Fighting Irish baseball team. Behind a spirited team effort, the Irish return to one of college athletics most storied events, the College Baseball World Series in Omaha, Nebraska for the first time since 1957. Not since Jake Kline was coach and Jim Morris batted .714 (10 for 14) in four games, a standing College World Series record, have the Irish traveled to Omaha to compete for the NCAA national championship.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a dramatic season for the Irish. Some people in South Bend have dubbed it the “boomerang season.” After starting 9–10 in the first nineteen games and losing their first four games in the Big East Conference, the Irish rallied with the heart and determination befitting of a championship team. Down 5–0 to the West Virginia Mountaineers, the Irish rallied behind the solid pitching of Drew Duff, Martin Vergara, and Matt Buchmeier and the offensive productivity of Steve Stanley, Paul O'Toole, and Javier Sanchez to win the game 10–6 in ten innings. Following this inspiring comeback, the Irish dominated their competition, winning forty games and losing only six.

The Irish's regular season hot streak served as momentum for the Big East Tournament in Bridgewater, New Jersey three weeks ago. The Irish beat Rutgers University, 3–2, after Steve Sollmann's clutch game-winning hit in the 10th inning to win their first Big East championship title. Ryan Kalita pitched seven shutout innings in relief. Senior clubhouse leader, Steve Stanley, was awarded the Big East Tournament's Most Outstanding Player Award after batting 6-for-16 with one double, one triple, and one RBI in the championship game.

After winning the Big East championship, Notre Dame was rewarded as the host team

for the NCAA South Bend Regional. The Irish made quick work of the South Bend Regional field beating Ohio State (8–6), South Alabama (25–1), and Ohio State again (9–6). The 25–1 drubbing of South Alabama was easily the most impressive victory margin of the year. The Irish batters swatted thirty-two hits, one hit shy of tying an NCAA tournament record for hits. Steve Sollmann went 6-for-7, Paul O'Toole batted 5-for-5, and Steve Stanley was 4-for-5 during the offensive explosion. The offensive dominance during the South Alabama game should not overshadow the brilliant pitching performance by freshman Grant Johnson. Johnson faced only thirty batters while allowing one walk and one hit. Johnson became only the thirteenth pitcher in NCAA history to post a no-hitter or one-hitter.

With the NCAA South Bend Regional title in tow, the Irish advanced to the Super Regional in Tallahassee, Florida to take on the top ranked team in the nation, the Florida State Seminoles, in a best of three series. Against all odds, the Irish prevailed by upsetting the Seminoles in game one (10–4) and game three (3–1). The Irish halted Florida State's twenty-five game winning streak which was one of the longest in NCAA history and earned a place in the College World Series.

Upon arrival in Omaha, Notre Dame became a crowd favorite as the underdog of the College World Series. After losing a close game to the Stanford Cardinal (4–3) in the opening game of the double-elimination tournament, the Irish trailed in their second game to the Rice Owls 2–3 with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning. A loss to Rice would end the season for the Irish. With the bases empty, consummate team leader Steve Stanley ripped a triple down the baseline. The next batter, Steve Sollmann, hit a clutch game-tying RBI single. With Sollmann on first base, Brian Stavisky belted a game winning two-run homer. Coach Mainieri summed up the spirited comeback best, “I'm not sure I can adequately describe what we just witnessed. I'd like to say I'm surprised at what happened in the bottom of the ninth inning, but I'm really not. I've watched these kids do it for the last three or four years.”

Notre Dame has head coach Paul Mainieri and his exceptional assistant coaches, Brian O'Conner, Dusty Lepper, and Wally Widelski, to thank for this successful season. Through the course of his eight years at Notre Dame, Coach Mainieri has won the right way by recruiting student athletes who represent our university in a positive light. Coach Mainieri has compiled a 353–140–1 (.716) record at Notre Dame making him one of the most successful skippers in Big East Conference history.

The eight seniors on this record breaking Irish baseball team must also be commended for their dedication and leadership. Matt Bok, Andrew Bushey, Paul O'Toole, Steve Stanley, Ken Meyer, Matt Strickroth, Matt Buchmeier, and Drew Duff compiled a four year record of 187–65–1 that ranks as the fourth-best four year winning percentage in school history.

I would also like to acknowledge the other members of the baseball team who have brought the University of Notre Dame's students, faculty, and alumni so much excitement this season: Geoff Milsom, Zach Sisko, Kris Billmaier, Chris Niesel, Matt Macri, Jay Molina, Matt Edwards, Brent Weiss, Brian Stravisky, Peter Ogilvie, Joe Thaman, Mike Holba, Cody