

as rendering aid in 1993 when terrorists bombed the World Trade Center and in 1990 at the Avianca plane crash on Long Island.

On September 11th, Glenn ran to Ground Zero as a volunteer firefighter and EMT worker. He acted quickly and without regard for his own life, only for those in trouble. It was not Glenn's responsibility to put his life on the line for others that terrible day. But he had the training to help and was in the position to do so. Glenn Winuk paid the ultimate price while saving the lives of others, and his memory will serve as a testament to his bravery. Let us honor the life he gave, and the heroic legacy he left behind.

#### THE CONTRACTOR ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2002

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation that will fortify the current Federal debarment system. The United States is the largest consumer in the world and invests over \$215 billion in goods and services annually.

Yet the Federal government's watchdogs, the Federal suspension and debarment officials, currently lack the information they need to protect our business interests. We have no central way of accounting for the performance of our purchases. Beyond a listing of currently debarred or suspended persons, officials are limited to their individual agency's knowledge of an entity's track record, press reports and personal contacts with other agencies. The American public's knowledge is limited even further. Often times this allows Federal contractors and assistance recipients to repeatedly violate Federal law yet still receive millions of dollars from the Federal government. In a time when corporate accounting scandals are being revealed at an unprecedented pace, isn't it wise to have a full accounting of the Federal government's investments?

A recent report conducted by the Project on Government Oversight (POGO) discovered that 16 of the 43 top Federal contractors (based on total contract dollars received) have a total of 28 criminal convictions. The top 4 contractors have at least 2 criminal convictions since 1990.

The Contractors Accountability Act of 2002 establishes a centralized database on actions taken against Federal contractors and assistance participants, requiring a description of each of these actions. This will provide debarment officials with the information they need to protect the business interests of the United States. It places the burden of proving responsibility and subsequent eligibility for contracts or assistance on the person seeking contracts or assistance should they have been previously convicted of two exact or similar violations that constitutes a charge for debarment. Additionally, it improves/clarifies the role of the Interagency Committee on Debarments and Suspension and provides for retention by the prosecuting Federal agency of fines paid by offender for reimbursement of costs associated with suspension and debarment activities.

#### LATINO CHILDREN AND HEALTH DISPARITIES

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of my colleagues the growing health problems of Latino children.

The Journal of the American Medical Association reports that Latino children have suffered from "a disproportionate number of health problems that have been poorly studied." Diabetes, obesity, and asthma are disproportionately prevalent in the Latino community. Additionally, about 30% of the Latino population are uninsured and of those that do have health insurance, many have problems gaining proper access to medical attention.

Language barriers often continue to exist despite the executive order issued by President Clinton in August 2000 "mandating that physicians who receive Medicaid and Medicare funds provide interpreter services for patients who do not speak English." Yet citing cost, national medical associations are opposed to implementing these services.

Far too little health research has been conducted within minority populations. This fosters a lack of clarity in the etiology of common diseases among minority communities.

As a result, medical practitioners are hampered in developing culturally sound intervention that promotes the well-being of minority individuals. For example, why do Latino children tend to receive less pain medication than white or African-American children while hospitalized for limb fractures?

Access to health care, quality of care, health insurance coverage, environment, and lifestyle are most likely the contributing factors, but we do not understand the dynamics of why minorities, especially children, are not benefiting from our health care system.

Eliminating health disparities in minority communities has been a major goal since the year 2000. In that year, the Office of Research on Minority Health (ORMH), originally established in 1990, was elevated to the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD). This effort was encouraged by Congress to "promote minority health and to lead, coordinate, support, and assess the NIH effort to reduce and ultimately eliminate health disparities" and to "reach out to minority and other health disparity communities."

It is imperative that we begin to envision this country as a place where all populations have equal opportunity to live long, healthy, and productive lives. More research on health disparities in minority populations must be conducted and doctors, health officials, and the American people must recognize that these disparities are a very real problem.

We must take a stand to seriously address the health disparities within Latino children and other minority populations.

[From the New York Times, July 26, 2002]

#### HEALTH PROBLEMS OF LATINO CHILDREN

One in every six American children is Hispanic, but it's hard to find them in the research on child health. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, Latino children suffer from a disproportionate number of health problems that have been poorly studied. Diabetes is on the rise,

and Latino boys have the highest rates of obesity among young people, but researchers don't know why. They also don't know why Puerto Rican children have rates of asthma higher than those in any other region.

Many of the statistics pose mysteries that go beyond the fact that Hispanic children are less likely to be covered by health insurance than are children in other ethnic groups. For instance, Latino children who are hospitalized with limb fractures receive less pain medication than do white or African-American youths. No one seems to know why, and data is hard to collect because Hispanic children are often included in the categories of white, black or "other" in medical research. Many researchers also ignore these children and their parents by excluding non-English-speakers from their studies.

Much more research is clearly necessary. Meanwhile one obvious place to start narrowing the health gap for Latino children is the language barriers. President Bill Clinton issued an executive order in August 2000 mandating that physicians who receive Medicaid and Medicare funds provide interpreter services for patients who do not speak English. The rules are flexible, but the national medical associations have opposed them as being too costly. Given the disturbing data on the state of Latino children's health, their objections send the wrong message.

#### CELEBRATING SALVADORAN DAY

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the California State Legislature for its efforts to recognize a day that celebrates the contributions of the Salvadoran community in the State of California. On August 6, 2002, the State of California will officially celebrate El Dia del Salvadoreño (Salvadoran Day) for the first time. There are more than 275,000 Salvadorans in California, the majority of whom reside in Los Angeles County. Many of these individuals have actively participated in the professional and political arenas, as well as many other fields. It is my hope that the strengths, struggles and triumphs of this culturally-rich community can be remembered and passed on for generations to come.

Salvadoran communities throughout California and El Salvador currently celebrate Salvadoran Day on August 6 as an act of remembrance and celebration. This year's celebration is expected to draw up to thirty thousand people. Historically speaking, the official founding of Villa de San Salvador occurred on August 6, 1525, in the Valle de las Hamacas (Valley of the Hammocks). In this place, the indigenous peoples of Central America fought historic battles against the Spanish conquistadors. The spirit of those indigenous warriors lives on in the Salvadoran people today and is evident in their will to survive and fight to better the lives of their families and communities.

The Salvadoran American National Association (SANA) should be commended as well for its actions on behalf of Salvadoran communities across the country. SANA is a multi-ethnic peace and reconstruction organization founded by Salvadoran-American citizens who have been involved in the community for over 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the California Legislature and SANA for their contributions to the Salvadoran community. Having served two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador, I am especially touched by this issue because of my close ties to the people there and to the Salvadoran community in California. I will forever remember the generosity and friendship of the Salvadoran people, and I am proud to celebrate with them this Dia del Salvadoreño.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR DAVID SCHRADER

**HON. PETER HOEKSTRA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished resident of Michigan's Second Congressional District who is being honored by an organization that has had an immeasurable impact on America. David Schrader, of Baker College in Muskegon, is Junior Achievement's National High School Volunteer of the Year.

Mr. Schrader, a resident of Whitehall, Michigan, has volunteered for 2 years and taught 34 JA classes in that time. Each class encompassed an hour of time and focused on the teaching of fundamentals of business and economics to students. Having started his own accounting firm, and through his work as a professor at Baker College, Mr. Schrader was able to share his professional insights and experiences with the students he instructed.

Mr. Schrader brings a unique energy and enthusiasm to the classroom, and he always goes above and beyond in his efforts. He has volunteered to teach students at the elementary, middle and high school levels, and he has volunteered in rural parts of Michigan, so that young people in those areas can share in the important business and economic educational programs supported by JA as well.

Founded in 1919 as a collection of small, after-school business clubs for students in Springfield, Massachusetts, Junior Achievement serves as a testament to the human spirit and American ingenuity. Mr. Schrader is one of the more than 100,000 volunteers who assist JA in spreading the free enterprise message of hope and opportunity to young people across America.

Mr. Speaker, David Schrader represents the proud and longstanding tradition of volunteerism in the State of Michigan. I wish to congratulate him on his accomplishments and for his outstanding service to Junior Achievement and the students of Michigan.

ON THE PROGRESS OF FUEL CELLS AND THE CONTINUING NEED FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

**HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday of this week, at the Town Hall in Babylon, Long

Island, located in New York's Second Congressional District and represented by my colleague, Mr. ISRAEL, without much fanfare, we saw into the future.

A device was switched on, Mr. Speaker, that—by converting natural gas to hydrogen—produces both useable electricity and useable heat. The heat is captured and reused to warm the building, and the electricity is harnessed and channeled to supplement the structure's power supply. And no contaminants or particulates of any kind are, or will be, released into the atmosphere or water supply at any point in the process.

This device is the first of its kind in use in the State of New York to provide the combined supplemental heat and electricity for a building. This device is called the "GenSys5C" and is produced by Plug Power in Latham, New York—which, I am proud to say, is located in my Congressional District. This device, Mr. Speaker, is called a fuel cell.

Last year, I joined a number of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to introduce H.R. 1275, a bill to provide tax incentives for the development and production of fuel cells and related technologies.

Wisely, this tax credit was included in both the House-passed and Senate passed versions of the energy bill. As our colleagues on the conference committee meet to resolve the differences, I encourage them to support the preservation of this provision in the final report.

Fuel cells, Mr. Speaker, represent the future of energy efficiency, the future of clean and renewable heat and electricity energy sources for our Nation.

There are solutions to our energy crisis that avoid the continued depletion of our natural resources and destruction of the environment, and fuel cell technology is one of them. I am proud to call attention to the milestone reached on Long Island by Plug Power. I call upon my colleagues to continue to support research and development in this field, in order to ensure that success stories will continue to be told. As those present at the Babylon Town Hall already know, the future is now, and it is exemplified in the production of clean, efficient energy using fuel cell technology.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREMENT OF MILDRED PARSONS FROM THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Mildred C. Parsons, a constituent in my district who recently retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. With the recent controversial security revelations and the new reorganization of the Homeland Security Department, we have not heard much positive news about our Nation's security agencies.

Despite what we often hear or see in the media, there are many dedicated individuals who are working diligently within these agencies. In particular, I would like to commend Ms. Mildred Parsons of Takoma Park, Maryland, affectionately called "Millie" by her co-workers, for her tremendous service. Ms. Par-

sons, who retired from the FBI in June at the age of 88, was recognized with an article in the Washington Post, which I would like to enter into the official House RECORD. In 62 years, 9 months, and 2 days, Ms. Parsons never once called in sick to work and retired in June with over 6,000 hours in sick leave.

She has been called an "institution within an institution" by her former supervisor at the field office. I would like to again thank Ms. Parsons for her wonderful and diligent service, and wish her a wonderful retirement. Judging from the article on her, she still has a lot of spunk left.

I think all of us can learn a lot from Ms. Parsons' spirit, hard work, and determination. Thank you Ms. Parsons, your hard work is the foundation upon which our Nation was built.

[From the Washington Post, June 29, 2002]

NOT A SINGLE SICK DAY IN 62 YEARS

(By Allan Lengel)

Mildred Parsons, bucking the very laws of nature, worked as an FBI secretary in Washington for 62 years, 9 months and 2 days—never once calling in sick.

Yesterday, clad in a bright-pink dress suit adorned with a white corsage, Parsons, 88, the longest-serving employee in FBI history, retired. Her final day on the job included a visit to the office of the director, Robert S. Mueller III, and a party, during which former and current co-workers showered her with hugs and unbridled adulation.

"No, I'm not going to cry," she told well-wishers. "It is sad, but at the same time, it's nice. Everyone has to retire sometime. It's time for me to leave."

In nearly 63 years on the job, Parsons, known as Millie, had a headache or two and a cold, but no ailment serious enough to make her stay home.

"I may have sneezed or something, or had a little bit of a cold," she said. "If I had a headache, I just went in there. If I was around people, I would forget."

Parsons said she doesn't take vitamins or use secret herbs. "I eat whatever I want," she said. "I eat a lot of TV dinners, whatever sounds good or looks good at the time."

She gets some exercise. There's ballroom dancing and the six-block walk to the bus to stop each workday, and back again, from her home in suburban Maryland.

But she credited her good health to the joy of "being around people."

Parsons's sick-free record became a matter of pride—and legend—at the FBI. In the early 1990s, FBI agent Frank Scafidi pulled a prank, altering her pay-check stub to reflect an hour of sick leave. Furious, she got on the phone to FBI headquarters—then learned it was a joke.

Her boss, Van Harp, who heads the FBI Washington field office near Judiciary Square, called her "an institution within an institution." Co-workers described her as witty, with a good sense of humor but also a serious side. She liked to take charge, they said, and she paid great attention to detail.

"She was a stickler for everything. . . . You have to have every comma in place, every 'i' dotted," said Donna Cummings, administrative assistant to Harp. "But she liked to party and have a good time."

After graduating from high school in Frederick in 1930, Parsons worked at the old Woodward & Lothrop department store in the District. In 1939, she took a job as a clerk-typist at FBI headquarters, moving to the Washington field office in 1940.

By the end of her career yesterday, she had worked under six FBI directors and 30 bosses at the field office.

"People ask who my favorite boss was," she said. "That's something I do not discuss."