

firefighters from across the nation. Today we honor Jacob Brent Martindale, Daniel Rama, Retha Mae Shirley, Zachary Zigich, and Bartholomew Bailey, all dedicated, heroic, brave individuals who selflessly sacrificed personal safety, and ultimately their lives for the state of Colorado and fellow citizens of our nation. I honor the legacy of each fallen firefighter, and praise the accomplishments their selfless dedication has brought to our country.

It is with great sadness that I recount the lives of each, and express my condolences to their friends and family. Zachary Zigich, 18 years of age, was a resident of Twin Falls, Idaho; he was an athletically talented individual who excelled in tennis, football, and music. He was the middle child of two siblings, and the son of Mike and Angie Zigich. He was an emphatic individual who provided his firefighting skills and services nobly to his community.

Jacob Brent Martindale, 20 years of age, was a resident of Boise, Idaho. His devotion to nature and environmental protection explains his courageous dedication to firefighting. When not working, Jacob could be found in the wilderness fishing, hiking, kayaking, and mountain biking. He was a wonderful friend to many, and he graduated with honors from Centennial High School.

Bartholomew Bailey, 20 years of age, was a resident of Corvallis, Oregon and excelled as a skilled, knowledgeable firefighter. Although young in age, he surpassed all expectations and impressed his colleagues with numerous accomplishments. Bartholomew was noted as an exceptional vocalist participating in numerous chamber chorale performances. Additionally, he was an exquisite performer on stage, awing crowds and packed theaters.

Retha Mae Shirley, 19 years of age, was a resident of La Grande, Oregon who had a flare for exploration. Whether rain or shine, Retha was a dependable asset and a key member of her firefighting team. Truly, her death is an enormous loss to her peers, and a saddening time for her friends and family. Retha was studying at the Oregon Institute of Technology's nursing program, working with steadfast determination toward her goal to become a doctor. Her brother Jesse and parents Larry and Linda survive her.

Daniel Rama, 28 years of age, was a resident of Baker City, Oregon, and lived his existence to fight fires. Dan returned the previous evening from two extensive weeks of "Fire Prevention Training." Dan was an exceptional student in school, and well respected by his peers. Although his family grieves his loss, they embrace the memories of joy and comfort he provided. Dan was a valiant firefighter, who devoted his life toward the service of his community. It is an honor to acknowledge someone of such great integrity and character.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a sincere heart, I commend these five individuals as honorable leaders, patriots, and loyal, dignified servicemen and woman of our firefighting community. It is with a heavy heart, we pay tribute to each person who gave their life so selflessly for the great people of Colorado. I mention each of their names and achievements briefly, but in truth, they each deserve more recognition than I can offer today. Each courageous firefighter nobly surrendered their lives in defense of our nation's forests, and I am honored to pay tribute and remembrance in this body of Congress, and before this nation's forests and

people who live nearby and I am honored to pay tribute in this body of Congress, and before this nation to their sacrifice.

Though each of these young firefighters is no longer with us, their impact will continue to be felt in the lives of the many they touched and remembered by the thousands they worked to protect.

CONTINUING CRISIS IN FOSTER CARE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago Los Angeles County's foster care system was sued by advocates for children alleging that negligence, mismanagement, and abuse and neglect of children are routinely committed by that agency. More specifically, the suit charged that many thousands of foster care children with behavioral, emotional, and psychiatric impairments desperately need, but are not being provided, medically necessary mental health, behavioral support, and case management services, as required by federal law.

When that lawsuit was filed on July 18th, I pointed out to Members of Congress that the allegations described in the lawsuit were not unique to California. States across the country are failing children in foster care. Since that time, officials in the District of Columbia have confirmed that several foster care boys were sexually abused at various group home facilities, including one for mentally retarded foster children. Florida's Department of Children and Families acknowledged that in addition to its inability to account for some 532 foster care children, children have been placed in motels due to shortage of foster homes.

In the following article in the August 22nd Washington Post, an audit of Maryland's child welfare system reveals that the state has lost track of some foster care children for months and failed to ensure proper health care. In one case, a child spent 10 months in the care of a foster parent whose criminal record included two sex offenses and an assault charge. Just as in Los Angeles, the Maryland audit also revealed that foster care children were routinely denied basic health care, including doctor's visits, dental checkups, and psychiatric treatment.

We cannot continue to spend billions of dollars on a system that does not provide what children need to thrive, or in some cases, even to survive. The government must require greater accountability to ensure the health and safety of every child in its custody.

The article follows:

[From the Washington Post, August 22, 2002]

AUDIT FINDS LAPSES IN MARYLAND CHILD CARE—CONTACT LOST WITH CHILDREN; ONE PLACED WITH OFFENDER

(By Matthew Mosk)

The Maryland state agency responsible for 12,000 orphaned, abused and neglected children has lost track of some children for months, failed to ensure proper health care and, in at least one case, entrusted a foster child to a sexual offender, a comprehensive review by the state's Office of Legislative Audits has concluded.

The review reported "significant concerns" about Maryland's Social Services Administration and found numerous instances of neglect on the part of the state's social workers. In nearly half of 163 cases randomly chosen for inspection, caseworker's files showed that they had lost contact with the children and their caregivers for anywhere from two to 16 months.

Child advocates said that particular finding was an unsettling reminder of the case of a 5-year-old Miami girl who was missing for 15 months before caseworkers discovered that she was gone.

"The degree to which we are at risk of repeating [the Florida tragedy] is unconscionable," said James P. McComb, executive director of the Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth, which made up of agencies that serve children.

Maryland's troubles are also a reminder of similar woes in the District, where the child protection system has long been considered one of the most dysfunctional in the nation.

The Maryland audit included other, equally disturbing findings pertaining to the agency's ability to keep tabs on the people entrusted with children's safety and well-being. At one point, in the midst of conducting the review, the audit team discovered that a child had spent 10 months in the care of a foster parent whose criminal record includes two sex offenses and an assault charge. After being notified by auditors, social workers moved the child.

The case was later revealed to be part of a broader problem: Files contained no evidence of mandated criminal background checks for caregivers in 45 percent of the cases the audit team reviewed.

Lapses on the part of social workers also extended to the medical care that was supposed to be provided to children. Basic health care, including doctors' visits and psychiatric treatment, appeared to have been neglected in one-third of the cases the auditors reviewed, and there was no evidence of dental checkups in the files of 68 percent of the children.

Moreover, there was no sign that 35 percent of the children in state custody were attending school.

In a written response to the audit, Maryland Secretary of Human Resources Emelda P. Johnson pledged improvement and said local social services departments have been informed of the findings. Asked yesterday about the findings in a telephone interview, state social services officials blamed paperwork problems for many of the shortcomings.

"The issue here is documentation, not whether something actually happened but whether it was in the folder," said Linda E. Mouzon, executive director of the Social Services Administration.

The audit, however, concludes that the problem not only involves documentation but also "raises significant questions about the actual monitoring and delivery of critical services."

Several of the attorneys charged with representing the children's interests in court agreed that the shortcomings are not merely bureaucratic snags.

"There's no excuse for children in the state's care to be living in the same condition that prompted them to be removed from their homes in the first place, but that's what we're seeing," said Joan Little, who heads the child advocacy unit of the Legal Aid Bureau in Baltimore, which handles more than 5,000 of the children's legal cases each year.

Little said she has personally witnessed cases involving children whom the state agency mistakenly placed in the homes of criminal sex offenders and who then became

victims of sexual abuse. Though she refused to discuss the specifics of those cases, she said they were heartbreakingly real.

"This is a significant and very real problem, and it's outrageous," she said.

Child welfare attorney Jessica Rae had several examples of her own. She recalled checking up on a 4-year-old in state custody recently and being asked a chilling question by his foster mother.

"The woman said to me, 'How would anyone know that I don't have him locked in the basement?'"

"It was a very disturbing thing to hear," Rae said, because she knew the answer: No one would know. The state social worker assigned to check monthly on the boy had not been in touch for nearly six months.

Advocates said that even routine responsibilities, such as ensuring that children see dentists, have clearly been neglected. "Kids come in here and their teeth are totally brown," Little said. "You don't need an expert to tell you they're not getting care."

Mitchell Mirviss, a Baltimore lawyer who argued a landmark case on child welfare in Maryland 13 years ago, said deficiencies such as the ones described in the audit have not been as profoundly documented in more than a decade.

"You're seeing results that are very alarming," he said. "It's a strong confirmation of what the attorneys who represent these kids in juvenile court have been saying. The problems are serious and endemic."

Mouzon said advocates are exaggerating the problem. "Everybody knows of one or two cases where something went wrong. I'm not going to say that's not true," she said. "But I would believe that the majority of our children are safe and are getting the best service possible."

Though there are plans in place to improve the system—such as an initiative to give social workers hand-held computers that allow them to better document their visits with children—Mouzon said no action has come as a direct result of the auditors' findings.

That response surprised many of the advocates, who began circulating copies of the audit in July; it was released in May. Sharon Rubenstein, communications director at Advocates for Children and Youth, said that when she began reading it, her jaw dropped.

"It made me wonder, how can we rest assured that the kids in our system are safe?" she said. "I don't think that the audit should leave us sleeping well at night."

REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH PESTICIDE BILL

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce an important piece of legislation that will help deal with the spread of insect, rodent and microbiological borne illnesses in the United States.

In 1996, Congress passed the Food Quality Protection Act which defined within the existing Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) the term "public health pesticide" to ensure that effective products were readily available for the public's protection. However, an error was made as the legislation was being prepared whereby this definition was unintentionally limited to "minor use pesticides" used by public health agencies and does not incorporate products which

have traditionally been considered public health pesticides, such as consumer pesticide products.

FIFRA requires the EPA to consider threats to public health in the registration and reregistration of public health pesticides. The statutory criteria used to establish "minor use" eliminates many products from being considered "public health pesticides". My legislation would correct this oversight. The effect of this technical correction would be to treat all public health pesticides equally. Specifically, the legislation would make the provisions of the FIFRA applicable to a broader category of beneficial products. These products ensure that the American public has the proper tools to protect themselves against disease.

We have been hearing recently about the serious public health dangers of West Nile virus, but there are many insect and rodent borne illnesses and infectious diseases. Lyme disease, Hantavirus, encephalitis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Colorado Tick Fever, Tick Borne Relapsing Fever and many others threaten the health of all Americans. In addition, microorganisms such as *E. Coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, and numerous species of *Salmonella*, pathogenic mold, mildew and fungi pose serious threats to public health.

With insect borne disease on the increase in the United States, it is vital that EPA look at the benefits in all stages of the process for the products that protect the public from pests that pose a threat to public health. Likewise, antimicrobial pesticides used against human pathogens are vital to public health and benefits of these products also should be considered by EPA.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue which is very important to public health in the United States and across the globe.

SEPTEMBER 11TH VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND FAMILY BENEFITS FAIRNESS ACT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, many of us will travel to New York this Friday to pay homage to the victims of last September's terrorist attacks. Even more meaningful to the surviving families than traveling to New York will be this House's commitment to ensuring that victims' families will have the same opportunities they had before their loved one was killed.

After losing their sole source of financial support, many families are worried that they won't be able to afford college or stay in the neighborhood they have lived in for years. Because of an interpretation of the current laws governing the Victim Compensation Fund, the amount that each victim's family will receive will be lowered by the amount they will get in Social Security survivors' benefits. My legislation, the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Family Benefits Fairness Act, permits the victims and their families of the terrorist attacks to receive the compensation we meant to provide them when we passed the Victim Compensation Fund.

Public support for the victims and their families has been consistent and heartfelt. Ameri-

cans continue to support the families who lost their mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers or friends. We need to ensure that their lives are not further devastated by losing the financial position they had before the attack. My legislation shows the victims that the United States Congress continues to understand their great loss. The bill demonstrates that we are going to treat the families of those who died in the attack fairly. We will make sure that the children of the victims grow up to be successful with faith that American values are unwavering.

The Victim Compensation Fund must not offset the amount a family receives from Social Security. My bill changes the statute to make clear that survivors' benefits will not be offset by the Special Master. This will help ensure that this terrible loss will not result in decreased standards of living or lost opportunities for their children.

HONORING DR. MORRIS CHAPMAN OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone in the life and career of Dr. Morris Chapman, the president and chief executive officer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. On October 1, 2002, Dr. Chapman will be celebrating his 10th anniversary as a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Mississippi native became a Christian at the age of 7 and was called to preach at the age of 21. Dr. Chapman has received several college degrees, including doctorates of ministry, sacred theology and divinity, and has been the pastor of several churches in Texas and New Mexico. He has traveled extensively in the U.S. and abroad while spreading the word of God. And he has written several books about Christianity.

Dr. Chapman has received numerous awards and citations for his work, including the Outstanding Young Man of America in 1973 and 1974 and Who's Who in Religion in 1977. He has also served on numerous civic boards and organizations.

Dr. Chapman's faith and his dedication to serving people of all walks of life are truly inspirational. I cordially congratulate Dr. Chapman for his tireless work in the ministry and his 10 years of serving on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

IN RECOGNITION OF GLADYS BROWN MCFARLANE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Gladys Brown McFarlane, known to many as Sister Brown, as she turns 100. She is a remarkable woman for her devotion to her peers, community and country. I have known