

the 1960s, featuring local bands and musicians such as Stan Drzewicki, Gene Kochaney, Pat Lepeak's Starliners and nearly every other polka band in the region. Later, out-of-town bands joined the line-up as polka music and dancing grew in popularity.

Since then, Joe's tremendous energy and enduring passion for the polka has been instrumental in keeping the music alive and flourishing in Bay City and beyond, particularly at Pulaski Hall. The list of bands that Joe has managed to bring to Bay City is a veritable "Who's Who" of the polka industry, including The Polish Kid, Tony Blazonczyk, Polkamotion Crusade, Lenny Golmulka and The Chicago Push and many others. In fact, Lenny Gemulka's retirement party was held at Pulaski Hall.

Over the years, Joe also has extended his polka promotion efforts throughout the state and across the country. He has attended events produced by the United States Polka Association and the International Polka Association. Of course, Joe's wife, Rita, and daughter, Jeanne, should also be commended for their support of Joe and his keen interest and involvement in anything and everything associated with the polka.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joe Urban upon the occasion of his induction into the Michigan State Polka Music Hall of Fame. It is an appropriate and well-deserved honor for someone who has made so many contributions to ensure that generations to come will continue to stomp their feet and dance to the energetic beat of the polka well into the future.

#### EIGHTH AVENUE SENIOR CENTER 9TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 3, 2002*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to commemorate the 9th Anniversary Celebration of the Eighth Avenue Senior Center sponsored by the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association in my district.

Founded in 1988, the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association began as a small social services agency dedicated to providing assistance to the Asian American community. Since then, that community has blossomed with over 250,000 residents that form the heart of Brooklyn's Chinatown.

The B.C.A. has expanded with the Eighth Avenue Senior Center, which serves the community with daily meals, bilingual information, English as a Second Language classes, Citizenship classes, medical check-ups, and even field trips. Its membership is 1,800 and serves more than 200 senior citizens each day. Such dedication to this community should be commended.

On October 3, the Senior Center will host its Millennial Roundtable celebration in similar style, by pairing guests with 12 senior members aged 84 and older—a combined age of 1000 years. The Double Millennial Roundtable pairs guests with 23 members aged 87 years or older, for a combined age of 2000 years. This is a great tribute to the age, wisdom and contributions our senior citizens have made, and continue to make, to our community.

GENE AND POCO GERTLER

### HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 3, 2002*

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the spirit of charity and two very good people in my district.

Gene and Poco Gertler joined us in Prescott just a few years ago, but they have made quite a difference for our community. While they came to enjoy retirement in Arizona, they ended up working harder than they ever imagined—not for themselves, but to improve the lives of other Arizonans.

One day, while cleaning out closets for the winter, they decided to donate their surplus clothes to the citizens of the Hopi reservation 250 miles north of Prescott. And, since there was extra room in the pickup truck, Gene sent an e-mail to 21 neighbors and friends, giving them the opportunity to add their contributions.

Well, instead of the few bags of clothing Gene and Poco expected, neighbors showed up with over 600 pounds of donations—enough that they had to rent a trailer. Many of the donations came from families the Gertlers didn't know, but who had heard about the trip by word of mouth.

Word continued to spread, and the Gertlers' one-time visit to the reservation became a regular shuttle. Furniture and other household items joined the clothes, and soon there was too much for the pickup and trailer. It seemed like every load was bigger than the last. Many people would be overwhelmed, or say, "I've done my part." Gene and Poco bought a bigger truck and a bigger trailer and kept on hauling.

The years bring new challenges to all of us, and sadly, Gene and Poco have found that they are no longer able to carry on their work. But that wasn't until they had rounded up and personally delivered over 25,000 pounds—yes, over twelve tons—of clothing, furniture, and other assistance for Arizona's Native Americans. All for no remuneration other than knowing they'd helped keep other people warm.

The Bible says, "By their works shall ye know them." We sure know about Gene and Poco. And we are proud to call them our neighbors.

#### HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE, LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

### HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2002*

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, today I voted "no" on final passage of H.R. 4600, the Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, and Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act. My vote was a difficult one, but after consulting with both supporters and opponents of the bill, I was not convinced that the federal government should preempt state law in this area.

Those supporting this bill have made some compelling arguments as to why Congress should step in and institute these reforms.

They cite the national nature of insurance plans, whereby a doctor in Arizona might have to pay more for malpractice insurance due to an over-the-top jury award in Texas. They also note that, as doctors close up shop or stop providing high-risk care in specialties such as emergency medicine and obstetrics and gynecology, patients are forced to cross state lines in order to seek out treatment. We have all watched with dismay as hospitals have been forced to shut their doors and doctors have opted to treat patients without malpractice insurance due to the high costs of premiums. Certainly, the trial attorneys who line their pockets with egregious fees aren't suffering as a result of the mess they've made with unscrupulous lawsuits. These arguments only underscore an already evident need for the states to pursue medical malpractice reforms. However, as one who believes firmly in federalism, I am unwilling to support legislation that would, in effect, preempt the constitution of the state of Arizona, which prohibits caps on damages.

The natural evolution of health care delivery suggests that a federal solution such as H.R. 4600 may one day be necessary. Even today, we need tort reform badly. It's up to the states to begin that process, and I plan to be part of those efforts. The states should follow California's example, which has been an undeniable success over the past 25 years.

#### HONORING THE FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION AND MS. MAG-AZINE

### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 3, 2002*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader in the movement to establish equality for women in the United States—the Feminist Majority Foundation.

Co-founded by Peg Yorkin and Eleanor Smeal, the Feminist Majority Foundation has been instrumental in the fight to create gender equality, eradicate domestic violence and promote feminist women and men as they seek elected office across the country.

Yorkin's involvement with feminist causes can be traced back to 1977, when she was elected as a delegate from California to the National Women's Conference. In 1986, she worked with Eleanor Smeal, then the president of the National Organization for Women to produce NOW's 20th Anniversary show, and in 1987, the two joined to found the Feminist Majority Foundation.

Nineteen ninety-one was a banner year for the Feminist Majority, which received a historic \$10 million gift to ensure a legacy of empowerment for young women. The first endowment made was a drive to make the so-called abortion pill RU-486 available to women.

That year also saw sexual harassment propelled to new heights as Clarence Thomas was vetted for a spot on the U.S. Supreme Court. Testimony by Anita Hill, coupled with the Senate's treatment of her and her allegations of sexual harassment, prompted the Feminist Majority to open the Sexual Harassment Hotline to provide information and help to harassment victims.

The groundbreaking efforts of the Feminist Majority continued, and in 2001 the organization bought a building in Beverly Hills to house

the Foundation and its new enterprise—the editorial offices of Ms. Magazine, which the Feminist Majority acquired in January 2002.

On Sunday, October 6, 2002, the Feminist Majority Foundation will open its new offices. Although the organization's location may have changed, it and Ms. Magazine's commitment remains the same—to advance the women's equality cause in the United States.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this remarkable foundation.

#### A CENTURY OF SERVICE—SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues in the Congress to join me in marking a century of service as San Mateo High School celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, a century ago, the city of San Mateo and the rest of the Peninsula looked dramatically different than they do today. At its creation, the first high school in the San Mateo Union High School District required only three teachers to educate the fourteen students who attended the school, which was housed in a three-bedroom cottage. During the next twenty-five years of its existence, San Mateo High School moved three times, finally settling into its present location on Delaware Street, in San Mateo, California, in 1927.

Like the rest of the Peninsula, the school has witnessed exceptional growth during the last one hundred years, and today San Mateo High School boasts an enrollment of 1,425 ethnically and socially diverse students. It is that remarkable diversity, that is a major part of what makes San Mateo High School a great institution of learning. According to the most recent figures, the school includes African American, Hispanic, Caucasian, Filipino, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native American students.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to this melting pot of American students, San Mateo High School's student body also includes many international students. For many years the school participated in the American Field Service's exchange student program. This program facilitates international understanding by sending American students to study abroad, and bringing foreign students to study in the United States. A testimony of the success of San Mateo High School's commitment to the benefits of diversity is the fact that at one time the student body was comprised of individuals from 80 different nations. This diversity certainly enriched the educational experience of the pupils and fostered international understanding among its students. As Jacqueline McEvoy, who became the school's 13th principal in 2000, commented, "it was like walking into a microcosm of the world."

Mr. Speaker, San Mateo High School and its students have also established an outstanding record of community service. The school was the recipient of international recognition when the Guinness Book of World Records certified that the 214,713 pounds of food collected by the students at the school was the largest food drive ever put together by

a non-charitable organization. This extraordinary feat is testament to the intelligence, drive, determination, and commitment to service of the students that make up San Mateo High School.

Mr. Speaker, during the past century, San Mateo High School has actively pursued and achieved excellence in academic, vocational, performing arts, and athletic programs. It has provided countless opportunities for the enrichment of students on the Peninsula and around the globe. I am greatly honored to have the privilege of representing this excellent institution in the United States Congress. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of San Mateo High School.

#### HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE, LOW COST, TIMELY HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 4600, the HEALTH Act of 2002. While this legislation should address the skyrocketing costs of medical malpractice insurance it is really a huge tort reform bill that threatens to weaken patient protections. This legislation goes well beyond medical malpractice. It would not only place restrictions on the ability of individuals to receive compensation when they are injured by the negligent conduct of health care providers. But it would also include, defective medical products, tainted prescription drugs, and claims against HMO's and health insurance companies.

This legislation would preempt current state law regarding the statute of limitations for actions. During my time in the Minnesota House of Representatives, I supported legislation that lengthened the statute of limitations for medical malpractice cases to four years. H.R. 4600 would require lawsuits to be filed within three years of the date of injury or only one year after discovery. We must have a longer statute of limitations to help protect individuals who have diseases with long incubation periods.

For example, a patient who contracts HIV from mishandled blood, but does not show symptoms until three years later, could not seek remedy for this gross injustice under this new law. A patient who has a medical device implanted and years later the device fails due to a part defect, will not be able to seek remedy under this new law. These patients deserve the same protections any other individuals who have been injured by other forms of negligence.

The overly broad scope of this bill sets a dangerous new precedent. We should not prevent individuals from seeking remedy for their injuries by allowing medical manufacturers who obtain FDA approval, FDA "pre-market approval" or "are generally recognized as safe effective" to be exempted from liability. We should absolutely not be preempting states' HMO reform laws that have allowed patients to sue for wrongful actions.

I have heard from doctors the challenges they face over the significant increases in

medical liability insurance premiums. I am concerned that additional costs make it more difficult for physicians to stay in practice, however, this legislation does not address the real problem. This bill does nothing to fix the increasing cost of insurance premiums and goes far beyond its stated purpose of reducing the costs of malpractice insurance, while compromising the health and safety of patients.

#### TRIBUTE TO EDWARD TELLER ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH AN- NIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NA- TIONAL LABORATORY

#### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished American, a renowned scientist, a national icon, and a resident of the distinguished 14th Congressional District, Dr. Edward Teller.

Hailed as one of the most thoughtful statesmen of science and recognized by his scientific colleagues as one of the most imaginative and creative physicists alive, Edward Teller has led an extraordinary career. Born into a Jewish family on January 15, 1908 in Budapest, Hungary, Edward Teller grew up during a particularly turbulent time in Hungarian history when a virulently anti-semitic fascist dictator ruled the country. Edward Teller left his homeland in 1926 to study in Germany and received his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the University of Leipzig in 1930. Soon after the rise of Hitler, Edward Teller left Germany and immigrated to the United States to take a teaching position at George Washington University and pursue his research in quantum mechanics. The rest as they say, "is history."

Dr. Teller has led one of the most distinguished careers in science. Most widely known for his significant contributions to the first demonstration of thermonuclear energy, Dr. Teller also made enormous contributions to quantum theory, molecular physics and astrophysics. Since the early 1950's, Dr. Teller has been concerned with national defense. He served as a member of the General Advisory Committee of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (1956 to 1958) and was Chairman of the first Nuclear Reaction Safeguard Committee. Dr. Teller also served as Associate Director at the new Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory from 1954 to 1958 and became Director in 1958.

Edward Teller has earned numerous honors . . . the Albert Einstein Award, the Enrico Fermi Award, the Harvey Prize from the Technion-Israel Institute, and the National Medal of Science.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Edward Teller on the occasion of the 50th anniversary celebration of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory which he helped found. We're a better, more scientifically advanced, and safer nation because of Dr. Teller and his extraordinary accomplishments.