

on issues from constituent casework to the revitalization and redevelopment of the District. Jack's stewardship of the District Office over the past two decades has been invaluable to me, and has served the 3rd Congressional District well.

Mr. Speaker, countless times when I was in my district, a constituent would approach me and tell me how my office helped him or her with a problem they were having, anything from problems sorting out social security benefits to getting a military medal they had been awarded. Thanks to Jack's leadership and counsel, and along with my dedicated staff and caseworkers, we helped thousands of constituents during my tenure in Congress. Constituents never forget the help and support of my District Office, as I will never forget their help, support, and friendship.

THE 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT STAFF,
1983-2002

Kay Arndorfer, Maureen Canty, Ethan Chamow, Michele Daly, Patrick Daly, Pete DeCoursey, Jack Dempsey, Mariann Porter Dempsey, Adam Dickstein, Sis Dolan, Christopher Drumm, Ginny Duffy, Anna Marie Feeney, Rosemary Farnon, Jack Fesi, Ann Fleming, Keven Gallagher, Joe Grace, Bill Haas, Tom Jablonowski, Brian Jeter, Judith Kohn, Elsie Lydon, John Macoretta, Francis McCloskey, Mark Menkevich, Joe Michalski, Carletta Murray, Mercedes Ott, Karen Peck, Manor Prewitt, Jerrildine Reed, Peg Rzepski, Joe Schorr, Donna Storino, Donna Szuszcwicz, Ed Turzanski, Nicole Usle.

HONORING CHARLOTTE KLEIN

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Worcester treasure, Charlotte Klein, as she celebrates 50 years as a dance educator. Charlotte's students and friends will honor her November 9, 2002 to commemorate a career that has touched the lives of thousands and helped launch many professional careers.

Charlotte began studying dance at age four, and she began her career as a dance educator as an assistant teacher with a preschool class at age 12. During the 50 years since she opened her first dance studio in the basement of her parents' home, following high school graduation, she has provided professional training in the art of dance to thousands of students in Central Massachusetts. Countless students have gone on to college as dance majors, and dozens of Charlotte's students have achieved national recognition for their stage, film, and television performances.

As important as her career has been in her life, her family always came first. In 1955 she married her high school sweetheart, Ben Klein, son of a prominent Worcester Rabbi. They built a dance studio in their home and started to raise a family. Tragedy came with cystic fibrosis, a disease that claimed two of their three daughters. One lived for only a few weeks, while Elisa lived more than 15 years. Elisa was a wonderful dancer, and took classes in Charlotte's school before she passed away. Elisa's sister Laura carried on the family legacy as a dancer, choreographer and teacher. Charlotte moved forward, establishing the Elisa Ruth Klein Fund. The Fund supports ac-

tivities of the Cystic Fibrosis Center at UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in congratulating Charlotte Klein and her family for their contribution to dance education in Central Massachusetts.

ELIMINATING THE 24 MONTH WAITING PERIOD FOR MEDICARE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, more than 56 million Americans currently live with some kind of disability. These disabilities include blindness, paralysis, mental illness, hearing loss, physical ailments, and a host of other conditions.

The federal government has recognized the unique challenges faced by these Americans by allowing qualified disabled individuals to receive health insurance under the Medicare program. Unfortunately, the law includes a 24 month waiting period before disabled individuals can qualify for coverage.

This waiting period poses a serious problem for many newly disabled Americans. Faced with the loss of their employment due to their disability, their situation is only made worse because they cannot access the health care services they need. The Medicare program was designed to help people in need—not make their situations worse by denying them necessary health care.

That is why I am introducing legislation to eliminate the 24 month waiting period under the Medicare program. This legislation would allow individuals to enroll in Medicare immediately upon their disability determination. This is a necessary change in the law which will help countless Americans access the health care they need upon becoming disabled.

HONORING THE HEROISM OF MIKE MCGEHEE OF RED BUD, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the heroism of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville Freshman Mike McGehee of Red Bud, Illinois for saving the lives of his fellow students during a tragic fire in their Cougar Village apartment on the campus of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Early Saturday morning, October 12, 2002, Campus police received a call that a fire was underway at the Cougar Village Student apartment complex. The fire started at about 4:40 a.m. in the kitchen of Apartment 1B on the lower floor in the complex. Mike McGehee and his roommates were upstairs in Apartment 2C. Mike, normally a sound sleeper according to his parents Len and Ruth McGehee, woke up about 4:30 a.m. and smelled smoke. He woke up five other people in the apartment and guided them towards the front door. When they discovered that the front door was hot,

Mike's roommates went to the balcony to jump. Upon reaching the ground, Mike didn't follow. Campus Police Officer, Tony Santiago who was on the scene helped some students who were trying to jump off balconies to escape from the second story apartments.

With the fire fully engaged and Edwardsville Fire units arriving on scene, Mike became disoriented with the smoke and broke out a window, he fell to the floor and called out for help. By then Edwardsville Firefighters were evacuating other apartment units. Mike's friends alerted fire fighters that Mike was still inside. Firefighters, moving through the building, felt Mike's grasp on his leg. According to Mike's parents, Mike had already mentally said his goodbyes, as he thought he was going to die.

Mike was taken from the building, to a local hospital and then transferred to the burn unit at St. John's Mercy Medical hospital in St. Louis where he is currently being treated for burns and smoke inhalation. Mike is expected to be released from the hospital in the coming days.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the heroism of Mike McGehee and his efforts to help save the lives of his fellow students. It was through his efforts that so many lives were saved that day.

TRIBUTE TO ALICE SANTANA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Alice Santana, a woman of many roles—a wife, a mother, a friend, a business woman, a community activist, a rising star in the ranks of the Office of Economic Opportunity, a political advisor, a supporter and kingmaker—just to name a few. Alice was tough, exuberant, and smart in every one of her roles. She brought her awesome zest for life to others, and enjoyed the pleasure of working and playing, while wholeheartedly advocating the causes in which she believed.

Alice came to Santa Cruz with her family in 1962 when the circle of those committed to action for social change and support for the arts was small indeed in Santa Cruz County. This was an emerging time of change—Cabrillo Community College had just been established, UCSC was on the verge of opening its doors, and Alice was a forceful and driving member within that small circle for reform. Alice's commitment continued with resiliency. There is hardly an arts organization or initiative for social change in this county that did not benefit from Alice's truly generous support.

It is no secret that Alice Santana has always been an ardent Democrat. Her willingness to generously support endeavors that didn't always look shiny and bright, in a community dominated by the other party, was a critical force for change. She was an early and crucial supporter for Leon Panetta, our first Democratic Congressman. Alice supported and worked hard for Henry Mello, Supervisor, State Assemblyman and the State Senator. She worked vigorously for my races as well as for Fred Keeley, our current State Assemblyman. And at the local level, she was an important and initial supporter for a line of Democratic Second District Supervisors, Ralph

Sanson, Dale Dawson, Robley Levy, and Ellen Pirie. We all owe much to Alice.

Alice not only supported politicians, she played the game too, and she played it well—from the early 60's as an activist at Community Action Board hearings, to the days when she was an energetic delegate at both state and national conventions. She delighted in these opportunities. Alice had an unrelenting passion for making a difference. When she saw the opportunity to act, she did not let it pass, and her mark on our community has been profound.

In addition to all of Alice's accomplishments, it is just as important to remember her enthusiasm for life, her enjoyment in the great pleasures of our world—good food, good drink, good conversation, and the company of good friends. Alice loved elegant and vivid clothes, jewelry, silver, ivory and gold, and a good martini. I have always enjoyed her hospitality, and was often transported by vibrant tales of her travels—to New York and Guam, Cairo and Portugal. With Manuel, Leonard, Patricia, and Angelina, I am proud to honor the warmth, love, and courage personified in Alice.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF LADY BIRD JOHNSON

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a resolution to recognize the 90th birthday of former First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson. Lady Bird Johnson has made many contributions to this country.

One of the most visible is her dedication to the preservation of the environment, especially her efforts to beautify our Nation's highways with a legacy of wildflowers.

In 1982, Mrs. Johnson founded the National Wildflower Research Center, which later was renamed the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, in Austin, Texas. The center is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of native plants in natural and planned landscapes.

My congressional district includes the Hill Country of Texas, which encompasses Stonewall, Texas, the home of Mrs. Johnson. Each year with spring's arrival, the Hill Country's fields, hillsides and riverbanks shed their drab winter austerity for the vibrant hues of wildflowers.

Lady Bird Johnson was the recipient of the nation's highest civilian award, the Medal of Freedom and, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan awarded her the Congressional Gold Medal.

I commend Lady Bird Johnson's efforts to preserve the landscape of this country and we send her best wishes on her 90th birthday.

A WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO
MATTIEBELLE WOODS ON HER
HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 26, 2002 the Milwaukee Community will join together to celebrate Ms. Mattiabelle Woods' 100th birthday and honor her for over 50 years of journalistic excellence serving the Milwaukee community.

Mattiabelle Woods was born and raised in Milwaukee and has spent more than 50 years as a newspaper columnist and community activist. Ms. Woods has served as an icon for an array of people across socioeconomic lines and professions with a lifetime commitment and dedication to improving the quality of life for citizens in the Milwaukee community. Her distinguished professional career has taken her to the top of her craft with assignments to the Milwaukee Globe, The Chicago Defender, The Milwaukee Star, Jet Magazine and currently the Milwaukee Courier. She still remains active in the community and has been gainfully employed for almost a century. Currently Mattiabelle has a weekly column in the Milwaukee Courier newspaper, 'Mattiabelle's Party Line.'

Legendary is her community involvement where she has played an active role in the March of Dimes, The United Way, The NAACP, the United Negro College Fund, the Urban League, and numerous other endeavors including the political arena. Ms. Woods was the Founder and Director of Miss Black Teen-Wisconsin, Miss Bronze Milwaukee and Ten Best Dressed Black Women in Wisconsin.

Numerous awards and recognitions she has received which include: Black Female Pioneer Award, Quality of Life Award, Status of Women Service Award, African-American Ancestry Award, Outstanding Woman in Wisconsin Journalism, and NAACP Presidential Award.

So it is with great pride that I congratulate Mattiabelle Woods, not only for her 50 years of community public relations and social affairs, but also for a lifetime of service to the Milwaukee community, and on her 100th birthday celebration. Happy Birthday!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, because of health reasons I was absent for rollcall votes 453–463. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 453—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 454—"No"; Rollcall No. 455—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 456—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 457—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 458—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 459—"No"; Rollcall No. 460—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 461—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 462—"Yes"; and Rollcall No. 463—Yes.

OUR LADY OF PEACE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4757, the "Our Lady of Peace Act"—sensible and much-needed gun safety legislation. I thank my colleague, Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY, for bringing this bill to our attention. In facilitating a more accurate and complete database of people who are ineligible to purchase firearms, the Our Lady of Peace Act would bring greater safety and security to our streets and into our homes.

This bill would require that a greater number of federal and state records that are pertinent to determining firearms transfer and possession eligibility be made accessible through the National Criminal Instant Background Check System (NICS). It is incumbent that we do all we can to ensure that such a database is as thorough as possible in order to prevent criminals from buying guns.

We seem to be increasingly reminded of the fear and tragedy that guns can help cause in our society. As lawmakers, we must do all we can to ensure that assault weapons and handguns are kept off the street and that only law-abiding citizens have access to firearms for hunting and sport. This bill is a step in that direction, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

KEEPING CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES SAFE ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are here today to consider H.R. 5601, the "Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2002" which reauthorizes and improves the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), the Adoption Opportunities program, and the Abandoned Infants Act.

While I recognize and am disappointed that we were not able to come to agreement on all issues of the original bill, H.R. 3839, the bill before us shows our effort and commitment to ensure that programs aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect continue. I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides for their hard work and efforts in developing this mutual compromise in the bill before us for consideration today.

I especially want to thank the full committee chairman, Mr. BOEHNER, for his support of this bill, and Mr. GREENWOOD for his diligence in ensuring that infants born addicted to alcohol or drugs receive necessary services.

I want to also thank the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. ROEMER, and the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. MILLER, for their cooperation in working towards this alternative bill before us today.

This bill provides for the continued provision of important federal resources for identifying and addressing the issues of child abuse and