

a 1998 signed agreement between Iraq and the United Nations—an agreement that ensures respect for Iraq's sovereignty and allows for transparency in the work of the inspectors. We could never make this claim with such openness if we did not ourselves know there is nothing to be found. Still, we continue to read statements by officials of the United States and the United Kingdom that it is not enough that Hans Blix, head of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, and his team of inspectors have unconditional access. They say this is because the Iraqi government may be hiding weapons that will not be found, or is moving weapons from place to place, or is developing new weapons in roving vans or in underground locations.

The United Nations officials with whom our government has worked on these matters know that these concerns have no foundation. In December 1998, when the United Nations weapons inspection team left Iraq on the orders of Richard Butler, the chief United Nations arms inspector at the time, it had exhausted all possibilities after seven years of repeatedly examine all possible sites; only small discrepancies existed.

It is now widely conceded that Iraq possesses no nuclear weapons and that we could not develop them without building facilities that could be spotted by satellite. Since 1999, we have allowed the International Atomic Energy Agency to visit Iraq. If it wishes, it can inspect any building anywhere. The agency's inspectors will find nothing untoward.

Scott Ritter, who led many United Nations inspections, has said that he questions whether Iraq possesses biological weapons. Mr. Ritter also has been on CNN in recent months explaining that his inspection team destroyed plants that could produce chemical weapons. If these plants were reconstructed, Mr. Blix and his team would quickly find them out. Building such weapons costs billions of dollars and requires enormous facilities and huge power sources. The idea that such projects could be moved around in trucks or stashed away in presidential palaces stretches the bounds of imagination.

It is my belief that the American people are not aware of this history because, in my opinion of my government, no American political figure has been seriously interested in discussing these matters with our government. The United Nations was created in 1945 to provide a forum for nations in conflict to come together to work out their disagreements. It was designed expressly for the purpose of making the use of force an absolute last resort.

For more than 11 years, the people of Iraq suffered under United Nations economic sanctions, which have been kept in place largely by American influence. According to statistics compiled by the Iraq Ministry of Health, these sanctions have caused the death of more than 1.7 million of our citizens. The embargo has been so severe that we have been prevented from importing chemicals needed for our sewage, water and sanitation facilities.

At the same time, the last three American presidents have stated that these sanctions could not be lifted as long as our president, Saddam Hussein, remains the nation's leader.

Iraq is not a threat to its neighbors. It certainly is not a threat to the United States or any of its interests in the Middle East. Once the United Nations inspection team comes back into my country and gets up to speed, I am confident that it will certify that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction—be they chemical, biological or nuclear. Such certification we hope, will remove the shadow of

war and help restore peace between our nations.

IN HONOR OF MARILYN BRIGGS UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the lifelong achievements of Marilyn Briggs, who is retiring after 33 years of dedicated service to school children and their nutritional development. Marilyn Briggs, R.D., M.S., S.F.N.S., is the Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, Director of the Nutrition Services Division, for the California Department of Education. She is responsible for child nutrition, commodity food distribution and nutrition education programs statewide, where over four million meals are served daily to California's children. In her thirty-three years of work in diverse food and nutrition programs, over twenty of which have been directly involved with child nutrition and nutrition education, Marilyn has effected numerous changes that have advanced good nutrition for children, adults and families not only in California, but also across the nation. As a result of her commitment, leadership, and hard work, she leaves a legacy upon her retirement of many nutrition and nutrition education programs that will continue to be utilized by Child Nutrition Programs in California and other states.

Marilyn's accomplishments are too many to list, however the following are some of the most noteworthy:

She created the concept of the nationally acclaimed 5 A Day program as part of the development of the California Daily Food Guide. This well-known program, aimed at improving the nation's health through increased fruit and vegetable consumption, has received over \$1 billion in contributions from the food industry and public and private organizations, and is now used in markets and schools across the country.

She coordinated the Shaping Healthy Choices Initiative including the establishment of statewide SHAPE (Shaping Health As Partners in Education) model programs, which serve as catalysts to improve the quality of comprehensive nutrition programs in California.

She initiated and developed national standards for the Healthy School Meals Initiative, which are now part of the Coordinated Review Effort audit for every National School Lunch Program in the United States.

She reviewed and rewrote the 5-a-Day Adventures CD-Rom for elementary school students, which is now used in over 2 million classrooms.

She developed the conceptual model for the Team Nutrition Schools network based on California's SHAPE program, and mapped out the plan for all materials to be used in the program.

Along with two other Nutrition Education and Training staff, she developed the comprehensive school health initiative, "Healthy Kids, Healthy California", which is now used by the Center for Disease Control as the model program to be implemented nationwide.

She coordinated the development, field-testing, evaluation, and publication of a state nutrition education curriculum series, "Choose Well, Be Well", for students, preschool age through grade twelve.

She coordinated Nutrition, Education and Training Section Publications such as The California Daily Food Guide, Better Breakfast Better Learning, Eat Well Learn Well, and Strategies for Success.

She has provided expert testimony and analysis to both State and Federal Legislators, and answered inquiries from Congress regarding USDA Nutrition Programs.

She has served as a consultant to the USDA in developing regulations for implementation of the National School Lunch Act, such as the highly complex issue of competitive food sales.

Throughout her career, Marilyn Briggs has participated in numerous nutrition and nutrition education professional organizations and councils, where she donates extraordinary amounts of volunteer time and expertise to further child and other nutrition programs. Most recently she has completed a one year term as President of the National Society for Nutrition Education, where she had previously held other Board positions, led their strategic planning process, and founded and chaired the Division of Specialists in Nutrition Education for Children. She has also been President of the National Association of State NET (Nutrition Education and Training) Program Coordinators, where she led a Nutrition Education and Training strategic planning process which resulted in the publication by USDA in 1994 of "Promoting Healthy Eating Habits for Our Children: The Strategic Plan for Nutrition Education" that is still used today as the framework for the national NET Program. As President of the California Nutrition Council, she coordinated a multi-disciplinary process to make policy recommendations in the areas of Food Safety and Quality, Food Security and Delivery, Food Supply and Agriculture, Nutrition Education and Marketing, Nutrition and Health, and Nutrition Research and Professional Development. The Council then used these policy recommendations to establish a statewide food, nutrition, and health policy that prioritized and addressed the nutrition needs of California, to be introduced as legislation during the 1996–1997 California legislative session. Marilyn has clearly been a leader in promoting lifelong nutrition and health for children and their families.

Marilyn has also served on several Boards and Committees, including the Research and Education Advisory Board to the National Food Service Management Institute, the Nutrition Section of the American Public Health Association, the Legislative Committee of the California Dietetic Association, the School Nutrition Practice Group of the American Dietetic Association, the 5 A Day Steering Committee, and the Credentialing and Certification Council, Foundation Board, and Youth Advisory Committee of the American School Food Service Association. She has chaired the American School Food Service Association Nutrition Committee, the American Dietetic Association Public Relations Committee and Education Section of the School Nutrition Practice Group, and the California School Food Service Association Education and Training Committee, Nutrition Standards Committee, and Youth Advisory Councils. She has acted as the California

Department of Education liaison to the California School Food Service Association for more than ten years. In addition, Marilyn has authored and acted as an expert reviewer for numerous nutrition publications, and presented keynote speeches on nutrition related topics across the country.

In recognition of her exceptional contributions in the field of child nutrition, Marilyn Briggs has received several awards. They include the "Friends of Agriculture" outstanding public service award by the California Farm Bureau and the California Agriculture in the Classroom Program, the California Department of Education Unit Award, a graduate student fellowship from the University of California at Berkeley, and the "Moscone Commitment to Nutrition and Nutrition Education Award", which has been given to her twice by the California School Food Service Association.

In addition to working as the Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, Marilyn has held several positions within the Nutrition Services Division of the California Department of Education since 1981. They include Nutrition Education and Training Specialist, Child Nutrition Consultant, Administrator of Nutrition Education and Training, and Assistant Nutrition Services Division Director. She has also worked in a temporary Intergovernmental Personnel Assignment as a Special Assistant to the Associate Administrator of Food and Consumer Service, United States Department of Agriculture, in Washington, D.C. during 1994 and 1995. In each of these positions, Marilyn has not only demonstrated her passion for child nutrition and nutrition education, but she has worked tirelessly to lead collaborative efforts to develop nutrition programs and curriculum and ensure their implementation.

Marilyn was born Marilyn Mae Briggs on June 6, 1946 in Washington, D.C. to Eleanor Reese Briggs and George McSpadden Briggs, Jr. She attended Bethesda Elementary School in Bethesda, Maryland, where she earned straight A's all seven years, and excelled in music and performing in school plays. She graduated from Leland Junior High School in Bethesda, Maryland, and Acalanes High School in Lafayette, California, where she continued to excel in academics, music, and drama. In 1968, she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dietetics and Nutrition from the University of California at Berkeley, where her father was the Chair of the Nutritional Sciences Department. She completed her Dietetic Internship at the United States Public Health Service Hospital in Staten Island, New York, and became a Registered Dietitian in 1969. After working a few years, Marilyn earned her Master of Science Degree in Nutritional Sciences, again from the University of California at Berkeley, and she became Credentialed as a School Foodservice and Nutrition Specialist (S.F.N.S.) through the American School Food Service Association in 2000. Marilyn has three children, Nancy, Catherine, and Robert, two grand daughters, Emma and Samantha, and two sisters, Nancy Louise Briggs and Catherine Briggs Hanafi, in addition to her mother, Eleanor, and her father, the late George Briggs.

Marilyn Briggs's career has been one of continually giving above and beyond what has been required of her. As Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, Director of the Nutrition Services Division, for the California

Department of Education, she has been responsible for the administration of the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, Food Distribution Program, Special Milk Program, and State Meal Mandate in California. While managing these programs with perfection, Marilyn has continually sought development and implementation of new concepts and programs to advance good nutrition and nutrition education in California and beyond. Many of her dreams and ideas have become national models and standards, yet Marilyn seeks no personal credit. She is humble in her success, a strong but gentle leader, and highly respected by everyone with whom she has ever worked. She accomplishes what she sets out to do, finds ways around roadblocks, and is a master of communication, with the ability to bring consensus among dissenting groups when necessary to focus on the common goal of good nutrition. The vision of the Nutrition Services Division, "Working with our partners, we will lead the nation in providing exemplary nutrition programs and services," has definitely been achieved under Marilyn's direction. She is truly a great friend and advocate to all who value nutrition and nutrition education.

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today, I take the opportunity to let my colleagues know that October was National Spina Bifida Awareness Month. I think we should all pause for a moment and pay tribute to the more than 70,000 Americans—and their family members—who are currently affected by Spina Bifida. After all, Spina Bifida is the nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect. The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA), an organization that has helped people with Spina Bifida and their families for nearly 30 years, works every day—not just in the month of October—to prevent and reduce suffering from this devastating birth defect.

The SBAA was founded in 1973 to address the needs of the individuals and families affected by Spina Bifida, and is currently the only national organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. As part of its service through 60 chapters in more than 100 communities across the country, the SBAA puts expecting parents in touch with families who have a child with Spina Bifida. These families answer questions and concerns and help guide expectant mothers and fathers. The SBAA then works to provide lifelong support and assistance for affected children and their families.

Together, the SBAA and the Spina Bifida Association of the Tri-State Region, which is based in Flemington, New Jersey, work tirelessly to help families meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their child. I would like to acknowledge and thank SBAA and the Spina Bifida Association of the Tri-State Region for all that they have done for the families affected by this birth defect, especially those living in my district. Their work is truly a labor of love.

For those colleagues who don't know, Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect that occurs when the central nervous system does not properly close during the early stages of pregnancy. Spina Bifida affects more than 4,000 pregnancies each year, with more than half ending tragically in abortion. Many times, unborn children with Spina Bifida are killed by abortion because of a false belief that nothing can be done to help victims of this disease. The truth is that today, approximately 90 percent of all new born babies diagnosed with this birth defect live into adulthood, approximately 80 percent have normal IQs, and approximately 75 percent participate in sports and other recreational activities.

With proper medical care, people who suffer from Spina Bifida can lead full and productive lives. However, they must learn how to move around using braces, crutches or wheelchairs, and how to function independently. They also must be careful to avoid a host of secondary health problems ranging from depression and learning disabilities to skin problems and latex allergies.

During this month of October, the SBAA and its chapters make a special push to increase public awareness about Spina Bifida and teach prospective parents about prevention through proper nutrition and pre-natal care. Simply by taking a daily dose of the B vitamin folic acid (which is found in most multivitamins), women of child-bearing age have the power to reduced the incidence of Spina Bifida by up to 75 percent. That such a simply change in habit can have such a profound effect should leave no question as to the importance of awareness and the impact of prevention.

While consumption of folic acid helps with prevention, we must do more to ensure a high quality of life for people already living with Spina Bifida so more families choose the blessing and joy of having a child. The challenges of raising a child with Spina Bifida are significant, but the challenges can be overcome. Fortunately, Spina Bifida is no longer the death sentence it once was, and now most people born with Spina Bifida will likely have a normal or near-normal life expectancy. The challenge now is to ensure that these individuals have the highest quality of life possible.

I call upon my House colleagues to provide \$3 million in much-needed funding to establish a National Spina Bifida Program at the National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ensure that those individuals living with Spina Bifida can live active, productive, and meaningful lives. In addition, I urge the House to take up the recently passed Senate version of the "Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act of 2002," (S. 2980), which takes many critical steps that will work to prevent Spina Bifida and to improve the quality of life for individuals and families affected by this terrible birth defect. I am hopeful that we will act shortly to pass the measure so it can be sent to the President for his signature.

I again wish to thank the SBAA and its chapters for all of their hard work to prevent and reduce suffering from this birth defect, and for their commitment to improve the lives of those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout our nation. Much more work still needs to be done, and I am confident this fine organization and its chapters will lead the