

and inclusiveness. For 90 years, Girl Scouts has had a proven track record of empowering girls to become leaders, helping adults be positive role models and mentors for children, and helping to build solid communities. I salute Girl Scouts on this tremendous milestone, and am confident that Girl Scouts is sure to continue this tradition for the next 90 years and beyond.

RECOGNIZING THE GIRL SCOUTS'
90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, It gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize the Girl Scouts as the pre-eminent all girls organization in the world. Founded on March 12, 1912 in Savannah, Georgia, the Girl Scouts organization celebrates its 90th Anniversary of service to the girls and women of America.

The Girl Scouts serves the unique interests of girls by providing girls with programs designed especially for them in an all-girls setting.

The Girls Scout Council of Buffalo & Erie County, Inc., joins Councils throughout the United States, and Girl Scouts everywhere, in celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Girl Scouting in the USA, and its 85th year of service to the girls of Western New York.

The year 2002, marks nine decades of Girl Scouts providing girls with age-appropriate programs that help to impart good moral values, life skills, a respect for themselves and others, a foundation necessary for girls to become contributing adult members of their communities.

Girl Scout Troops in Buffalo & Erie County, Inc., and Girl Scouts across America, take their role as patriotic Americans more seriously than ever. Two of their public service endeavors include airlifting donations of Girl Scout Cookies and letters of encouragement to the women and men of the U.S. armed services stationed in Afghanistan and donating dollars to the children of Afghanistan.

The Girls Scouts of Buffalo & Erie County serve their immediate community through Gifts of Caring and Bronze, Silver and Gold Award service projects, that not only provides individuals with the necessities of life, but also helps to uplift the spirits of the homeless and less fortunate members of society.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring the Girl Scouts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LONG-
TERM CARE SUPPORT AND IN-
CENTIVE ACT

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an important issue facing our community: the affordability of long-term care. People today are living longer and healthier lives than ever before. When the Declaration of Independence was signed, the

average life expectancy was 23. In the United States today, life expectancy at birth is 80 years.

While this increased life expectancy is allowing us to live fuller lives, it is also presenting us with serious financial challenges. Half of all older Americans who live alone will "spend" themselves into poverty after only 13 weeks in a nursing home.

My own family had to make difficult emotional and financial decisions when my father needed care. My dad was a pediatrician, and always lived a full life. When he needed care, my sisters and I struggled to find the perfect place for him to live.

We wanted to make sure he was happy and received high quality medical care. We searched for months to find the right place for our dad and we learned very quickly how expensive long-term care is. Fortunately, we had the financial resources to take care of him, but many families do not.

My experience with my dad renewed my commitment to improve our long-term care system. I took on this mission in Congress and I am pleased today to introduce the Long Term Care Support and Incentive Act. This much needed legislation will make a real difference for San Diegans carrying for older family members.

First, the bill will give a \$4,000 tax credit for seniors with long-term care needs and their caregivers. We know how many sacrifices families make to take care of their loved ones. They miss work, or in some cases are forced to give up their jobs. They pay for expensive medical supplies and equipment, and bare the burden of enormous medical bills. This tax credit will help ease their financial burden.

The second section of my legislation will establish a tax deduction for long-term care insurance premiums. As the long-term care needs in our community increase, we must face the reality that many seniors do not have family or friends to take care of them full time.

This is particularly important to women. Women live longer than men. Often times, women are the primary caregivers for their husbands. After their husbands pass away, there is often no one around to take care of them.

Long-term care insurance can help fill this gap, but premiums can be expensive. My legislation will make long-term care insurance more affordable by allowing individuals over 65 to deduct 75 percent of the cost of their premiums and individuals under 65 to deduct 50 percent of the cost of their premiums.

In addition, I have included several important consumer protections in the bill to ensure that people are purchasing responsible insurance plans that will adequately meet their long-term care needs.

The bill requires plans to include:

Mandatory inflation protection;

A lifetime deductible requirement that ensures policy holders must only pay their deductible one time in their lifetime;

Mandatory interchangeability so that individuals can determine where their benefits are spent;

A care coordination program that ensures seniors receive assistance in planning and securing the services they need.

By encouraging people to plan ahead for the future and purchase long-term care insurance, we can ensure that seniors live dignified and independent lives. I urge all of my col-

leagues in Congress to work with me to pass it quickly into law.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GIRL SCOUTS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America. Earlier this month, the Girl Scouts celebrated their 90th Anniversary, and it is appropriate for us to take time to honor their contributions to our nation.

The Girl Scouts were founded by Juliette Gordon Low on March 12, 1912 in Savannah, Georgia and were chartered by Congress on March 16, 1950. Today, the Girl Scouts boast 3.7 million members, 2.7 million of whom are daisies, brownies, junior scouts, cadets, and senior scouts. And they are supported by almost one million adult volunteers. The Girl Scouts is a truly worldwide organization partnering with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to create a family of ten million girls and adults in 140 countries.

As the former State Superintendent of North Carolina's public schools, I understand how important the Girl Scouts are to the development of our young women. The Girl Scouts are working to encourage young women to pursue careers in science and technology through a number of innovative science and math education initiatives. These initiatives provide girls with mentors, role models, and the technological resources to prepare them to succeed in the 21st Century.

Through Girl Scouts girls become strong women and good citizens. They participate in a number of activities that are designed to foster friendship, and build character. They learn leadership skills, teamwork, and core values that will guide them throughout their lives. These values are outlined in the Girl Scout Law:

I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

More than 50 million women in the U.S. have been Girl Scouts. Today these women are America's doctors, lawyers, teachers, and mothers. The lessons they learned in their childhood from their field trips and projects are still being applied today. Our nation is stronger today because of the Girl Scouts. I am proud to join my colleagues in saluting the Girl Scouts and look forward to what the next 90 years will bring.

HONORING TADELE WORKU FOR
SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor Tadele Worku, recipient of

the 2001 Yoshiyama Award for Exemplary Service to the Community, presented to him by The Hitachi Foundation at an awards ceremony on Monday, March 18, 2002 in Washington, DC. The Foundation named ten high school seniors nationwide as recipients of this prestigious award—ten young people who exemplify the best in creativity, accomplishment, and service to their communities.

Tadele is a 2001 graduate of Hoover High School in my home town of San Diego, California. He is receiving this award to recognize his contribution to the Ethiopian community in San Diego. Upon his arrival as a refugee from Ethiopia four years ago, he became aware that Ethiopian children in his neighborhood did not know how to read and write their native language. Tadele set to work to develop a tutoring program for these children. While their parents attended church, he worked with their children, teaching the Ethiopian alphabet and language and exposing them to the Ethiopian literature, tradition, and culture.

In addition, Tadele provided tutoring in math and science to the children who needed assistance. He also worked with young adults in the computer center of the local library and volunteered in a San Diego homeless shelter. By becoming so involved in service to others, Tadele has truly become a part of his new community, a bond which has helped him overcome a difficult exile from Africa where his mother and grandfather were killed and his father incarcerated for their political beliefs.

The Yoshiyama Award, which Tadele has received, was established in 1988 with a gift from Hirokichi Yoshiyama, former president and chairman of Hitachi, Ltd., the company that established The Hitachi Foundation in 1985. The goal of this non-profit, philanthropic Foundation is to promote social responsibility through effective participation in global society. The Hitachi Foundation is proud to highlight the achievements of the young people of our country, the leaders of their generation.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Tadele Worku on this prestigious award and to thank him for his compassionate commitment to his community.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT BLACKKEY, OUTSTANDING HISTORY PRO- FESSOR

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Robert Blackkey, a professor of history at California State University at San Bernardino, located at the western edge of the 40th District of California. Professor Blackkey is the 2001 honoree of the Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award, the highest award given by both the American Historical Association and the Society for History Education in recognition of outstanding teaching and advocacy for history teaching.

Long an advocate of good teaching, Professor Blackkey's instructional techniques and knowledge of his subject matter have, over the course of his thirty plus years of teaching, made history come alive for his students. Blackkey understands the adage "History is to

society what memory is to the individual" and that humanizing the study of the past makes it relevant to the young minds of the present.

In making the award, the historical association quoted a former student's nomination, saying not only is Professor Blackkey "a dynamic speaker and discussion leader, but he enriches his lectures with slides, photographs, art, music, and observations from his travels around the world. He brings the people of history to life through visual and verbal illustrations that humanize them; he also helps students to think historically and to appreciate the larger themes that he weaves throughout his classes." Through his work as editor of the teaching column in *Perspectives*, vice president of the AHA Teaching Division, chief reader for Advanced Placement European History, perennial workshop leader, and frequent guest speaker in secondary school classrooms, Professor Blackkey has made an outstanding contribution to history teaching, the association said.

Blackey's efforts at serving others don't stop at the university's edge. He has served as Chair of the school's history department as well as social science coordinator. Additionally, his work includes having served as vice president of the American Historical Association and is an elected member of The College Board's National Academic Council. Blackey also works with Project Upbeat, an innovative program that inspires middle school students to attend and succeed in college.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Professor Blackey's dedication to his profession and his continuing efforts to help students appreciate and understand history. I ask you and my colleagues to join his fellow professors, his friends, and his family in congratulating him for his record of success.

CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2341) to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, to outlaw certain practices that provide inadequate settlements for class members, to assure that attorneys do not receive a disproportionate amount of settlements at the expense of class members, to provide for clearer and simpler information in class action settlement notices, to assure prompt consideration of interstate class actions, to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow the application of the principles of Federal diversity jurisdiction to interstate class actions, and for other purposes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2341, the Class Action Fairness Act of 2001. This legislation would make it more difficult for injured consumers to seek relief from corporate abuses. This is not the type of legislation that we in Congress should be supporting in the wake of the Enron debacle.

I would also like to state my position on some of the amendments being offered on

H.R. 2341. Several of the amendments are directly attributable to many of the alleged disgraceful, if not illegal, acts performed by a few major corporations in the past couple of years. These acts include records being sealed, even though public health and safety were at stake, and document shredding. Despite the outrage that some corporate behavior has created for me and the American public, some proposed amendments were not well-defined to deal with this illegal conduct. My "nay" votes on certain amendments reflect this concern, however I condemn the corporate behavior that prompted these proposals.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO PREVENT ANY INCREASE IN VETERANS' HEALTH CARE DE- DUCTIBLE

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, in response to the President's fiscal year 2003 budget, I am introducing this Sense of Congress to oppose the Administration's recommendation to impose a \$1,500 deductible on the health care for "Priority Group 7" veterans. Just recently the VA increased the veteran prescription drug co-payment by 250%. The President's budget proposal calls on Congress to legislate a \$1,500 deductible for their health care. This deductible is unacceptable and an unnecessary hardship to place upon veterans. It is my hope that by introducing this Resolution, this Congress will speak as one body and make it clear that we will not break America's promises to our veterans.

TUNISIA 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize a great ally of the United States, Tunisia, as she celebrates 46 years of independence. In 1797, the United States signed a Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the North African country of Tunisia. Over 150 years later, Tunisia peacefully gained independence from France. Today, we congratulate Tunisia for 46 years as an independent nation.

The Republic of Tunisia has remained a steadfast friend to the United States, joining Allied forces during World War II and continuing support throughout the Cold War. Now, in the wake of September 11, Tunisia has once again emerged as a true ally, supporting our current efforts in the war against terror. Based on her geopolitical location, Tunisia's cooperation in the campaign to root out terrorists is absolutely critical.

Today, Tunisia enjoys a burgeoning economy, as the nation's per capita income continues to grow substantially. One of Tunisia's most valuable assets has been its continued willingness to support a Middle East peace process. Despite being surrounded by nations