

strengthening our resolve. In these past months, communities across the nation have developed a new found respect for those who dedicate their careers to protecting our families and our communities. I am honored to join the Woodbridge Fathers Baseball League and the Woodbridge community in extending my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Department. Their commitment and unparalleled courage make a real difference in our community.

Celebrating thirty years of prosperity and fun, it is with my sincere thanks that I join the Woodbridge community in congratulating the Woodbridge Fathers Baseball League on their 30th Anniversary. From your first president, Tony Malafronte, to the current president Dwight Rowland, this organization has left an indelible mark on this community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 117, H.R. 169, the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (Concur in Senate Amendment). Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 118, S. 2248, the Export-Import Bank Extension Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 119, H. Con. Res. 386, Supporting a National Charter Schools Week. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

AMERICAN SAMOA MEDICAID PROGRAM

HON. ENI F.H. FALÉOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to provide American Samoa with treatment under the medicaid program similar to that provided to States.

American Samoa receives only about \$3 million annually in medicaid reimbursement. Each year, American Samoa's expenditures exceed its federal fiscal ceiling. For example, in FY 2000, Medicaid expenditures were \$4,909,677, or \$1,709,677 over ceiling. Although Congress adjusts the federal fiscal ceiling annually for the states based on the percentage change in the medical care component of the consumer price index for the preceding year ending in March, this adjustment has very little relation to the needs of American Samoa.

The fact of the matter is American Samoa pays a higher federal match than 40 other states yet the per capita income in American Samoa is less than \$4,500 per year. More than 56% of the population lives below the poverty level. All on-island health care is provided by the LBJ Tropical Medical Center.

Construction of the LBJ medical center was completed in 1967. The in-patient wards have

not been renovated since this time. The patient wards have no air conditioning. Bathroom and washroom facilities are inadequate and many of these wards do not even meet fire safety codes and ADA standards and requirements.

In order to meet fire safety codes and ADA standards, the LBJ Tropical Medical Center is in need of upgrading or installing restrooms, medical air, medical vacuums, piped oxygen, proper lighting, a nurse call system, a fire sprinkler system, and sufficient electrical outlets for medical equipment.

However, the LBJ Tropical Medical Center does not operate at a profit and is consistently strapped for funds because every year medicaid expenditures exceed the federal fiscal ceiling. Mr. Speaker, I am not asking for millions of dollars to address the inequity that currently exists in the way we provide for the medicaid needs of American Samoa.

I am simply asking that the federal ceiling for American Samoa be raised to \$10 million. I am also asking that the calculations used to determine the federal match for the states be applied to American Samoa. Currently, our federal match is fixed at 50%. Year after year we're at 50% with no thought or review or consideration by Congress to adjust this match to more adequately address our needs.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the U.S. Congress to take this issue seriously. The bill I have put forth is a fair and reasonable approach to provide for the health care needs of low-income residents in American Samoa. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN HONOR OF CAUSE-VISION 21 AND ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The month of May marks the 25th year in which we honor the accomplishments and struggles of the Asian Pacific American community in this great nation.

I am proud that the region I represent in Congress is a diverse one and is home to many people of Asian Pacific heritage. So many constituents have distinguished themselves through their accomplishments in education, business, medicine and science, and other forms of public and private sector involvement, and through a strong successful family life. To commemorate Asian Pacific Heritage Month, I would like to highlight the remarkable accomplishments of an organization in my Congressional district, committed to supporting and inspiring change in the area of civic participation for the Chinese American and Asian American communities.

Cause-Vision 21, established in 1993, is dedicated to advancing the political empowerment of the Chinese American and Asian American communities through voter education, community outreach and leadership development. They have established dynamic and innovative programs designed to increase awareness and access to the political process.

Once such program, the Chinese American Student Internship Coalition (CASIC), cele-

brating its tenth year, provides Chinese American college students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with the political process and a deeper understanding of issues important to the Chinese American community. By being placed in a legislative office, each student is given an opportunity to become more aware of current legislative initiatives being debated in California's State Legislature.

Along with CASIC, Cause-Vision 21 offers a number of community forums on a broad range of issues, voter registration drives, and get-out-the-vote efforts. Due to their efforts, the political awareness of the Chinese American community has risen exponentially and the voter registration of this group has grown considerably since the organization's inception.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring Cause-Vision 21, an organization striving to ensure that Asian Americans have a strong voice in the democratic process. Their efforts on behalf of the community have been extraordinary.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE AND ORAL EDWARDS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two great American citizens, and I am proud to recognize Christine and Oral Edwards in the Congress for their invaluable contributions and service to Arkansas on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Chris, the daughter of Frank and Effie Austin of Blytheville, and Oral, the son of Jesse and Grace Edwards, were married on May 11, 1952 at the First Baptist Church in Blytheville, AR by Reverend David McPeak. The story of their meeting is practically lifted from the pages of a Hollywood movie script.

They met in the summer of 1951 when Chris was home from Southwestern College and working at Farmer's Bank and Trust in Blytheville. A friend of hers had told her about Oral, and she wanted to meet him. She knew that he worked at the grocery store on Saturdays, so she went to shop with her parents one Saturday.

Oral ended up carrying out her family's groceries to the car. When he turned to go back in the store, she called out his name. When he turned around, she knew it was him, and she invited him to go to church with her. He didn't go, but later called for a date. They dated for about a year and decided to get married. They had no money and no car. Friends chipped in to help with the wedding arrangement, and they had a beautiful wedding. The rest as they say is history.

The Edwardses have two children and six grandchildren. Steve, their first born, lives in Marianna with his wife, Laura. Steve and Laura have three children. Ashley, the oldest, lives in Maumelle with her husband Paul Rowton. Leigh is a student at Arkansas State University, and Steve, Jr., the youngest, is a first grader at Lee Academy.

Susan, their daughter, lives in Memphis, Tennessee with her husband, Dr. Jim DeRossitt. Susan and Jim also have three

children. Jay, the oldest, lives in Austin, Texas with his wife, Leigh. Frank attends Christian Brothers High School, and John, the youngest, is a student at Woodland Presbyterian School.

Oral and Chris became permanent residents of Forrest City in 1962, when they moved here to establish a new location for their grocery store business at the intersection of Division Street and Highway 70. The business has since grown and Oral and his son, Steve, now own GES, Inc., which operates businesses in Arkansas named Food Giant, FG Express, Tobacco Warehouse and EDPROP Development Co.

In addition to being a business leader, Oral has also been an active community leader. Oral has served as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of East Arkansas Community College and the Baptist College of Medical Sciences in Memphis, Tennessee. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Baptist Memorial Health Care Company, in Memphis.

Chris, not to be outdone by her husband, has also played an important role in a number of community organizations. She has been a member of the Garden Gate Garden Club and the Forrest City Musical Coterie for more than 40 years. She has also been an active member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

The state of Arkansas is a better place because of my close friends Oral and Chris Edwards, and I am proud to call them my friends. On behalf of the Congress, I extend congratulations and best wishes to these faithful public servants on the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding.

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN HIGH
SCHOOL 2002 WISCONSIN "WE
THE PEOPLE" CHAMPIONS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, our great statesman Benjamin Franklin was asked, "What have you wrought?" He replied, "A republic, if you can keep it."

Two hundred years later, the Center for Civic Education, created by Act of Congress and funded by the U.S. Department of Education, began working with our nation's elementary and secondary students to help them understand the enduring relevance of that statement. Since the inception of the "We the People" program in 1987, more than 26 million students and 82 thousand educators have participated in the Center's outstanding program to promote civic competence and participation.

Our founding fathers recognized that ultimately a free society must depend upon the civic virtue of its citizens, and that our schools have an important mission to prepare students to become informed, responsible citizens. Heritage Christian High School's social studies teacher Tim Moore certainly understands the important role of schools in promoting democratic values and an involved citizenry. In the seven years that Heritage Christian has participated in the "We the People" program, Mr.

Moore's students have won first place in the Wisconsin state competition five separate times!

The students from Heritage Christian have truly been inspired to academic excellence, and have demonstrated an impressive knowledge of the fundamental principles of our nation's constitutional democracy. It is with great pride that I recognize their outstanding achievement, and commend them for their exemplary commitment to the study of constitutional issues.

This year's representatives from Heritage Christian High School are: Sarah Bohl, Tim Bruce, Tim Cisler, Liz Culver, Jordan Hawkins, Joe Hense, Joanna Hinks, David Kludt, Amy Krejcarek, Brad Larson, Paul Lorenz, Tim Melville, Jon Pickens, Ashley Ramsland, Erik Skoglund, Meredith Spry, Courtney Van der Ploeg, and Andrew Wier.

Congratulations, and best wishes for continued success in this year's national competition in Washington, D.C.!

HONORING MAY AS OLDER
AMERICANS MONTH

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, May 1st, marks the beginning of Older Americans Month. This should give us pause to focus on the status of our nation's seniors.

What is the major concern facing older Americans today? It is the need for affordable prescription drugs. As we all know very well, the Medicare program does not cover outpatient prescription drugs. Women, in particular, are affected by this shortfall in coverage. Women live, on average, seven years longer than men, have earned less during their working lives and have half the average annual income of older men. This makes women vulnerable to high health care costs, including out-of-pocket expenses and insurance deductibles as well as the price of prescription drugs.

Because of their longevity, women are more likely to have chronic health conditions and functional limitations. Eight of ten women on Medicare, including those with disabilities, use prescription drugs regularly to manage chronic conditions and subsequently are vulnerable to catastrophic expenses. These women fill fewer prescriptions annually than those with drug coverage but spend nearly twice as much out-of-pocket for their medications. The Congressional Budget Office reports that the average out-of-pocket costs for older Americans just for prescription drugs will be \$1500 this year alone.

This month, Connecticut seniors who are members of the Alliance for Retired Americans will board buses and travel to Canada in order to have their prescriptions filled at affordable prices. The Alliance, which will send its members from every state that borders Canada, expects to show that in just one month of short trips seniors can collectively save as much as one million dollars in annual prescription costs.

The trips are not a solution, but they will demonstrate just how ludicrous it is for U.S. citizens, especially older Americans, to have

to go to Canada to purchase lower cost medicines because of the lack of a prescription drug benefit within the Medicare program. We must bear in mind that for every person making the trip to Canada there are others who are far worse-off physically and who need the lower-priced medications even more. Unfortunately, they cannot physically board a bus.

Congress must act this year to break the hold that the pharmaceutical industry has on the drug pricing system that forces our citizens to travel to Canada to purchase their prescription drugs at affordable prices. Congress must relieve the emotional and financial distress that millions of older Americans are experiencing. Mr. Speaker, the best way to honor older Americans is for Congress to enact a comprehensive Medicare prescription drug benefit this year.

TRIBUTE TO SALESIAN HIGH
SCHOOL OF RICHMOND, CALI-
FORNIA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the students, faculty, staff, alumni and families of Salesian High School of Richmond, California, who will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary on September 6, 2002.

On September 8, 1927, the Salesians of Saint John Bosco, a religious society of the Catholic Church specializing in youth services and education, established a high school seminary program for boys. Then, in 1960, the seminary relocated to Watsonville, California, and became a college preparatory Catholic high school.

In 1989, the school became coeducational and now, with 570 students, they reflect the ethnically diverse population of the area: 18% African-American, 7% Asian Pacific, 20% Euro-American, 23% Latino, 20% Filipino, and 12% from other ethnic and racial backgrounds.

65% of these students come from low-income families in the local neighborhood. Salesian High School has the lowest annual tuition among all the private schools in Contra Costa and Alameda counties, and it is their policy that no student will be left behind due to an inability to meet tuition costs. Therefore, they maintain a strong tuition assistance and scholarship program.

Salesian High School graduates 98% of their seniors into colleges and universities throughout California and the United States. This attests to their combination of church, school, playground, home, and family in their educational system.

The school is dedicated to developing well-rounded students through curriculum that encourages the students to develop their unique talents through education, Christian formation and service.

I rise to congratulate Salesian High School for 75 successful years of educational service and wish them continued success in the years to come.