

In her twenty-four years as a director of Mary Kay Cosmetics, Kay has served as a shining example of determination and hard work. While her efforts have produced bonuses and excursions to exotic locations such as Hong Kong and Switzerland, she remains committed to her family. She has four adult children and three grandchildren, not to mention her husband, Robert Zuckerman. I know they are proud of Kay's many achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join Kay Hall's colleagues in commending her for her many years of exemplary and dedicated service to Mary Kay Cosmetics. Her debut as a National Sales Director is a deserved honor indeed. Ms. Hall has left an indelible mark on not only the Mary Kay community, but also on southeastern Michigan. Again, I extend my congratulations and birthday wishes.

RECOGNIZING KENTUCKY'S
NURSES

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an important group of Kentuckians who continue to exhibit an incredible dedication to serving others. Nurses remain an integral part of our Kentucky community, as they are vital to our well-being and survival. The American Nurses Association and the Kentucky Nurses Association have declared May 6 to May 12, 2002 as Kentucky Nurses' week, and I encourage all Kentuckians to join with me in honoring the nursing profession.

The men and women of the nursing profession proudly represent all races, religions and creeds in a variety of settings. Whether serving in a large hospital, a small doctor's office or in one of their many other capacities, nurses are committed to providing quality health care to all citizens. As the nation's largest group of health professionals, nurses are assuming an ever increasing responsibility and accountability for their community's health care needs. They have continued to demonstrate their professionalism by striving to upgrade care standards and improve their services. In fact, I'm sure we can all remember a time where a nurse's kind words, or gentle smile, provided comfort.

With a wide variety of responsibilities, nurses are always prepared to offer the best possible health care to their patients. Nurses are there to help the sick get better and to make sure the healthy stay that way. Appropriately, the Kentucky theme this year is "Unsung Heroes." I am proud to call attention to all of the nurses in our Kentucky community and hope you will join with me in celebrating the tireless efforts of our "unsung heroes."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-DULUTH ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the University of Minnesota-Duluth Women's Hockey team and the University of Minnesota Men's Hockey and Wrestling teams for winning the 2002 National Collegiate Athletic Association championships. This great achievement honors the players, coaches, their respective schools and all Minnesotans.

The sport of hockey has a long and storied tradition in Minnesota and is recognized nationally as one of the leading states for the development of hockey players. From youth leagues to amateur leagues to professional players, Minnesota is known for producing some of the greatest hockey players in the history of the sport. It is only fitting, therefore, that both the women and men's hockey 2002 NCAA Championships were won by Minnesota schools.

Both the Bulldogs' 3-2 victory over Brown, which was their second in a row, and the Gophers' 4-3 victory over Maine were exhilarating wins, that kept all Minnesotans on the edge of their seats. Each of these teams deserves to be commended for their outstanding seasons.

I also want to recognize the 2002 Gophers men's wrestling team for another outstanding year. While not as well known as hockey, collegiate wrestling in Minnesota has made an outstanding name for itself, culminating in the Gophers' 2002 National Championship—also their second straight. In addition to the team championship, 2 members of the team earned individual wrestling titles and 7 garnered All-American honors. All the Gophers wrestlers and coaches deserve our congratulations.

I am especially proud that each of these three teams excelled in the classroom, as well as the playing field. In a day and age where all-too-often academics takes a back seat to athletics on many college campuses, all three teams maintained grade point averages that were above the university averages. The University of Minnesota and Minnesota-Duluth should be proud to recognize these true student athlete champions.

Congratulations to the University of Minnesota and University of Minnesota-Duluth on their achievements.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NURSE
EDUCATION PROMOTION ACT

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Nurses Week, and I am pleased today to join my good friend ERNIE FLETCHER in introducing important legislation that helps address the nursing shortage. Nurses constitute the nation's largest group of healthcare

professionals. They serve in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, managed care facilities and community health centers, and their work is invaluable.

Unfortunately, there is an emerging labor shortage among this group of healthcare professionals. Fewer and fewer people are choosing nursing as a career. According to the General Accounting Office, between 1993 and 1996 enrollments at two-year associate degree programs dropped 11%, while enrollments at three-year diploma programs dropped 42%. Between 1995 and 1998, enrollments at four-year bachelors programs dropped 19%. Even so, the demand for nurses is increasing, and it will only grow as the baby boomers retire. The Congressional Research Service projects that the supply of nurses will fail to meet demand by 2010.

This crisis threatens to compromise the quality of healthcare in this country. Indeed, the Department of Health & Human Services reports that there is a "strong and consistent relationship" between nurse staffing and patient health. The GAO reports that between 2000 and 2030, the group of Americans who are 65 years of age and older will double. At the same time, the number of women between 25 and 54—the group that traditionally comprises most of the nursing workforce—is expected to remain the same. Mr. Speaker, more than ever we need nurses to care for our seniors. Unless we create incentives and opportunities for men and women to choose nursing as a career, this country will face a crisis in this decade.

To address this problem, my friend ERNIE FLETCHER and I have today introduced the bipartisan Nurse Education Promotion Act. Our bill addresses the nursing shortage in a number of important ways. First, it would establish a competitive grant program for associate degree nursing schools to be used for nursing student recruitment, student scholarships, and the hiring of faculty. Second, the bill would establish a competitive grant program for professional nurses associations, so that they may establish and administer continuing education programs, in cooperation with area hospitals and higher education institutions.

Under the continuing education programs, the nurses association would coordinate class work at a central location for which nurses could receive college credit towards a BSN (or equivalent degree) and/or training in an understaffed and critical nursing specialty. The clinical portion of the continuing education could be done at any of the participating hospitals.

While we support other legislation to alleviate the nursing shortage, we believe that by focusing on the two-year schools our bill gets nurses into the field more quickly. By providing money for continuing education, we hope to ensure that nurses are able to meet the changing and increasingly complex demands of our healthcare system. We hope our colleagues will join us in our efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and head off a major healthcare crisis that is just on the horizon.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOUG DEAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Doug

Dean and thank him for his contributions in the Colorado General Assembly. His hard work and dedication is appreciated, and I am honored to pay tribute to him today before this body of Congress. As he moves on in his career, let it be known that I, along with the people of Colorado, am grateful for the work he has done for the state, and the Colorado General Assembly.

During his time in the Colorado State House of Representatives, Doug has provided his leadership to many legislative endeavors. Currently he serves the assembly as Speaker of the House, and has served on numerous committees during his tenure, notably the Executive committee, Legislative Council, the Business Affairs, Labor, State, Veterans, and Military Affairs committees. He has provided his focus and leadership not only as speaker, but also as Vice-Chairman of the Education committee and as House Majority Leader from 1999 to 2000. He has remained committed to many ideals throughout his terms, and has promoted the issues of education, judiciary affairs, telecommunications, law enforcement, and commerce.

In addition to his duties as a state representative, Doug is known as a devoted husband to Gloria, loving father of three, and is an active member of his community. He is a small business owner, and can often be found volunteering his time and energies as a volunteer parent for the United Way and on the sports field as a volunteer coach for youth baseball teams.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to bring to the attention of this body of Congress the accomplishments of Doug Dean and his service to Colorado. His contributions to his state and constituents, as both a member of the Colorado General Assembly and community volunteer, are an example of public and civic commitment to us all. Thanks for your leadership and commitment to Colorado, Doug, and I wish you all the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO AARON ZACK PHILLIPS, SBA 2002 YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to my colleagues that the American dream is alive and well in Rochester, New York. It can be found embodied in a Rochester businessman and booster who, though only 25 years old, has already achieved what others spend a lifetime trying to accomplish. His name is Aaron Zack Phillips, and he is president of Kink BMX, a manufacturer and distributor of BMX bicycle parts and related soft goods. He is also this year's national winner of the SBA's 2002 Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Zack's middle name is self-reliance—a character trait always present in American dreamers. From the age of 12, he juggled school and part-time jobs like throwing papers or flipping hamburgers at fast food restaurants. By 18, he was the assistant manager for a local home improvement store, in charge of payroll, scheduling and inventory.

But at the same time that Zack was working for others, he was beginning his own busi-

ness—out of pure frustration. Because the bicycle parts he bought kept breaking down, he decided that he could make them better and stronger—and did. Then, with the help of a media kit from a trade magazine and an advertising budget, he began selling them to other cyclists at competitions and skate parks.

The rest is history, hard work and an entrepreneurial drive that just won't stop—always necessary components in any successful American dream. At the age of 25, Zack now runs a million dollar business employing 6 people, which both manufactures the Kink line and distributes its products throughout the Midwest and California, as well as in Europe, Canada, Australia and Japan. He didn't do all this totally alone. Along the way, the U.S. Small Business Administration stepped in to guarantee the loans this young man could not get without its help, reminding us once again what a beneficial service this small Federal agency makes in the lives of Americans with lofty goals and high-flying dreams.

I am so proud of this young man—proud that he dreamed his dream, then made it a reality. But what really endears me to him is the way he ties his own economic well-being to that of his home-town. On every mailing, logo, brochure and marketing tool, he prints the words "Rochester Made Means Quality Made," along with archival prints of our city and High Falls.

That slogan might just as well describe Aaron Zack Phillips, the SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONWIDE GUN BUYBACK ACT OF 2002

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Nationwide Gun Buyback Act of 2002 (NGBA) to mark Mother's Day, in recognition of the strong support mothers across the nation have demonstrated for gun safety, and in light of continued gun violence in our communities. The NGBA would provide \$100 million in federal funds to local jurisdictions to hold gun buyback programs similar to the successful programs conducted by the District of Columbia and other cities over the last three years. Under the bill, funds would be distributed through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and, after evaluation of proposals, added weight would be given to jurisdictions with the greatest incidence of gun violence. The NGBA would require that a jurisdiction certify that it is capable of destroying the guns within 30 days, that it can conduct the program safely, and that an amnesty appropriate for the jurisdiction will be offered. Not only individuals, but groups such as gangs could take advantage of the buyback provisions to bring in guns and encourage street gangs to disarm themselves.

Families, and especially mothers, fear guns in their homes, but have not known how to get rid of them. In many jurisdictions, a grandmother, father or other family member may be petrified that there is a gun in the house but cannot turn it in without subjecting the family member or her grandson to possible prosecution. This unintended result of gun safety leg-

islation is reason enough for the amnesty achieved through gun buyback efforts.

This bill is necessary because, despite the extraordinary demonstrated success of the gun buyback program in the District, in which over \$528,000 was spent to recover 6,250 firearms in three buybacks, local jurisdictions lack readily available funds for similar programs. The experience of the District of Columbia is instructive. The District was forced to find money on an ad hoc basis and ran out of funds despite indications that there were many residents who still desired to turn in guns. Initially, the District conducted a pilot program using funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The response of the public was so strong, with residents standing in long lines, that the Police Department took the program citywide, using drug asset forfeiture funds. Even so, after using \$290,000, the city ran out of funds, but not of guns that could have been collected.

The guns were considered a "good buy" because they were unlicensed and illegally possessed, but hard-pressed jurisdictions, especially big cities, should not have to rob Peter to pay Paul when it comes to public safety. The federal government can play a unique and noncontroversial role in reducing gun violence by providing the small amount authorized by my bill, \$100 million, to encourage buybacks efforts where they can be helpful.

With this bill, we are taking the gun buyback leadership of the District and other cities nationwide. We have demonstrated a faster and easier way to get guns where criminals cannot use them and children and adults cannot misuse them. Gun buyback efforts are not new, but the recent, dramatic impact of the program of the District and other jurisdictions have special bipartisan and natural appeal today because the program is voluntary and requires no change in local laws. My bill has the added feature of skirting the present stalemate in the Congress, where we have yet to pass a gun safety bill. A gun buyback bill is no substitute for gun safety legislation, but my bill is based on demonstrated and successful experience in a number of cities that have achieved voluntary compliance by citizens with local laws.

Two years ago this weekend, almost a million mothers and their families gathered on the Mall to demand that Congress heed their call to enact strong gun safety legislation. These families believed that the federal government has an obligation to help protect our children and all our citizens. It is time that we fulfill that obligation by at least passing a bill that takes guns out of unauthorized hands.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital legislation.

CONGRATULATING GEN. CHARLES CUNNINGHAM

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lt. General (RET) Charles J. Cunningham, Jr., the Director of the Defense Security Service (DSS). General Cunningham is retiring from his position on May 31, 2002 after 43 years of service to his country.