

drug plan. The problem of increasing prescription drug costs is not limited to our seniors. Individuals enrolled in HMOs, employer sponsored insurance plans, or private insurance plans are seeing their coverage of prescription drugs diminish and/or their co-payments rise as the insurer tries to keep pace with the rising cost of prescription drugs. Hospitals and state Medicaid programs are struggling with the cost of prescription drugs. We must look at ways to ensure prescription drug are available at reasonable prices for all Americans.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

HON. JOHN COOKSEY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2002

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)—its 4,200 volunteers and Department of Defense (DOD) staff—in celebrating 30 years of service to this Nation.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) was established in 1972, the year the United States ended the Selective Service System and established an all-volunteer military force. DOD realized that support from employers and communities would be instrumental in maintaining Reserve component membership. ESGR was created to obtain employer and community support for the National Guard and Reserve and to promote the role of Reserve forces in the national defense.

ESGR has lived up to the task and accomplished much more. Since 1972, with the help of the Advertising Council, Inc., ESGR has benefited from nearly \$1 billion in pro bono advertising reaching the six million employers with one or more employees in the United States.

Employers have, in turn, signed ESGR Statements of Support, publicly committing to support the National Guard and Reserve. The former Chairman of the Board and CEO of General Motors, Mr. James H. Roche signed the first Statement of Support in the Office of the Secretary of Defense on December 13, 1972. The next day, President Richard Nixon signed a Statement of Support covering all Federal civilian employees. Since the inception of this program, Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and President George W. Bush have all signed Statements of Support, along with hundreds of thousands of employers, including Dell Computer Corporation, Xerox, the Society for Human Resource Management and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. To date, over 300,000 employers have signed statements of support. Additionally, the strategic alliance formed in 1998 between ESGR and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce resulted in more than 1,200 chambers of commerce nationwide signing a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.

ESGR offers Ombudsman services designed to provide information to employers and Reservists regarding their rights and responsibilities under the law, and to resolve conflicts through informal mediation. These

services operate in cooperation with the Department of Labor. ESGR volunteers in 54 U.S. states and territories contribute thousands of hours of effort representing millions of dollars of volunteer service in support of ESGR programs, its services, and the men and women of our nation's Reserve forces.

Mr. Speaker, the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is smart government in action. The small ESGR staff in Arlington, VA, under the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs provides guidance and support to a network of 4,200 volunteer business, civic, and community leaders.

ESGR educates employers on their rights and obligations under the law and recognize employers who actively support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve. ESGR also educates members of the National Guard and Reserve in regards to their rights and responsibilities to the value of their employers support. Committees can be found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam.

With the end of the cold war, the Reserve components have been called with increasing frequency. During the Gulf War in 1990–1991, more than 250,000 Reserve component members were called to active duty to support military operations in the Persian Gulf. Since the start of Operation Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, more than 80,000 National Guard and Reserve troops have been activated and are playing a critical role.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of employers, local and state government officials, Active and Reserve component leaders, and military members from across the nation and around the world request ESGR's employer support expertise on a daily basis. When Guardsmen and Reservists return home following mobilization, ESGR committee members are there to provide information and support services to those in need.

The U.S. Congress passed the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, (USERRA) of 1994, and updated it in 1996. This law completely revised the Veterans Reemployment Rights Act of 1940. USERRA articulates the rights and responsibilities of Guard and Reserve members with regard to job protection and explains employer rights under federal law. ESGR helps employers and Reservists understand this law and helps them informally resolve any employment conflicts that may arise.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to congratulate ESGR and its 54 ESGR committees on their 30 years of service and commend this network of over 4,200 volunteers' patriots for their time and talent. They are serving their country and maintaining the much needed support of our employers and communities for the Guard and Reserve. Through the efforts of agencies like ESGR, we can call on our Reserve forces to answer our nation's call without the fear of job loss.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, and thank you ESGR.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2002

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and recognize the volunteers of the Chaplaincy Committee of the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey.

The Chaplaincy program provides services to Jewish residents in nursing homes and patients hospitals in central New Jersey. The committee also works with the nearly 100 volunteers doing either Bikur Holim (visiting the sick) or Kabbalat Shabbat (a service to welcome the Sabbath) for residents in area nursing homes. The volunteers range from all over central New Jersey.

On May 8th, the Chaplaincy Committee plans to recognize and thank the volunteers for their hard work, as I am here to do the same today.

I commend the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey for the good works they have helped to provide to central New Jersey, and to the volunteers themselves—they have my deepest gratitude. There is no greater gift to the community than your time and service.

TRIBUTE TO MS. FARAH M. WALTERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Farah M. Walters for her masterful leadership of University Hospitals Health System and University Hospitals of Cleveland. As President and Chief Executive Officer of University Hospitals Ms. Walters has presided over UH's expansion from a \$400 million-hospital to a nearly \$2 billion health-care system serves patients at more than 150 locations in Northeast Ohio and is the region's largest private sector employer.

Ms. Walters graduated from the executive MBA program at Case Western Reserve University Weatherhead School of Management and holds a Masters of Science in Nutrition from Case Western Reserve University. She has consulted and lectured for major health organizations such as the Pan American Health Organization, American Hospital Association, National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Army, and various hospitals and universities. Ms. Walters has received numerous prestigious awards for her work. For example, in May 2001 she was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations Foundation; in February 1999 she became the first woman to receive the Business Executive of the Year award from the Sales & Marketing Executives of Cleveland; and in May 1998 she became the first woman to receive Business Statesmanship Award from the Harvard Business School Club. In January 1993, Mrs. Walters was appointed to Hillary Rodham Clinton's National Health Care Reform Task Force, and in 1993

Modern Healthcare selected her one of the 50 individuals in the USA to shape the future of health care in the country. In addition, University Hospitals of Cleveland has been the recipient of many awards under her leadership, including, the North Coast 99 Diversity Award from the Employer Resource Council and Enterprise Development and the Exemplary Voluntary Effort Award from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Ms. Walters serves on a variety of national and local boards and is active in civic affairs. She has served on a number of key committees of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, DC. She also serves on the board of Cleveland Tomorrow, Greater Cleveland Roundtable and Ohio Business Roundtable. In 1994 Ms. Walters was appointed by Governor Voinovich to serve on the 15 member Commission to Study the Ohio Economy and Tax Structure. Within the community, she has served as Chairman for the 1997 United Way Campaign, the first woman and first CEO of a non-profit organization to be selected for the position.

My fellow colleagues, I ask you to join me in rising to honor this truly remarkable woman who has dedicated her life to the betterment of health care, and is one of Cleveland's finest citizens.

PAUL SIMON CHICAGO JOB CORPS CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Bill 378, which will rename the Chicago Job Corps Center, located at 3348 South Kedzie Avenue, in Chicago, Illinois, as the Paul Simon Chicago Job Corps Center after former U.S. Senator Paul Simon of Illinois. Senator Simon was not only a great U.S. Senator for the state of Illinois, but he is a champion for working people across the nation.

Senator Simon has dedicated his life to helping the people of this country. As a scholar, writer, and public servant, Senator Simon has worked hard to battle against the social injustices that haunt our nation. During his congressional service, Senator Simon was a strong supporter of the federal Jobs Corps program and was instrumental in the chartering of a Jobs Corps center in Chicago. The Center provides opportunities in a campus environment to gain a valuable education with advanced career training, to learn a skilled trade, so that individuals may reach their full potential. Job Corps provides up to two years of hands-on work-based training and internships, in areas ranging from bricklaying to computer repair. The Center also provides academic training in remedial math and reading, GED preparation, and English as a second language, and outreach to those in the community that may not have the opportunity to attend college. It is these things that define the goals Senator Simon has set to achieve for the millions of Americans looking for skilled employment in the workplace.

Senator Simon has been a dear friend of mine for many, many years. His contributions

and dedication as a public servant have always inspired me. He has not only made great contributions to this country and the state of Illinois, but he continues to play a vital role as Director of the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University. He is a leader in strengthening democracy and in addressing key global issues such as the looming water shortage crisis. I feel that renaming the Chicago Job Corps Center as the Paul Simon Chicago Job Corps Center is an appropriate recognition of what he has done for the Chicago area and all of us. Thank you Paul, for everything.

WORLD ASTHMA DAY

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2002

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, asthma has become epidemic. Over 2.3 million Californians have asthma, a chronic illness that makes breathing difficult and causes symptoms such as shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing and chest tightness. Nationwide, the number of asthma sufferers has increased 50 percent since 1980.

Nearly one in thirteen children in the U.S. have asthma and this percentage is growing more rapidly in preschool age children than in any other group. Between 1982 and 1995, incidents of childhood asthma increased by 87 percent and is now the most common chronic illness among children. Asthma accounts for approximately 17 percent of children's emergency room visits and is the major cause of school absences.

Asthma can be fatal. Rates of death from asthma, hospitalizations and visits to emergency rooms have been increasing for more than 20 years, particularly among children and African Americans. During 1979 to 1982, the death rate from asthma for all blacks has increased 71 percent while for whites it has increased 41 percent.

Asthma episodes can be triggered by dust, pets, mold, air pollution, tobacco smoke, some insects, certain chemicals, cold air and stress. Managing asthma includes proper diagnosis, access to high quality medical care and monitoring the condition and avoiding the things that trigger attacks.

In Los Angeles, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America—Southern California chapter, working in conjunction with the California Department of Health Services—Childhood Asthma Initiative and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, is sponsoring a community-based initiative to identify ways to control inhalation exposures that trigger children's asthma attacks. The Healthy African American Families has established an asthma intervention program called "Breathe Free" that is targeted for African American children in South Los Angeles communities.

I applaud the efforts of these organizations to identify the asthma risk factors, educate the public, provide intervention measures in homes and child care centers and make progress in reversing the terrible trend of childhood asthma.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CHAIRMAN
ROBERT W. GIARRUSSO

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the public service of a longtime local business leader in my Central New York district. From 1988 until just recently, Mr. Bob Giarrusso served as Chairman of the Onondaga County Republican Committee. I write to congratulate him on his retirement and to thank him for his fourteen years of service to our community. He is the longest serving chairman in the committee's history.

During Bob's tenure, the Onondaga County Republican Committee flourished. He made the committee more democratic and more inclusive and expanded committee members' involvement and influence. His efforts supported Republican candidates at all levels of government, and his leadership encouraged some of our community's best and brightest individuals to run for public office.

Most importantly, Bob Giarrusso led local Republicans with an unique style all his own that was both endearing and dignified. Through Bob's longtime political service, our community certainly has been enhanced.

Many new challenges await Central New York Republicans as we enter a new year. I applaud Bob for his strong leadership and believe that his decision to step aside will only infuse the local Republican Party with new energy and new life.

It's my pleasure to thank Mr. Giarrusso for his service to the Central New York community and to congratulate him on a job well done.

HONORING CITRUS HEIGHTS, CALIFORNIA CITY COUNCILMAN TIM RANEY

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2002

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, tonight, Tim Raney will be recognized for his service as a councilman in my hometown of Citrus Heights, California. Though the peaceful transition of officials into and out of elective office is not a unique occurrence in this great nation, this particular event is worthy of our recognition.

Tim Raney was elected to the Citrus Heights City Council in November of 1996, on the same ballot that a proud community voted to make formal its desire to become an incorporated city. Tim was an active leader in the drive for Citrus Heights cityhood, an effort that was more than a decade in the making, going to the United States Supreme Court to affirm the right of its residents to self-governance.

As a member of the first city council, Tim and the four other council members were responsible for negotiating the contracts for police and public safety services, garbage and waste management services, and all other services that make a city responsive to its citizens.

In his six years on the council, he was a tireless advocate for the community. He