

issues facing older Americans today are Social Security and prescription drug coverage under Medicare.

The solvency of Social Security is a serious concern for all Americans. I have consistently supported legislation that shores up and secures Social Security benefits for our older Americans. For example, I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 4671, the Social Security Widow's Benefit Guarantee Act. This bill would increase widows' and widowers' Social Security Benefits to 75 percent of the combined amount the couple had been receiving prior to the death of the spouse. In a typical case, a widow's benefit would increase by 12 percent, or more than \$100/month. The House just passed the Republican version of this bill, which is a good first step toward ensuring these benefits.

Similarly, the rising cost of prescription drugs is one of our most important health care challenges. Currently, senior citizens who pay for their own prescription medication pay more than twice as much for drugs than do the pharmaceutical companies' most favored customers. Exacerbating this problem is the fact that even though seniors use the most prescriptions, over 75 percent of seniors on Medicare lack reliable drug coverage.

Recently, both Republicans and Democrats have talked about introducing and passing legislation that provides prescription drug benefit under Medicare. I am working with my colleagues to craft legislation that would provide a voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit, providing access for every senior no matter where they live or what their income.

Easy solutions to the high cost of prescription drugs and the solvency of Social Security do not exist. It is my hope that as the 107th Congress progresses, my colleagues will not forget about the needs of our older Americans, and will continue to work for legislation that preserves the benefits our Nation's seniors richly deserve.

HONORING DR. THOMAS MADDEN
ON HIS RETIREMENT AS SUPER-
INTENDENT OF LEMONT TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 210

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Thomas Madden on his retirement as Superintendent of Lemont Township High School District 210. Since 1970, Dr. Madden has given his extraordinary talents and leadership as an educator to the students, faculty, and parents served by Lemont District 210. He has served with great distinction, and I am proud to highlight his outstanding record of accomplishments.

Under Dr. Madden's leadership, Lemont District 210 has witnessed dramatic growth and maintained an outstanding, quality education for students. Through his legislative initiatives and work with the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, Dr. Madden has helped to secure a ten-fold increase in federal impact aid—money that has gone to the direct benefit of his students and schools. He also has led the effort to secure \$26 million in construction bonds, allowing Lemont

District 210 to build new schools and facilities to accommodate significant increases in enrollment and staff.

Dr. Madden is an active participant in all aspects of the community. He serves on several local and national boards, including the Lemont Chamber of Commerce, the Lemont Area Development Council, and the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools. Dr. Madden has helped to promote a community and region that is supportive of families and local business, making our part of Illinois one of the fastest growing suburban areas in the nation. Most importantly, Dr. Madden has helped to build an education system that ensures that today's students will meet the challenges of tomorrow's global economy.

Dr. Madden embodies the values we as a nation applaud in our educators—commitment, quality, strength of character, and skill—and he serves as an excellent example to the students throughout the 13th Congressional District. I have valued his thoughts and advice on meeting the challenges of public education. I know that Lemont School District 210 is better for his leadership and I join with the students, faculty, and community in thanking him for his service and wishing him a happy and productive retirement.

HONORING GERALDINE (JERRY) HENDERSON

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Geraldine (Jerry) Henderson, owner of Henderson Training and Consulting, in the Second Congressional District of West Virginia. She also owns and operates "A Governor's Inn," which is a bed and breakfast, in Buckhannon, West Virginia. Ms. Henderson has achieved the title of Women in Business Advocate of the Year. The West Virginia District of the United States Small Business Administration, a leader in the promotion and growth of our state, gives this award annually.

Ms. Henderson began Henderson Training and Consulting of West Virginia to give advice to business people. She leads classes throughout the state dealing with small business issues such as staff development, supervisory techniques and placing emphasis on hospitality and responsibility to the community. Ms. Henderson embodies the values that created the American success story: self-reliance, hard work, perseverance and optimism. I commend her for her contributions to the West Virginia economy.

Successful small businesses not only serve as the backbone of the economy, they anchor communities and promote civic pride. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Ms. Henderson's tremendous achievement as the West Virginia Small Business Administration's Women in Business Advocate of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO STEN ERIC WILLIAM
CARLSON ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary American and a distinguished Californian, Sten Eric William Carlson, who is celebrating his ninetieth birthday.

Born on June 27, 1912, in Fort William, Ontario, Canada, Sten Carlson is the son of Johanna and Pers, who migrated from Sweden to Canada in the late 1800s, settling on a farm in Saskatchewan. Sten left Canada for the United States in 1951 where he met Elizabeth, his wife of forty-five years. They are the proud parents of Eric, 44, and Frank, who died tragically at an early age.

An employee of United Airlines for more than twenty-five years, Sten Carlson retired in 1977. He also worked for MacDonald Aircraft, building the Mosquito aircraft, a premier low flying plane used in some of our nation's most critical missions.

Sten Carlson has always given generously of his time and his multitude of talents to the community, focusing much of his volunteer work on victim support groups. He is a lifetime member of Lodge 1781, IAM, and continues to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Retirees. A volunteer at Peninsula Medical Center for more than fifteen years, Sten has devoted many years of service to KQED.

Sten Carlson is a devoted husband and father with a strong moral sense of right and wrong. His lifetime of activities has centered on his family and his community. His is a life based on the most celebrated of American values . . . honesty, dependability, courage, loyalty, and love of family, friends and country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Sten Carlson a happy 90th birthday. We are a better community, a better country and a better people because of him and all he has done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably absent and missed rollcall votes 171, 172, 173. If present I would have voted "yea."

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS' WEEK

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, to honor our correctional officers for the work they do to keep our families safe. We do not thank these men and women enough for their service to our communities.

Day after day, week after week, our correctional officers work one of the most dangerous patrols in the country. They devote themselves to keeping violent felons behind bars, ensuring that our families can feel safe in our homes and on our streets. We know from the number of correctional officers who die in the line of duty each year that this is a dangerous profession that requires courage, hard work, and professionalism.

Our correctional officers are people like Bonnie Johnson, a mother of six, who works over 50 hours a week in a prison in Jackson, Michigan. For almost 20 years, Bonnie has put her heart and soul into her job. Or Rodney Olsson—a correctional officer with the Michigan prison system for roughly 14 years. Rodney drives over 60 miles to get to and from work. These fine men and women work holidays, weekends, and double shifts. They deserve our support.

We need to do our part in the weeks and months ahead to pass legislation that will protect the safety and working conditions of correctional officers. We should act to prevent further privatization of our prisons, which puts both our officers and inmate populations at risk. We need to ensure that our correctional officers receive meaningful, reliable pensions, good benefits, and decent wages. And we should invest adequate resources in prison programs that provide constructive activities for inmates that reduce recidivism and prevent violence. The work of our correctional officers gets more and more difficult with each passing day. In my home state of Michigan, the prison population has grown 38 times faster than our general population. And records show our inmate population is getting more violent. I commend Michigan's correctional officers for staying committed to the job despite these additional challenges.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution offered by Representatives Strickland, Sweeney, Horn, and Holden that officially recognizes National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. This resolution also requests that our President issue a proclamation urging citizens to honor our correctional officers and the work they do to protect us. We should pass this resolution without delay and give our correctional officers the respect they deserve for their service.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL
DENNIS L. VIA

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a great Army officer and soldier, Colonel Dennis L. Via, and to thank him for his contributions to the United States Army and to our country. On Thursday, June 13, Colonel Via will relinquish command of the 3rd Signal Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas for assignment to the Department of the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs, here in Washington, DC.

Colonel Via began his career in 1980, graduating from Virginia State University as a Distinguished Military Graduate and earning a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal corps. He commanded troops as

a Signal Platoon Leader, Company Commander, and Battalion Commander before taking command of the 3rd Signal Brigade. Dennis has also served in staff positions from battalion level to the Department of the Army at numerous posts in the United States and Europe, and along the way found time to earn a Master's Degree at Boston University.

Dennis Via is a consummate professional whose performance personifies those traits of courage, competency and commitment that our nation expects and demands from its military leaders. It is with both regret and pride that we wish him Godspeed and good luck as he leaves Fort Hood for his new assignment.

It is important to note that every accolade to Dennis must also be considered a tribute to his family, his wife Linda and their two sons, Brian and Bradley. As a wife and mother, Linda has been a true partner in all of his accomplishments.

Dennis' career has reflected his deep commitment to our nation, and has been characterized by dedicated service, a profound respect for our soldiers and their families, and an absolute commitment to excellence. I ask Members to join me in offering our heartfelt appreciation for a job well done and best wishes for continued success to an outstanding soldier and a good friend—Colonel Dennis L. Via.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT S. KIEVE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of San Jose broadcaster Robert S. Kieve. I would like to recognize his efforts as a radio pioneer deeply dedicated to the idea of the media providing a community service. He will be honored with the Spirit of San Jose Award on Monday, May 20, 2002.

Since 1967, Kieve had been one of the "mom and pop" owners holding out against large conglomerates, demonstrating the value of local ownership through his editorials, community involvement and loyalty to employees—who own 25 percent of his broadcasting company, Empire Broadcasting. In recently selling one of his radio stations, Kieve shared those profits with his employees in an usual and caring move for the business . . . but not for him.

Kieve, a former Eisenhower speechwriter, has been a pioneer in hiring women in an industry that women are dramatically underrepresented.

He has, for thirty years, been an outspoken, committed and vital force in San Jose, always willing to offer his opinions and provide a forum for others to share theirs.

Always willing to try something new, Kieve recently started three Internet radio stations featuring Beethoven, traditional country and big band.

Kieve will continue to operate two stations, KRTY-FM and KLIV-AM after his recent sale of KARA-FM, a San Jose institution, and will use a portion of the profits to help create a charitable foundation.

I am proud and grateful to thank Robert S. Kieve for reminding us all that one person can truly make a difference in the lives of many.

MONSIGNOR GEORGE C. HIGGINS:
AMERICA'S LABOR PRIEST

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, America lost its preeminent "labor priest" on May 1st when Monsignor George C. Higgins died at the age of 86 after a half-century career in the Nation's Capital devoted to the cause of social justice and the rights of labor. As head of the Catholic Bishop's Social Action Department for 35 years, Msgr. Higgins was an influential church figure and respected authority on the labor movement who dedicated his life to promoting the rights of workers around the world.

No one did more to advance the church's social teachings on a just economy and the rights of working people. Msgr. Higgins brought the church and labor closer together by showing working men and women that the church's social teaching was on their side—that work must be valued and workers honored, and that a just society demands that workers have the right to organize and bargain collectively.

Generations of American workers—who never knew his name—owe Monsignor Higgins a debt of gratitude for devoting his life to fighting injustice and defending their rights.

I would like to insert in the RECORD for the benefit of my colleagues the following statements by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and by AFL-CIO President John Sweeney on Msgr. Higgins death, and an essay by E.J. Dionne entitled "The Great Monsignor."

MSGR. GEORGE HIGGINS, DEAN OF CHURCH
SOCIAL ACTION MOVEMENT, DIES

WASHINGTON (May 1, 2002).—Msgr. George G. Higgins, the "labor priest" who was generally regarded as the dean of the U.S. Church's social action ministry for the last half century, died May 1 at the age of 86.

After a long illness, Msgr. Higgins died at the home of his sister, Bridget Doonan, in LaGrange, Illinois, his native city. He had returned to LaGrange in January to speak at St. Francis Xavier Church, the parish in which he was raised. After delivering the talk on January 19, he fell ill with a severe infection and was hospitalized for a period of three months.

"Msgr. George Higgins was without parallel the authority on the Church's social teaching and on labor-management issues," said Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). "He was a forceful and articulate figure in the Church and a major influence on the lives of several generations of Catholics dedicated to the cause of social justice. He was, above all, a good and dedicated priest. I pray for the repose of his soul and for the consolation of his family and the many persons in all walks of life to whom he will always be a vibrant and lasting inspiration."

A priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, who spent 60 years of his life working in the nation's capital, Msgr. Higgins was probably the best known and most influential priest in the United States. He was widely admired within the Church and in the secular realm for his knowledge of the labor movement, ecumenism, Catholic-Jewish relations and many other fields, and for his talents as a skillful negotiator.

"The best informed priest in the United States," as U.S. Church historian John