

and had 10 bills signed into law by Governor John Engler, and co-sponsored more than 100 bills that were signed into law. Steve prides himself on his advocacy, which helped preserve program funding for the Nursing Homes for Quality Initiative Grants, which were to improve the quality of life for senior citizens.

Steve has worked tirelessly in the local community as well. His willingness to contribute his time and energy to the community is evident through his many activities past and present. He served as an Assistant Scout Master for the Boy Scouts, as President and is a current member of the Jonesville Rotary Club, a founding member of the Chief Baw Beese Chapter of the North County Trail Association, and as a Hillsdale County Deputy Volunteer for 10 years. He has been an active member of many other organizations, including Right to Life, Sons of the American Legion, the National Rifle Association, and the Conservation Club. His commitment to furthering the interests of small business owners like himself is evidenced by his service on the Board of Directors of the Small Business Association of Michigan from 1993 to 1999, as a member of Small Business United, and as a delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business in 1995.

From working his way through his bachelor's degree in Accounting at Hillsdale College to representing 92,000 people in Branch and Hillsdale counties, Steve Vear has proven himself to be a dedicated community leader. It is for these reasons that I am honored to recognize Steve Vear for his selfless commitment to his family, his friends, and his community.

CONGRATULATING THE TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS FOR WINNING SUPER BOWL XXXVII

SPEECH OF

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the efforts of a great team and a strong organization. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are Super Bowl champions and I could not be more pleased for Buc fans across this nation. In an amazing game that pitted the NFL's number one offense versus the league's number one defense, the Buccaneers proved the age-old football mantra that "offense wins games, but defense wins championships." New coach Jon Gruden fielded arguably one of the greatest defenses of all time. Led by captains Derrick Brooks and John Lynch, the Bucs defense stifled the Oakland Raiders and MVP quarterback Rich Gannon. In what has truly been a lesson in resiliency, Bucs fans have had to suffer through an 0-26 start and 14 consecutive losing seasons; but today they are world champions. Owner Malcolm Glazer and coach Jon Gruden have put together a world-class organization and I expect continued success from them in the future.

TRIBUTE TO ANDY AND DANA KAPP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andy and Dana Kapp, two hard-working constituents from my district.

Mr. and Mrs. Kapp are State winners of the Missouri Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award. This prestigious award is to honor those young farmers who are facing many challenges as they begin their career in agriculture.

A native of Clarksdale, Missouri, Mr. Kapp graduated with a degree in agriculture from the University of Missouri in 1990. Andy started farming full-time three years later. The Kapps are fourth generation family farmers and have more than 2,000 acres of row crops.

Mrs. Kapp works hard to serve the people as a pediatric nurse practitioner. Dana is also involved in several community activities.

As a former recipient of the Missouri Farm Bureau Young Farmer Award, I understand the importance of having young men and women return to the farm to carry on the family tradition. It is the dedication and commitment these young farmers have to pursue the dream of our ancestors, and to carry that dream forward into the next century of agriculture development.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask that you join me in commending Andy and Dana Kapp for their outstanding leadership and contribution to the agriculture community, as well as extending to them our very best wishes for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO SELLERS-SEXTON, INC.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the fine accomplishments of Larry Sexton and his business, Sellers-Sexton Inc. of St. Roberts, MO. Mr. Sexton's dealership has achieved certification under ISO 14001, the international standard for managing environmental waste and pollution, and it is the first United States dealership to do so.

Mr. Sexton has long been a friend to our environment. He has supported an Adopt-A-Highway initiative and a Missouri River Team, led by one of his technicians. He also has been involved in supporting a life science initiative in Missouri by working with life science organizations and the University of Missouri. Mr. Sexton has also influenced his dealership and staff to take measures to protect the environment. He and his employees have made it a policy to reduce the waste at the local landfill by initiating a responsible process for recycling discarded materials. Mr. Sexton also was involved in helping Fort Leonard Wood Army base become the site for a new technology park for environmental research.

In September 2002, Mr. Sexton and his dealership were honored for the teamwork

they put forward as they extended their environmentally friendly practices by achieving ISO 14001 certification. Mr. Sexton and his dealership staff worked with Ford's Environmental Quality Office to help develop a comprehensive environmental management system to eliminate waste-generating and polluting practices. This has created an environmental management team within the Sellers-Sexton dealership.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating Mr. Sexton and Sellers-Sexton Inc. on a job well done.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MARGARET KETTLES WEAVER FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE STATE OF OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding lady, and good friend, from Ohio. Margaret Kettles was born in Clyde, Pennsylvania but is being honored for her dedicated service to my great state. Although she attended college in Maryville, Tennessee and has Law and Advanced Degrees from schools in both Pennsylvania and Tennessee, I will always think of Margaret as a great Ohioan.

Mr. Speaker, a daughter of Scottish descent, Judge Kettles has received Law and Advanced Degrees from several renowned institutions. These include Carnegie Tech, University of Pittsburgh, University of Tennessee, and the University of Toledo Law School.

She redefines the term "renaissance". Ms. Kettles has contributed to her surrounding communities with each endeavor she has undertaken.

Margaret spent two years in Tennessee as part of the K-25 Oak Ridge Plan in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Her most rewarding career change took place when she dedicated eleven years to raising her children at home. She was a teacher in Pittsburgh for two years, taught in Gibsonburg for two years, spent eleven years as a lawyer and since 1985 has handled divorce, criminal, and civil cases as a Judge on the Court of Common Pleas in Sandusky County, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Margaret Kettles has dedicated her time to many community service organizations. These include the Red Cross Board, the Fremont School Board, and the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Margaret was an ATEHNA Award winner, President of the Ohio Judges Association, and the State Program Chairman of the Woman's Association of Republican Women. I was also honored to have Margaret as a member of my Academy Selection Board. She played an instrumental role in the academy process, which allows our brightest young people to flourish at our nation's service academies.

Judge Kettles has had a significant impact on public policy in Ohio. She has also been a strong proponent of justice during her tenure on the bench. Margaret has been a great resource and a true friend to everyone around

her. Respected by her colleagues, Judge Kettles' involvement in our community has improved the quality of life in my district. We will miss her as she steps down from the bench.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Judge Margaret Kettles. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Margaret, who care about their well being and stability. We wish Margaret, her husband, Miles, and their family all the best as we pay tribute to one of our state's finest citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I missed two votes on Monday, January 27 due to my attendance at the funeral for Florida State Senator Howard Futch. Had I been present for rollcall votes 13 and 14 I would have voted in favor of both resolutions.

HONORING CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2003

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the start of the Chinese Lunar New Year in New York City.

The Year of the Ram is being celebrated on the first day of February, 2003, as the people of New York join the Asian American community in marking the start of a New Year.

The Ram signifies harmony, reconciliation and peacemaking—both politically and person-

ally. This is the year for reconciliation, diplomacy and the healing of rifts.

Since the Ram is also patron of the arts, this year will bring out individual creativity, and an increased interest in music and theater.

After last year's quick pace of the Year of the Horse, the Year of the Ram will be a time for quiet introspection. In taking to a slower pace of life, this year will be dedicated to spending quality time with those closest to us.

In celebration of the Year of the Ram, our great City will come alive with many lively festivals, colorful processions and cultural performances. Several neighborhoods in the City will host the traditional lion and dragon parades. Streets will be adorned with red paper lanterns for the Lantern Festival, and bright decorations and lights will hang across storefronts and sidewalks.

The beginning of the Lunar New Year is a special occasion for Asian Americans. It is a time for reflection, for making future plans, and for honoring the past. It is an opportunity to share old, treasured traditions with friends and family. It is a time for all New Yorkers of various ethnic backgrounds to join the Asian American community as they look forward to a year of peace, prosperity and good will among all people.

I hereby join the City of New York and the Asian American community in celebration of Lunar New Year's Day on February 1, 2003, to mark the start of the Year of the Ram.

INTRODUCING THE S-CHIP ALLOTMENT EXTENSION AVAILABILITY ACT OF 2003

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that is vitally im-

portant to ensure that states can provide quality health care to uninsured children.

On October 1st of last year, states with unspent federal funding allocation were forced to return those amounts back to the U.S. Treasury. These funds are from the early years of the CHIP program, and were unspent because it took many states several years to develop and implement their CHIP programs.

Unfortunately, we are cutting these funds at a time when they will be needed most. Under the Balanced Budget Act, CHIP funding was reduced by \$1 billion, or 26 percent in fiscal year 2002, and is slated to remain at this reduced level until fiscal year 2004. States that had been able to draw on unspent funds in order to avert cutbacks will now have to start eliminating services. As a result of this problem, the Office of Management and Budget estimates that 900,000 children will lose their CHIP coverage.

This is a particular problem in my home state of Texas. Even though Texas has enrolled and provides coverage to over 500,000 children, the state was forced to return \$285 million at the end of fiscal year 2002. This is especially problematic, as the state is facing a budget shortfall of approximately \$5 billion.

The legislation I am introducing would restore \$1.2 billion in unspent funds under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This is a necessary move to ensure that our children have access to the health care they need. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill.