

training program in preparation for about 12,000 miles of travel within Israel and interviewed more than 1,200 people." The child of a first-generation Russian-American mother and a Polish immigrant father, Mr. Uris's pool of talent was seemingly bottomless, and his spirit indomitable, renewed daily by his commitment to the twin causes of freedom and justice, and propelled by a quintessentially American-immigrant zeal. A successful genius who rose from "hardscrabble beginnings," the Washington Post wrote in its epitaph yesterday, Mr. Uris was a man of uncommon and extraordinary character.

Mr. Speaker, Leon Uris was one of the great novelists of the twentieth century, and has secured his place among the intellectual and literary giants of our time. It is with great sadness and deep admiration that I bid farewell to Mr. Uris, and I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family.

TRIBUTE TO HERB ZOBEL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Herb Zobel of Ouray, Colorado recently donated his time to aid 2,000 of his fellow biking enthusiasts as they pedaled through the Rocky Mountains for a good cause. In recognition of this dedication to community service, I would like to honor Herb here today.

Herb volunteered with "Ride the Rockies," a week-long tour of the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Herb has participated in "Ride the Rockies" six times, an impressive athletic accomplishment, especially considering he is 74 years old. The riders pedal 35 to 100 miles daily, and although they pass through some incredible scenery, they must also pedal up some difficult mountain passes. By working as a Marshall for this year's event, Herb stood in the same spot for five to six hours every day to help direct riders through confusing parts of the route. He also dished out plenty of encouragement as the cyclists passed, since he understands how challenging the ride can be.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Herb Zobel here today. He exemplifies the spirit of community service that helped make this nation great. By donating his time to "Ride the Rockies," Herb selflessly helped 2,000 of his fellow riders stay fit, healthy, and happy. I congratulate Herb for his athletic achievements, commend him for his service, and wish him the very best for the future.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH
FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have over 40 million people without health insurance today. Over the course of this year,

another 20 million or so will find themselves without healthcare coverage for some period of time. The lack of insurance leads to decreased access to care, decreased lifespan, and increased morbidity. When people do not have health insurance, they are more likely to have uncontrolled disease, and the suffering that goes with it. They are also more likely to end up in the hospital or emergency room. A small business that cannot afford to purchase a health plan will, therefore, have workers who are more likely to call in sick, or to need long-term sick leave. And in today's economic situation, many small business owners simply do not have the funds to meet the exorbitant costs of health insurance. So they are caught between a rock and a hard place.

The lack of affordable health insurance costs our nation billions in avoidable costs each year, and has made enormous health care bills the number one cause of bankruptcy for the American people. This is a devastating and complex problem. There is no easy answer to solving it; it will require a well-thought-out bipartisan approach to enact meaningful legislation to improve access to care. The legislation before us today is not all that it could be or should be. However, it is a step in the right direction, that we cannot afford not to take.

The federal government is not the only entity grappling with the challenges of getting adequate health insurance to the American people. States have been working on this issue for decades, and have brokered extensive agreements and regulations with the insurance industry to protect consumers. This legislation will exempt AHPs from those state regulations. This is misguided and dangerous. As we go to conference with the other body, we must work to ensure that we do not undo the good work that states have done in the past. AHPs can be an important piece to the health insurance puzzle, but they should not bypass the safety mechanisms that have protected patients for decades.

If this bill is signed into law as written, people in my state of Texas will lose the right to demand independent external review of their claims. AHPs will not be required to cover emergency services, or diabetes care, or mammograms, or to charge fair premiums to the old or sick. AHPs will also have the ability to "cherry pick," that is to offer inexpensive plans to some associations—maybe groups of fitness clubs or software companies that tend to be full of younger or healthier people—while gouging associations that employ more experienced workers, or the disabled. The CBO and the Urban Institute have issued studies that predict that AHPs would do little to improve the uninsured problem, and may actually make it worse—unless we make them responsive to the demands of state legislators.

The states have been quite successful in regulating the insurance industry and protecting their consumers. Why should we undermine that? The CBO and numerous other groups have predicted that this bill will destabilize the health insurance industry in America—and actually increase the number of people without insurance while raising the costs of those with it. That is why over 500 groups have expressed formal opposition to this bill, including the National Governors Association, both the Republican and Democratic Governors Associations, the AFL-CIO, physicians groups, providers groups, insurance trade as-

sociation, many chambers of commerce, and at least a hundred consumer/advocacy groups.

I am voting for this bill today, because our nation's small businesses need relief, and their employees desperately need health insurance coverage. I will follow this bill as it goes through conference. If we can find a way to harvest the good that AHPs can do, while protecting consumers from "cherry picking," or price gouging, or benefit reductions—by keeping AHPs under control of state regulations—I will proudly support the bill. If it comes back in the form it is in today, I will vote against it.

HONORING TOM RETZER, U.S.
NAVY SEAL

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the flags of Kenosha County in Wisconsin will fly at half-staff in honor of U.S. Navy Seal Tom Retzer who was killed in the line of duty in the Near East on June 25, 2003. His father-in-law and mother-in-law live in Kenosha, and his wife and children reside in northern Virginia.

The loss of this brave U.S. serviceman saddens us and reminds us of the dangers our military men and women face every day as they work to protect our country and stand up for freedom. Throughout our nation's history, courageous individuals like Tom Retzer have been willing to put their lives on the line to defend our land and liberty. We owe them and their families our support and our deepest gratitude. Without them, America's freedom would be fleeting. We honor the memory of Tom Retzer and offer prayers for him and his family.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TERRY
MARSDEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize a great leader in the Mancos, Colorado community. After 10 years of service on the Mancos Library Board of Trustees, Terry Marsden is retiring from his position as President. In his five years in that post, Terry has been a dynamic force in the rapid evolution of the Mancos Public Library. As we recognize Terry's retirement, I commend him for his dedication and leadership within the community.

Terry Marsden's leadership has been an influential factor in the numerous enhancements made to the Mancos Public Library over the past 10 years. In his first few years on the Board of Trustees, Terry helped oversee the implementation of an automated circulation catalog system. During his time as President of the Board, Terry was also instrumental in providing for the renovation of the building, hiring additional staff and increasing the library's hours of operation, all in an attempt to make

the Mancos Public Library more user friendly. He also insured the addition of six patron computers in order to allow library patrons vital internet access.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Terry Marsden before you today for his commitment to his country. Terry embodies the spirit of public service and altruism that makes our communities strong. I congratulate Terry for his positive impact upon the Mancos community and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE HONORING ATLANTA'S
FIRST BLACK MAYOR, MAYNARD
H. JACKSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE-JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE-JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I pay tribute to the memory of a profoundly historical gentleman from Atlanta, Mayor Maynard H. Jackson. I would like to extend my greatest sympathy to the Jackson Family by taking a moment to reflect upon his rich life.

Although Mayor Jackson was born in Dallas, Texas, he grew up in Atlanta and finished high school at 14 years of age. He graduated from Morehouse College with honors at 18, and later, successfully pursued a law degree from North Carolina Central University.

Maynard Jackson reshaped Atlanta's power structure and made history, at age 35, when he was first elected Atlanta's first black mayor from 1974 through 1982. In 1990 he was re-elected with 80 percent of the vote and took office several months before the 1990 announcement that Atlanta had been chosen as host of the Summer Olympics. He's been widely acknowledged by his statement: "It is fitting and proper that Atlanta, not perfect but the best city in America, was chosen to host the Olympic Games."

Mayor Jackson's initial eight-year tenure in City Hall will be remembered most for his impact on the black business community. He was a champion of black business, evidenced by the affirmative action programs he implemented which increased the number of city contracts awarded to blacks and other under-represented groups by more than 30 percent. After he left his 1989 mayoral term, Jackson entered the business sector by forming Jackson Securities, an investment firm which now has offices in Atlanta, Houston, Miami, Orlando, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Chicago.

His family was active in early voting rights efforts. His grandfather, John Wesley Dobbs, was co-chairman of the Atlanta Negro Voters League, and his father, the Rev. Maynard H. Jackson Sr., was the first black to seek public office in Dallas, the former pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, and founded the Georgia Voters League. Maynard Jackson will be missed, but never forgotten for his enthusiasm, his vision and dedication towards leaving a legacy for a world of true cohesive diversity, and contributions to the City of Atlanta, Georgia.

THE BUDGET STILL DOES NOT
KEEP OUR PROMISE TO VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to remind my colleagues that the proposed budget for our veterans is still woefully inadequate!

Flat-line budgeting for several years prevented the Veterans Health Administration from keeping up with inflation and increased demand. Enrollees in the VA health care system (VHA) have increased by almost 120 percent since 1996, going from 2.4 million to more than a projected 7 million in the coming fiscal year. During that same period, VHA per capita expenditures have decreased by 30 percent.

Had the level of funding kept up with the demand in inflation, the current VHA budget would be around \$36 billion rather than the \$25.3 billion requested by the Administration. Had adequate funding been in place, VA Secretary Anthony Principi would not have had to temporarily suspend enrollment for VA health care for many of our nation's veterans.

Veterans did not hesitate when called to service. I urge my colleagues to keep our promise to our nation's veterans when voting on the budget.

PAYING TRIBUTE JOE VIGIL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to Joe Vigil, a nationally known Cross Country/Track and Field coach. Joe helped to make Adams State College a powerhouse in track and he will soon be inducted into the Rock Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame for his accomplishments. His hard work and dedication have influenced the lives of many college students and I am proud to recognize his accomplishments here today.

For 27 years, Joe led the Adams State teams to 18 National Championships and 89 individual championships. He coached 425 All-American runners, many of whom ended up competing on the national level. Recognized as one of the best coaches in the country, he is currently training some of the United States best runners for competition in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

Joe's impact on student-athletes went beyond the track, however, as his runner's graduated at a rate of 96 percent. A quality college education will always be more important than any National title, a lesson Joe passed on to his teams.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today and recognize the accomplishments of Coach Joe Vigil. I am happy knowing that Joe has made an impressive impact on some of today's youth and I hope that he continues his important role in young athletes lives. Thank you, Joe, for the contributions you have made to Adams State and the surrounding community.

I wish you the best of luck on your future endeavors.

OAK PARK TOWNSHIP CENTEN-
NIAL—1903–2003 "100 YEARS OF
SERVING PEOPLE"

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Oak Parkers have always been independent thinkers. So it's not surprising that the earliest residents of Oak Park opted for an independent government that gave them a greater voice in decisions that affected their lives and their community.

In the late 19th century, Oak Park was still a part of the Township of Cicero. However, after residents of the Austin neighborhood successfully broke away from the Cicero Township in 1899 choosing to annex to the city of Chicago, Oak Parkers began to petition once again for their own village. In 1901, citizens formally seceded from Cicero Township to establish their own municipal government. The first village elections were held in 1902 and Oak Park celebrated its new status as a united, self-contained community.

Because the separation from Cicero Township left Oak Park in a legal limbo as regards certain delegated township functions, Oak Park citizens voted in 1903 to establish Oak Park Township. The first elected officials were supervisor, assessor, collector, clerk, two justices of the peace and two constables.

The first social service program began in 1936 with Poor Relief, a Great Depression program to aid financially struggling residents. This was the start of the General Assistance program, which has provided financial assistance to thousands of Oak Park citizens over the years.

The growing population of youth and elderly in the 1960's and 1970's ushered in Youth Services and Senior Services. Guided by volunteer citizen committees, the services are key components in Oak Park's quality of life.

In 1971, the Senior Citizens Committee was formed and the Meals-at-Home program was established. In 1973, the Township established by popular vote the volunteer Community Mental Health Board to assess need and help fund mental health programs. In that same year, the Advisory Committee on Childcare was formed. Also in the 70's came a transportation program for seniors and people with disabilities, as well as the Senior Citizen Information and Referral Service, the Energy Assistance program and the Income Tax Assistance program.

Within the last ten years, Oak Park Township has continued to meet the growing needs of its constituency. A youth Advocacy Council was established to give a voice to the teenage population. Additionally, the Townships of Oak Park and River Forest initiated a collaborative youth services program. In 1993, the Township's Youth and Senior Services programs won three state awards and one year later the Community Mental Health Board became the only one in the state to be Medicaid certified for its case management services.

The Township's assessor and collector functions, in accordance with the Township's overall vision of service and accessibility, has