

26, 2003. I was not able to be present to vote on H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on passage of H.R. 1, Rollcall No. 332. In addition, had I been present, I would have voted yes on passage of the Military Construction Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004, Rollcall No. 325; yes on H. Res. 277, Expressing Support for Freedom in Hong Kong; yes on passage of the Health Savings and Affordability Act, Rollcall No. 328; and yes on the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, Rollcall No. 333.

RECOGNITION OF NANCY
GERMANN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Nancy Germann of Jefferson County, Illinois. Nancy was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Nancy received this honor for her lifelong service to others. For 33 years she made a positive difference in the lives of students. She loves teaching so much she returned to the classroom after her retirement as a special education aide. Nancy is extremely involved in her church and community. Some of her activities include singing in the church choir, assisting with the soup kitchen and Thanksgiving dinner for the needy, and serving as a director for Cedarhurst Chamber Music along with helping with other Cedarhurst activities.

I want to congratulate and thank Nancy for all she has done and will continue to do for the people in her community. She is a saint to all who know her and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

TRIBUTE TO E.L. HUTCHISON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 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. E.L. "Hutch" Hutchison of Durango, Colorado is member of what has been called the "Greatest Generation," those who helped the United States defeat fascism and totalitarianism during World War II. His sacrifices—and those of his fellow soldiers—helped secure the Allied victory and defend the American way of life we enjoy today. I am honored to recognize "Hutch's" service to his nation.

During the war, "Hutch" fought for his nation as a paratrooper with the famous "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, "Hutch" was one of fourteen Screaming Eagles who jumped together from a plane into enemy territory. Only six would survive. As one of those six, "Hutch" continued fighting and heroically carried out his job as a demolition man, clearing out mines and booby traps for the American and Allied troops who would follow.

Mr. Speaker, our nation owes E.L. Hutchison and his fellow soldiers a great debt. Thanks to their efforts, the United States emerged from that terrible war victorious. Even though the war ended 58 years ago, we must never forget the sacrifices "Hutch" and the other American troops made. I am especially privileged to honor E.L. Hutchison today. Thank you for your service, "Hutch," and for helping to ensure that America remains the "Land of the Free."

RECOGNITION OF WILMA KIMMEL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Wilma Kimmel of Jefferson County, Illinois. Wilma was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Wilma received this honor for her lifelong service to others. She is known as a dedicated wife and mother. She and her husband, Ardell, raised three children. In order to help send her children to college she began work as a secretary for the Mt. Vernon School System where she worked for twenty years. Wilma has been involved with the 4-H Club, Rend Lake Piecemakers Quilt Guild, and Herbs for Health and Fun. No one can say that Wilma is not devoted to her church. At Central Christian Church she is known as a ready and willing hand for wherever there is a need. She is described as one who gets the job done and one who never complains.

I want to congratulate and thank Wilma for all she has done and will continue to do for the people in her community. She is a saint to all who know her and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

REGARDING THE ACTUARIAL
VALUE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG
BENEFITS OFFERED TO MEDI-
CARE ELIGIBLE ENROLLEES BY
A PLAN UNDER FEDERAL EM-
PLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS
PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was pleased to support H.R. 2631 which guarantees that the legislation designed to provide Medicare recipients with some prescription drug coverage would not lead to the creation of an inferior prescription-drug benefit for retired federal employees.

The Republican version of the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill, which passed the House on June 27, 2003 is a bad piece of legislation for many reasons. One of its many serious flaws is that it could result in a reduction of coverage for federal employees. Because of how the bill was written, the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that as many as 1/3 of all retirees who currently have prescription drug coverage through their employer's

private plan will lose their coverage to the generally inferior set of benefits outlined in the House proposal. We cannot allow our retired federal workers to fall victim to capricious business practices geared toward increasing profits above all else. Federal employees who have dedicated many years of their lives to public service deserve to live out their retirement with dignity and security. H.R. 2631 will help achieve this.

The legislation proposes nothing radical in seeking to ensure that the prescription drug package enjoyed by current federal employees will be available to federal retirees as well. Currently there is parity between the two benefits packages. And, this non-partisan effort is dedicated to guaranteeing that this remains true.

Given the difficulties involved in retaining federal employees, we should all recognize that supporting this legislation will help communicate to new and current employees that their efforts and sacrifices are appreciated and will be honored even after they have completed their public service.

The rate of growth of premiums in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP), in comparison to the disproportionately slow growth in the cost of living adjustment (COLA), is a major concern for federal retirees. Since 1998, FEHBP premiums have increased more than 10% per year. Last year alone, FEHBP premiums increased 11%. During the same period, the federal retirement annuity COLA was only 1.4%. It is difficult enough to keep pace with these changes without the added pressure of having to deal with the possibility that the level of choice and service they have grown accustomed to during their employment will suffer in their retirement.

It is important that we do all that we can to help our federal retirees deal with the burden of financial shocks. Therefore I thank those of my colleagues who joined me in supporting H.R. 2631 and I commend Mr. DAVIS of Virginia for introducing the bill.

TRIBUTE TO RICK LUPE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a true American hero. Rick Lupe recently passed away from injuries sustained while battling a prescribed burn on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation near Whiteriver, Arizona. I am saddened by his death and would like to take a moment to reflect on the courage and leadership of this honorable and distinguished individual.

Rick previously made headlines during another fire that took place last summer. When the Rodeo-Chediski fire scorched much of Arizona, Rick engineered a fire line at the last minute, using a back burn and bulldozers that helped save the town of Show Low. Such acts of courage are no surprise to those who knew him. In nearly two decades of service to the Fort Apache Hotshot crew, Rick developed a reputation as a strong but quiet leader, a loyal colleague, and trusted friend.

Rick possessed courage and toughness to spare. While checking on a hot spot recently,

the wind picked up and blew the flames around him. When the shelter he tried to deploy blew away, Rick dropped to the ground to allow the fire to pass over him. Even though the flames and heat scorched him, leaving 3rd degree burns over 40 percent of his body, he summoned the strength to walk a half-mile to get help. Even then, Rick held on for five weeks before leaving us. He will be especially missed by his beloved wife Evelyn and his children Brent, Sean, and Daniel. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to them during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Rick Lupe today. His immediate family will remember Rick as the loving husband and father that he was. The town of Show Low, the Fort Apache Hotshots, and this nation will remember Rick as the hero that he was. Rick dedicated his life to serving his nation and his fellow citizens. We will always be grateful.

RECOGNITION OF JACK GOLDMAN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Jack Goldman of Jefferson County, Illinois. Jack was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Jack received this honor for his lifelong service to others. He served in World War II as a combat engineer in the United States Army. Jack participated in the invasions of Leyte and Okinawa. After serving his country he returned to Mt. Vernon where he has literally and figuratively changed his community. Jack became involved with the Acquisition Committee for the Arts in the City Foundation and as chairman of the Sculpture Committee for Cedarhurst. He was named Counselor Emeritus for Mitchell Museum in 1995. Jack is an architect with Fields, Goldman, and Magee; and is also a member of the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club and the Downtown Development Corporation. He and his wife, Joan, are members of United Methodist Church.

I want to congratulate and thank Jack for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

THE COMMUNITY JOURNAL HONORS ERNESTINE O'BEE AT THEIR 27TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, August 22, 2003, The Community Journal will celebrate its 27th Anniversary. On this occasion, the newspaper will salute Ernestine O'Bee as an outstanding citizen in Milwaukee's African American community.

Mrs. O'Bee is the proprietor of the Northwest Funeral Chapel, and has served in a professional capacity in her field since 1952. She

is an astute businesswoman in her role as funeral director and is compassionate and caring to all she serves. In addition to her professional achievements, Ernestine O'Bee is a lady of elegance and eloquence. She has led an exemplary life and has been a model of generosity and graciousness for everyone whose life she has touched.

As a pillar of the African American community, Ernestine O'Bee has been active in civic affairs and supportive of many organizations and individuals in her quest to improve the quality of life for the entire Milwaukee community. She has served many organizations including the Salvation Army, YWCA, YMCA, the House of Peace, Zonta Club and her sorority, Wisconsin Funeral Directors Association.

Over the years, Mrs. O'Bee has sponsored over one hundred students in scholarships, some from birth through college. She is a substantial contributor to the Dr. Terence N. Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund, which recently graduated five students including one post graduate student from Tulane University.

I wish to honor and thank Ernestine O'Bee for the countless gifts and contributions that she has made to strengthen, support and enrich the community. I appreciate her efforts and join in celebrating her life-long achievements.

Congratulations, Mrs. Ernestine O'Bee!

HONORING JACK CHENOWETH, JR.

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to an outstanding American. Jack Chenoweth, Jr. of Pueblo, Colorado selflessly served this great nation throughout his long and dedicated life. As we recognize his passing, it is with great pride that I highlight the many contributions that Jack made to his community and our nation.

Jack answered the call to military and government service several times throughout his life. Upon graduation from Trinidad High School, he joined the U.S. Navy and served in the South Pacific until the end of World War II. Jack went on to graduate from the University of Denver in 1951 and married Mary Ann Kennedy two years later, eventually embarking on a 24-year career with the FBI. After his retirement from the FBI, Jack continued his work as an investigator for Pueblo County. He also made a major impact upon the Pueblo community as an active member of the Republican Party, a member of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, a Rotarian, and a past president of the El Pueblo Boys and Girls Ranch.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body of Congress today to recognize Jack Chenoweth, Jr. for his devotion to the Pueblo community and his service to our country. Citizens like Jack provide the spirit and strength of character that make this nation great. While he will be dearly missed, we can all take solace in the knowledge that Jack's spirit lives on through those whom he has touched.

RECOGNITION OF DOROTHY BAKER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Dorothy Baker of Jefferson County, Illinois. Dottie was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Dottie received this honor for her lifelong service to others. She is a wife and mother who raised three children. Today she is a regular participant in the Sweet Corn & Watermelon Festival, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Jefferson County's Crime Watch program, Memorial Day services, the Mt. Vernon City Wide Cleanup, and the National Day of Prayer. She has also assisted with the Emergency 911 Telephone Testing process. Dottie is active in her church where she helps the elderly and assists others in any way possible.

I want to congratulate and thank Dottie for all she has done and will continue to do for the people in her community. She is a saint to all who know her and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

NRA SUPPORT FOR LOCAL WILDLIFE CONTROL

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have, somewhat famously, opposed H.R. 1472, a bill which attempts to single out bears as a species to be managed by the House of Representatives instead of local wildlife experts. I believe this bill is a "one size fits all" attempt at government, inappropriately taking local control away and nullifying local expertise. I am not alone on my position against this bill. I would therefore like to submit for the RECORD the following letter from the National Rifle Association, which explains their opposition to the bill as well.

JUNE 2003.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As the leading voice for millions of American gun-owners and hunters, the National Rifle Association wishes to advise you of our opposition to H.R. 1472, the "Don't Feed the Bears Act of 2003." This legislation would prohibit the use of bait in bear hunting on all federal lands.

Although H.R. 1472 addresses one method of bear hunting, the real issue here is about who manages resident wildlife. H.R. 1472 opens the door to federal preemption of the rights of the fifty states to manage resident wildlife, including establishing the means and methods of hunting in a safe and ethical manner. The NRA is unalterably opposed to such federal infringement.

Congress has passed legislation giving the Federal government management authority over certain categories of wildlife which it felt required a national focus: migratory birds, marine mammals, and endangered and threatened species. At no time in its history has Congress selected an individual species for federal management. H.R. 1472 sets this unwelcome precedent.

This legislation is being advocated by organizations opposed to all methods of hunting, not just the use of bait in bear hunting.