

HONORING MARGARET ELDER

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret Elder, a teacher at Anaheim High School for being selected as one of 32 teachers tapped for Disney's annual American Teacher Awards.

The 32 selected teachers are chosen from a field of over 185,000 from across the nation.

Award winners are selected for their innovative approaches to teaching that are above and beyond the standard school curriculum.

In these tough economic times, as teachers work with limited resources and many programs in our schools being hurt by budget cuts and lack of proper funding, it is particularly inspiring to have teachers like Ms. Elder in our schools.

It is my privilege to congratulate her on this accomplishment. Our educational system and our teachers are our most important asset and we must support them: Not just for our children, but for our future.

AMERICAN INDIAN TRUST FUND
MANAGEMENT REFORM ACT
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2003

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join our colleague Congressman MARK UDALL in introducing the "American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act Amendments Act of 2003." This bill is a sound proposal for the reform of the management of assets and funds held in trust by the United States for individual Indians and federally recognized Indian tribes.

For well over a century the Federal Government has been the trustee of funds generated from leases on Indian lands. For almost as long, the Federal Government has been charged with mismanaging these funds. To this day tribal and individual Indian account holders cannot be assured that the balances the Department of Interior claims are in their accounts are accurate.

Much attention has been given to the Cobell v. Norton class action lawsuit which was filed in 1996 on behalf of some 300,000 individual Indian money account holders. But regardless of what happens in this case, the current management and administration of Indian trust lands and trust funds by the Department of the Interior (DOI) is inadequate and must be reformed.

Enactment of this bill would elevate trust fund management within DOI, affirm trust standards, and ensure Indian tribes have a greater management role over their assets and funds. These are all elements needed for reform of the system as determined by the Task Force on Trust Fund Reform, the Intertribal Monitoring Association and the National Congress of American Indians.

I commend Mr. UDALL for introducing this important bill and thereby starting the trust fund reform discussion in the House of Representatives. I remain open to other legislative

proposals and am committed to working with Indian country towards true reform and protection of Indian trust funds.

HONORING THE TOWN OF
CUMBERLAND GAP, TENNESSEE

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the historic town of Cumberland Gap, Tennessee as they celebrate their 200th anniversary of postal service.

Cumberland Gap has long been a place of historic passage. In pre-Colonial America, the Gap served Native Americans as a pivotal crossing for their trading and hunting routes through the Appalachian Mountains. Later, Daniel Boone and his 29 "axe men" blazed a 208 mile trail into central Kentucky providing a route for pioneer families to travel west. During the Civil War, Cumberland Gap gained military significance, becoming known as the "Gibraltar of America" and the "Keystone of the Confederacy."

Today however, in the age of flight, travelers through Cumberland Gap come not to get through the mountains, but to escape into them. The natural beauty of the surrounding area and the Gap's rich cultural history make it a popular destination for travelers of all ages and interests. From hikers to historians, people continue to be drawn to the "gap between the mountains."

Time has almost stood still in the small Appalachian town of Cumberland Gap. As you walk through the quiet streets, you are greeted with architecture from the late 1800's and the 1920's. The streets are snap shots from the past, illustrating the progression of history even through today. The town's rich history, quiet charm and natural beauty are especially appealing for cultural tourism.

Just as the historic parade marched through the Gap for more than 200 years, the procession is not yet finished. Today the town of Cumberland Gap, the natural starting point for an journey into the Cumberland Gap National Park, is a haven for day hikers, adventure hikers and cycle enthusiasts. Whether you are seeking history, culture or adventure, Cumberland Gap is always a great place to be.

On July 19, this historic town celebrates 200 years of postal service with a day of interpretive presentations of what life was like in the early 1800's including "living history" exhibits throughout the town. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join them on this important day and I wish the town of Cumberland Gap many years of continued success.

CELEBRATING THE 14TH EDITION
OF PAN-AMERICAN GAMES IN
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 14th edition of the Pan-American games, this year to be held in Santo

Domingo Dominican Republic, from August 1st to August 17th.

Since 1951, the games have carried the Olympic spirit of trying to build and strengthen international cooperation through friendly, but no less intense, competition between the countries of the Western Hemisphere. In a time when we are engaged in a global struggle against terrorism, poverty and disease, the sight of some of the region's best athletes coming sharing the same stage peacefully gives the world hope that our current struggles are just a prologue to better days.

This year's games are also a source of pride to Dominicans all over the world, especially those who live in my district's neighborhood of Washington Heights. While putting on an event of such magnitude is a challenge for any nation, there is no doubt in my mind that the world will be treated to a world-class celebration full of the best of Dominican culture. It is also a chance to sow the seeds of future economic development by showing the world that any stage can shine brightly from Santo Domingo.

So it is with great enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all the participants and organizers in advance for all their achievements and hard work. Let us hope that the Pan-American Games' motto, loosely translated as "The American spirit of friendship through sports," not only lasts beyond these two weeks in August, but also extends beyond sports and the island of Hispaniola into the hearts of all of the world's citizens.

HONORING STEPHANIE MCCRAY—
INTERN IN MY WASHINGTON, DC,
OFFICE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ms. Stephanie McCray, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in national government.

Stephanie is a senior public policy studies major and economics and religion minor at Duke University and has distinguished herself as an intern in my Washington office by serving the great people of the 6th district of Missouri. Stephanie joined my staff for the 108th Congress as part of the House of Representatives intern program at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., a program designed to involve students in the legislative process through active participation. Through this program, Stephanie has had the opportunity to observe firsthand the inner workings of national government and has gained valuable insight into the process by which laws are made.

During her time as an intern in my office, Stephanie has successfully demonstrated her abilities in the performance of such duties as conducting research, helping with constituent services, and assuming various other responsibilities to make the office run as smoothly as possible. Stephanie has earned recognition as a valuable asset to the entire U.S. House of Representatives and my office through the application of her knowledge and skills acquired

prior to her tenure as an intern and through a variety of new skills she has acquired while serving the people of Missouri and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ms. Stephanie McCray for her many important contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives during the current session, as well as joining with me to extend to her our very best wishes for continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. JOSEPH BALLET COMPANY IN SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the St. Joseph Ballet Company in Santa Ana, California, for receiving the 2003 Coming Up Taller award.

The Coming Up Taller award recognizes programs that involve students in the arts and humanities.

The St. Joseph Ballet Company offers 42 dance classes every week, provides one on one tutoring with students at the University of California, Irvine and along with assistance in the college admission and financial aid process.

St. Joseph is more than just a dance program. They have been teaching children about dance, self-discipline, and the importance of academic excellence for over 20 years.

Children are given a sense of accomplishment, motivation in all aspects of life and an education that goes beyond standard core curriculum.

In these difficult economic times for education, I am pleased that there are still programs like St. Joseph's Ballet that provide invaluable tools to prepare our children for the future.

PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET ACCESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Gutknecht bill.

I have always argued that while the reimportation safety-issues are of paramount importance, they are not insurmountable.

This bill includes many of the safety-provisions I've been calling for in my bill H.R. 2652, the "Internet Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act". In fact, when I first looked at the reimportation language included in the GOP prescription drug bill, I was glad to see many of these safety provisions included—until I noticed the ironic "poison pill" provision found in this language that would give the HHS Secretary the power to kill reimportation. The Gutknecht bill would remove this "poison pill" provision.

I have questioned the FDA in the past as to why they have refused to follow their own

safety guidelines when importing prescription drugs for U.S. consumers under the "personal use" exemption. I have not received a satisfactory answer from the FDA and I've concluded that their decision to ignore their own guidelines was based on politics rather than public-safety. I was further convinced of this fact when I received highly unusual lobbying call from the FDA against this bill last week.

The truth is, this bill will force the FDA's hand—they can and they will be required to implement a safe reimportation program within six months.

The lobbying campaign by the Pharmaceutical Industry in opposition to this legislation has been very distasteful—many of the tactics they employed were just plain dishonest. Americans continue to pay prescription drug prices that are 30 to 300 percent more than in European and other industrialized nations including Canada. This bill will finally force the most profitable industry in the world to give American citizens some relief from this outlandish price discrimination.

Thank you Mr. Speaker and I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING ELISHA GRAY

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, one hundred and thirty-three years ago, a man named Elisha Gray helped found the picturesque Chicago suburb of Highland Park, Illinois in my district. This extraordinary man was not only a pioneer in developing Chicago's North Shore, but also a prolific inventor.

Born in 1835 in a small Midwestern town, young Elisha Gray grew up among humble surroundings. Following the death of his father, he took on a part time job at the age of 12 in order to help support his family. Mr. Gray paid his way through college by using his boat building skills, acquired in his early years, to make specialized equipment for the science departments at Oberlin College.

Although he considered a life in the ministry, Mr. Gray always knew that his true calling was in engineering. In 1867, he received his first patent, capturing the interest of the Western Union Telegraph Company. Mr. Gray would have a lifetime association with the company. Soon after in 1870, Mr. Gray co-founded the firm of Gray and Barton, then relocated the company, named Western Electric Manufacturing Company, in the Chicago area.

While working in Chicago, Mr. Gray helped found the town of Highland Park, one of the many fine suburbs located today within my 10th Congressional District of Illinois. At home, Mr. Gray worked tirelessly on his inventions and scientific breakthroughs. In 1876, he filed a caveat, or a preliminary patent application, for an invention soon to be called the telephone. A. Edward Evenson, Gray's biographer and author of *The Telephone Patent Conspiracy of 1876*, believes that Mr. Gray's caveat predated that of Alexander Graham Bell's well known patent, which was filed on the same day. Regardless, Mr. Gray is undoubtedly a contributor to the vast body of science that underscored the modern uses of the telephone.

Throughout a life dedicated to the pursuit of technological prowess and the scientific advancement of mankind, Elisha Gray patented over 50 inventions in the United States. Besides his contributions to the telephone, Mr. Gray is most noted for his work on the first commercially successful fax machine, the Tel-autograph. Businesses and homes throughout the world are indebted to Mr. Gray's early work on this now widely used technology.

Elisha Gray also led the field in scientific publications and academic achievements. He wrote four books. He was a lecturer and professor at his alma mater, Oberlin College, and received a number of honorary degrees.

The entrepreneurial spirit of Mr. Gray must not pass unnoted. His Chicago area firm helped foster the growth of greater Chicagoland and Northeastern Illinois. In recognition of a life dedicated to the improvement of mankind, Mr. Gray received numerous awards, including the French Legion of Honor Medal, France's highest award. Elisha Gray should be honored as a man who not only founded one of my district's cities, but who, from that bucolic place, invented many things that we take for granted today.

HONORING THE DOMINICAN RESTORATION DAY HOLIDAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very important national holiday in the Dominican Republic, Restoration Day or El Día de la Restauración, celebrated annually on August 16.

Although the Dominican Republic declared its independence from Spain in 1821, it wasn't until February 27, 1844, that they established constitutional self-rule. However, years later a series of internal events led a faction of government to call on Spain to reclaim their former Caribbean colony. With the United States in the middle of its own civil war, the Dominican people were left to their own resources to wage another battle for their country's freedom. Starting on August 16, 1863, nationalists launched a counteroffensive against the Spanish crown, ultimately leading Spain to withdraw from the island of Hispaniola on March 3, 1865.

For Dominicans, August 16 is a second Independence Day, a lasting symbol of the dedication of their community to be free. In the Dominican Republic, it has been, among other things, the traditional day when victorious candidates assume the presidency. In the United States, the day serves as a cultural holiday around which many hold concerts, festivals and other celebrations. In my own city of New York, there is a grand parade down Sixth Avenue, from 36th to 56th Streets. This year, it also marks the end of Dominican Heritage week, a time when New Yorkers of all ages get an opportunity to learn about this vibrant Latino community.

So I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this holiday with Dominicans all over the world. The success of our current democracy in many ways depends on us never forgetting the sacrifice of those who have fought for the cause of freedom and peaceful self-rule all over the world.