

sound political system, a much-admired economy and a genuine desire to maintain peace and prosperity in East Asia and the world.

With membership in the United Nations, Taiwan will become a truly useful international player, contributing its finances and ideas to combat nuclear proliferation, environmental abuses, and the spread of infectious diseases such as AIDS and SARS. As of now, Taiwan has not been invited to any of the various U.N.-sponsored conferences and programs on HIV/AIDS. Moreover, no U.N. bodies are willing to accept Taiwan's aid for Afghanistan and Iraq. This is not in the interests of the Afghan and Iraqi people.

Also, with membership in the United Nations, Taiwan will be able to incorporate itself into the international system of human rights protection, abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. It is heartening to know Taiwan's commitment to human rights is very serious. It is establishing a National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the principles outlined by the United Nations.

Being the world's 17th largest economy, Taiwan will most certainly be able to carry out all United Nations Charter obligations. Taiwan's efforts to help other countries would be much more effective if they could be coordinated with international efforts sponsored by the U.N. and its specialized agencies.

Perhaps one of the best reasons for supporting Taiwan's membership in the United Nations is that Taiwan is willing and anxious to be a full contributing member of the United Nations. So, let's speak up for our friend and ally, the Republic of China on Taiwan. Let's tell the world how unfair it has been to deny the 23 million people of Taiwan their voice and representation in the United Nations and especially their willingness to other nations in need.

HONORING RAFAEL PALMEIRO

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express appreciation to my colleagues for passing H. Res. 315 on September 10, 2003. Most will recall this legislation as recognizing the outstanding feat of Rafael Palmeiro, an alumnus of Mississippi State University (MSU), who hit his 500th homerun as a major leaguer at Arlington Park, Texas, on May 11, 2003.

Also, I want to extend a personal thanks to my good friend Representative PETE SESSIONS for introducing and sponsoring this legislation.

As most of you know, MSU is the flagship university in Mississippi's Third Congressional District. Located in Starkville, it is known throughout the country for its great baseball tradition under legendary Coach Ron Polk, who began his 30th season in 2002 with an 1165-558-1 career record. He is ranked 8th among active NCAA Division I baseball coaches.

It is with pride in the University, pride in Coach Polk, and pride in Rafael, better known to the MSU family as "Raffy" that I present these remarks to identify, and further amplify,

the many achievements of this great athlete during his college career.

In addition to the achievements specified in H. Res. 315, "Raffy's" college career highlights include:

Three-year starter in left field for MSU.

Set MSU & SEC career record for home runs (67), runs batted in (239) and total bases (530).

Led SEC and ranked second nationally with 29 home runs in 1984.

Led SEC and ranked third nationally with 94 RBI in 1984.

In 1984 became the SEC's first Triple Crown winner, leading the league in batting average (.415), home runs (29) and RBI (94).

Named Baseball America's Freshmen of the Year in 1983.

Became SEC's first three-time All American in Baseball.

Helped lead MSU to its highest national finish in baseball (tied for 3rd in 1985).

Named to 1983 SEC All-Tournament Team.

Named to NCAA regional all-tournament teams in 1984 and 1985.

First round draft pick (22nd overall) of the Chicago Cubs (June 1985).

Named All-American in 1983, 1984, and 1985.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that one day in the near future Rafael Palmeiro will be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, New York. He is a super star par excellence that we all can relate to. He has proved himself as a great athlete, a great and caring American, a great role model among Cuban-American, and an inspiration to all those seeking the American Dream. Because of his love for baseball, his MSU family, and his country, it gives me great pleasure to join with the full House in congratulating Rafael Palmeiro for hitting his 500th homerun and his outstanding baseball career.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit, with fifty-one of my colleagues in the House, the College Opportunity for a Better America Act.

Higher education has long served as a critical vehicle to move the country forward and provide the opportunity for a better life to millions. But too many low and middle income students and their families are struggling with soaring college costs, taking on mountains of debt and working long hours that hurt their academics and overall college experience. And still many others cannot afford to attend college at all.

The College Opportunity Act for All will establish innovative programs to allow students to earn their degrees quicker, increases opportunities for Latino families to pursue advanced degrees, and encourages the best graduates to pursue public service careers.

Republican tax policy and education budget cuts have weakened American higher edu-

cation at exactly the time that more people need college training to be competitive in the global marketplace. Instead of meeting that challenge, virtually every state—crippled by federal policies that increased national and state debts—is cutting college funding and raising tuitions at public colleges: a one-two punch that is closing the doors of higher education to millions including disadvantaged and minority students and those who need more education to find new jobs. And the President has frozen the major federal higher education grant program, forcing students to take on more debt or forgo college.

The College Opportunity Act for All goes in a very different direction—it would increase college opportunities for millions of Americans through smart investments and innovations.

The College Opportunity Act for All will: Allow student borrowers burdened with high interest rates to refinance their loans and save money; stop the unfair tax on working students, allowing students who work to save more of their earnings for college costs; double the maximum federal college scholarships (Pell Grant) to \$11,600 by 2011, to help restore its buying power; establish a new competitive grant program to expand graduate-level degree programs at Hispanic Serving Institutions; greatly increase the investment in all Minority Serving Institutions, providing the resources necessary to serve the burgeoning population of minority students; provide public service scholarships to students who pursue careers in teaching, nursing, and other national high priority needs which are having difficulty recruiting and retaining trained personnel; and drastically simplify the student aid application.

While we must address the problem of spiraling tuition this year, however we must not take the wrong-headed approach of Republican proposals that would impose price controls and punish innocent students for tuition raises they have no role in determining. Instead we must address the fiscal policies that result in states' cutting aid to colleges and thus forcing students to pay higher tuitions.

The future of our economy hinges on the ability of young people to afford college. Nearly 2 out of the 3 new jobs that will be created over the next 7 years will require some post-high school training. If we can lower the current 32 percent gap between college participation by low and high income young adults, we could add \$250 billion in gross domestic product and \$85 billion in tax revenue that will help to strengthen the economy.

The Republican tax cuts and budget cuts have devastated states and along with the weak economy pushed higher prices onto college students and their families and now the Republicans propose slashing funding to colleges in retribution for tuition increases. That means even more tuition increases for students, and a weakening of our higher education system. We have to work with the states, who are forcing tuition increases because of education cutbacks, to craft a solution that brings tuition costs down.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this tradition by supporting the College Opportunity for a Better America Act. It is an important step towards making college more affordable and accessible for all Americans.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON H.R. 1, MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION
DRUG AND MODERNIZATION
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of Representative KIND's Motion to Instruct on the Medicare prescription drugs bill.

The Medicare program presently contains payment disparities that are biased against rural areas such as Northern Michigan, which I represent.

This language instructs the Medicare prescription drug bill conferees to address the inequities that cause many of the providers in Northern Michigan to be paid significantly less than our urban counterparts for the same services.

This problem puts our health providers at a severe disadvantage and adversely affects seniors' access to quality health care in our communities.

As a Member of the bipartisan House Rural Health Care Coalition, I insist that the conferees and the President pay close attention to the rural Medicare fix that is outlined in both this motion and the letters sent by our Coalition to the conferees and the President.

As I've mentioned over and over, rural seniors are generally older, sicker, and poorer than those in non-rural areas.

Why we would turn our backs on the seniors who most need our help is beyond me.

The Kind motion instructs the conferees to select the essential rural provisions from the House and Senate Medicare bills and ensures that rural beneficiaries and providers are not left behind.

TRIBUTE TO TYLER MATTHEW
PINCHOT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tyler Matthew Pinchot, a 23-year-veteran of the Buena Park Police Department.

Tyler was raised in my district in the city of Garden Grove and he was a graduate of Golden West College's police program in 1979.

He was the only Buena Park police officer to win the Officer of the Year Award two years in a row in 1991 and 1992.

When not on duty protecting citizens, he volunteered his time for his community. He was a Special Weapons and Tactics team member, station house Santa Claus and a tactical officer at Fullerton College's police reserve academy.

Sadly, on June 13 Tyler was trying to catch up to a traffic violator when a car struck his motorcycle. He later died as a result of his injuries.

Tyler was a great citizen. He was a man who devoted himself to his community. His hard work and dedication will serve as inspiration to others.

DEDICATION OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, just a short time ago, the sunlight shone from the heavens and brightened and warmed the names of the eleven beloved members of our county who perished in the awful attacks two years ago. That moment reflected how we will remember them: as eleven individuals, men and women who warmed the lives of their family and friends and brightened our entire community.

This beautiful memorial allows us—each in his/her own way—in solitude or in the company of others, to remember the eleven individuals who gave their lives to our country that day.

And as I read the beautiful passages inscribed on the benches, I was filled with great hope and great faith. For the inscriptions make clear that those who took the lives of the eleven souls two years ago utterly failed in their ultimate purpose. For where they sought to divide us, they have only strengthened our bonds. Where they sought to instill fear, they have seen resolve. Where they sought to sow despair, they have been met with faith. Where they sought to poison our hearts with hate, they have seen the strength of love.

And as the sun shining down on those eleven names has shown, where they first brought darkness, remembering them has brought light and warmth. And America will never forget.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF COLE FINEGAN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Cole Finegan, who for the past sixteen years has made significant contributions to the political, philanthropic, legal and social fabric of Colorado. Cole has recently been selected to serve as the City Attorney for Denver by Mayor John Hickenlooper, where he will serve with distinction.

A native of Oklahoma, Cole graduated from Notre Dame in 1978. He completed his law degree at Georgetown University in 1987, where he worked for the Tax Lawyer Law Review.

No stranger to the House, his public sector experience began with Congressman Jim Jones of Oklahoma, for whom he served as a legislative aide, campaign manager and later as chief of staff.

Cole later served as chief legal counsel and policy director for Colorado Governor Roy

Romer, handling all legal matters for the governor and advising on all judicial appointments. As policy director, he supervised the development of policy on economic, environmental, health care, energy, telecommunications, transportation and education. Those close to Governor Romer will confirm that Cole was highly respected and had the affectionate esteem of the Governor and his staff, in large part because he respected dissenting opinions and always found time to mentor those who were less experienced.

As a senior member of the law firm, Brownstein, Hyatt and Farber, Cole worked on land use issues, regulatory and administrative matters and election law. I am proud to say that he also found time to serve as my counsel, and has been a trusted advisor for the time I have served in Congress. Other members of the House will recognize Cole's involvement with the Democratic National Campaign Committee, and his friendship, political advice and steady support for so many of our colleagues.

Cole's service has not been limited to partisan matters, however. His commitment to educational opportunity is demonstrated by his service as Vice Chair of the Denver Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors, a member of the Board of Directors of the I Have a Dream Foundation, a member of the Urban Land Institute, and a member of the Advisory Board of Directors for the Community College of Denver. He has also served on the Colorado State Board of Agriculture governing Colorado State University and the Board of Trustees for the State Colleges of Colorado.

This long list of public accomplishment for such a young man, however, is not what impresses me most about Cole Finegan. I count him as a friend and a role model because Cole has lived the adage in politics that "one can disagree without being disagreeable." He is a man of accomplishment in the public arena to be sure, but he is also a man with a great and good heart.

One story may suffice to demonstrate my point: I learned only recently that Cole has for many years provided legal service to an indigent man whom he befriended during a past political campaign. Many busy and successful lawyers with high-rise offices overlooking Denver's fashionable 17th street would find it more convenient to pass this work on to a subordinate or even quietly ignore a face from the past. Cole made time to treat this man like a valued human being, and in fact, most of those who've worked with Cole, including those who've found him to be a worthy adversary, will insist that Cole's great gift is that he honors the humanity in people.

In short, I believe Cole Finegan deserves to be mentioned here—not because he is a highly successful public servant—but because he has proven that excellence in public service does not have to come at the expense of being a good and kind human being.

With his unique blend of public, private and nonprofit experience, Cole Finegan will bring wisdom and experience to the office of Denver's City Attorney and assume a leadership role that will build innovative ideas and management to city government. I wish him well in this exciting endeavor and thank him for his commitment to public service and the citizens of Denver and Colorado.