

U.S. House and wish its citizens the best on this important milestone in its history.

Sewickley, rich in both history and tradition, was chosen by many area leaders as a desirable place to live and boasts fine architecture and landscapes.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating one of the nation's finest communities on its 150th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO ARIE P. TAYLOR

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the exceptional accomplishments and extraordinary life of a woman in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this distinguished public servant for her impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service. It is to commend this outstanding citizen that I rise to honor Arie P. Taylor.

Arie Taylor was a remarkable woman who lived a remarkable life. She was on the front lines of progress for decades and proved to be a powerful force in transforming the landscape of our city and state. Her indomitable spirit sustained her through many challenges and molded a life of notable accomplishment. Born in Bedford, Ohio, it was evident at an early age that politics would play a major role in Arie Taylor's life. At age 19, she served under the first African American woman on the Cleveland City Council. After studying at Miami University of Ohio and Case Western Reserve University, she served a four-year stint in the Women's Air Force as a Staff Sergeant where she was the first black classroom instructor and noncommissioned officer in Women's Air Force training. Arie Taylor distinguished herself in national politics when as a delegate to the 1968 Democratic National Convention, she fought against seating all-white Southern delegations.

Arie Taylor's lengthy career in public service began in 1972 when she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives representing House District 7 in northeast Denver. She was the first African American woman elected to the Colorado General Assembly and served six terms. As a state representative, she burnished a reputation of being forthright, outspoken and wearing great hats. She became a powerful advocate for African Americans, women, the poor, the elderly and other disadvantaged communities. Arie Taylor carried legislation that amended state civil rights statutes to include sex and gender. She carried fair housing legislation permitting women to access credit in their own names instead of having to rely on their spouses. She sponsored legislation for homemakers displaced because of domestic violence which, after passage, led to creation of a state income tax check-off to support organizations assisting victims of domestic violence. Arie Taylor further sponsored legislation that created treatment centers at the University of Colorado Medical Center for hemophilia and sickle cell anemia.

Her service to the City & County of Denver began as Deputy Clerk of Denver District

Court and Chief Clerk of the Denver Election Commission. Her career culminated in being appointed Denver Clerk & Recorder by former Mayor Wellington E. Webb in 1991. It comes as no surprise that Arie Taylor was the recipient of numerous awards including the Harriett Tubman Award for extraordinary efforts against racial violence. In 1999, the municipal center in northeast Denver was dedicated in her name.

Arie Taylor lived a life of meaning and one that was rich in consequence. It is the character and deeds of Arie Taylor, and all Americans like her, which distinguishes us as a people. Truly, we are all diminished by the passing of this remarkable woman.

Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Arie P. Taylor, a distinguished public servant. It is the values, leadership and commitment she exhibited during her life that serves to build a better future for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO MG ARNOLD PUNARO

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to MG Arnold Punaro, United States Marine Corps Reserve, on the occasion of his retirement. Major General Punaro has served our Marine Corps and our Nation for more than 35 years.

A native of the great state of Georgia, Major General Punaro grew up in the town of Macon, and graduated from Mount de Sales Academy. He then chose to focus on higher education, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in English from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. He would later earn Masters degrees at the University of Georgia and also Georgetown University. Like many fine, Southern gentlemen before him, he answered the call to duty and joined the Marine Corps, serving as a platoon commander in Vietnam where he was decorated for heroism and wounded in combat.

In 1973, after completing his active duty tour, Major General Punaro transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve, and continued to dedicate himself to the service of our country, working in the U.S. Senate for Senator Sam Nunn on national security matters for 24 years. In his work with the Senate Armed Services Committee as Staff Director of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he was involved in the formulation of all major defense legislation and the oversight and review of all major defense activities for over two decades. This included the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act and its Reserve counterpart, the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act, the Acquisition Streamlining Act, personnel transition provisions, special operations reforms, and all pay and benefits matters. Major General Punaro also remained actively involved in numerous Reserve organizations, including a tour on active duty in Operation Desert Shield and an extended tour on active duty as the Commander of Joint task Force Provide Promise (Forward) in command of U.S. Forces serving in the former Yugoslavia.

Throughout his career, both civilian and military, MG Arnold Punaro dedicated himself to improving our national security. He serves as

a member of Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld's newly formed Defense Business Board and is also a Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. He serves on the adjunct faculty at the Marine Corps University and on the Secretary of Defense Reserve Forces Policy Board. As a general officer, he has spent 5 years in command, focusing on increased operational readiness and the integration of reserve forces into the total force Marine Corps. Always keeping the welfare of his Marines at the forefront of his efforts, Major General Punaro spearheaded several programs that directly benefited the quality of life for our service members.

Major General Punaro was recently mobilized on active duty, serving concurrently as a Special Assistant to the Commander, U.S. European Command and as Director of Reserve Affairs Division where he oversaw the largest mobilization in the history of the Marine Corps. In support of the Global War on Terrorism, more than 22,000 Reserve Marines were called to duty. More than 75 percent of those were deployed into theater, where they served with distinction. His dedication to the defense of our country, as a young man in Vietnam to his actions with the Senate together with his continued service with the Marine Corps Reserve, has been a lifelong endeavor. We have been fortunate to have such a high caliber marine officer in support of our nation.

Throughout his distinguished career, Major General Punaro has demonstrated uncompromising character, discerning wisdom, and a sincere, profound sense of duty to his country, and his Corps. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I would like to recognize Major General Punaro's accomplishments and his devoted service to the Nation. Congratulations to him, his wife Jan and their four children, 2LT Joe Punaro (USMC), Julie, Meghan, and Daniel on the completion of a long and distinguished career. I wish them all the best as they continue to live life beyond our country's beloved Corps.

RE-ENTRY OF THE UNITED STATES INTO UNESCO

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to direct my colleagues' attention to the re-entry of the United States into UNESCO—the U.N. Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization.

As Democratic Co-chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I congratulate the Administration on this important step toward playing a more active role in working with other member nations in the international cultural arena. I am heartened, as well, that First Lady Laura Bush led the U.S. delegation at the flag-raising ceremony at our new UNESCO Mission in Paris on Tuesday.

UNESCO promotes international co-operation based upon respect for commonly shared values. In the area of culture, it promotes arts education for children and supports artists, arts organizations, and the arts industry. It sees the arts as vital tools for economic development as well as international understanding. UNESCO's director general, Koichiro

Matsuura, recently saluted America's vast intellectual and cultural resources and good will. He termed America "a great nation so diverse that each of us can see himself in it; America holds up a mirror to the world."

As our country takes this important step to further international understanding through education, culture, and science, we should all look forward to working with the U.S. Mission in any way possible.

Unfortunately, ignoring the House's lead, the other body's Appropriations Committee has voted against funding to cover our UNESCO dues. I urge the White House, having sent Mrs. Bush to Paris, to weigh in—heavily and soon—to prevent the Senate from making her appearance into little more than a photo opportunity. Failure to do so would send a signal that the Administration does not truly recognize the important role that our country's best mirror to the world—arts, education, and science—plays in promoting international understanding.

HONORING THE REVEREND LARRY STAMPER AND SUE STAMPER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Larry and Mrs. Sue Stamper on being the recipients of the second annual Woodbury University Movers and Shapers Award that recognizes outstanding volunteer service to Burbank and its residents by members of the community.

Sue Stamper is an Oklahoma native who attended Point Loma College. She has been active in the United Methodist Women, The National Charity League, P.E.O., Burbank Sister City Committee, San Fernando Valley Girl Scouts, Zoma, and Noon Rotary. She is also a member and participant in the Burbank YMCA since 1993, and has been involved in numerous Woodbury activities. Sue is a very talented musician, she plays the violin, piano, and organ. She is additionally a vocalist and enjoys singing at special events. She is currently vice president at First State Bank in Burbank.

Larry Stamper earned a bachelor's degree from Point Loma College and a master's degree from Claremont School of Theology. He is well known in the community as the pastor of Burbank First United Methodist Church. He is a member of the Burbank Community Hospital Foundation, and is on the board of governors for Goodwill Industries. He also serves on the board of directors of Wesley Homes, which are senior retirement homes sponsored by his church. Larry served on the Burbank City Council during the 1980's and was mayor from 1983–1984. He is a member and past-president of the Burbank Kiwanis Club. He was chaplain for the Burbank Police Department for 14 years. Larry has long been associated with Woodbury, and received an honorary doctor of letters from the university in 1992.

The Stampers have been married for 47 years and have three children and five grandchildren. Since moving to Burbank 31 years ago, they have played an active role in civic, philanthropic, and spiritual activities. They

have enriched Burbank through their selfless generosity of time and spirit and their constant willingness to better the community. Individually and together, their efforts have positively shaped the future of Burbank.

I ask all Members of Congress today to join me in commending Larry and Sue Stamper for their limitless energy and commitment to the community of Burbank.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF YOUR FLU SHOT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my esteemed colleagues of the contents of their influenza vaccines. As we approach the flu season, many of you will visit the doctor's office and receive an annual influenza vaccine. This might prevent the flu, but what else will it do? You should be aware that the vaccine you are about to receive contains thimerosal—a mercury-laden preservative. Scientific evidence continues to accumulate regarding the biologically plausible connection between this preservative and certain neurological disorders.

The influenza vaccine is not the only vaccine that contains thimerosal. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), several currently manufactured U.S. licensed vaccines also contain thimerosal. From Anthrax to Hepatitis, from Influenza to Lyme disease, numerous vaccines exist that contain this preservative.

During my chairmanship of the Government Reform Committee, we held numerous hearings on the adverse effects of thimerosal. According to scientists, these hearings clearly demonstrated the potentially dangerous effects of vaccines containing mercury, and how easy it would be to save thousands of victims from the preservative's effects. Furthermore, some scientists have attributed the growth in Alzheimer's Disease and autism to the mercury found in these vaccines. In April 2000, when the Committee on Government Reform held its first hearing on the dramatic rise in the rates of autism, Federal agencies were estimating that autism affected 1 in 500 children in the United States. A recent study reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* indicates that ratio may actually be as high as 1 in every 150 children, and the problem continues to grow.

What is most shocking about these vaccines is that the pharmaceutical companies no longer need to use thimerosal as a preservative. They could easily eliminate all mercury from these vaccines. Experts believe that if single-shot vials were used for vaccines, then the thimerosal preservative would no longer be necessary. Moving to single-shot vials could have an enormously positive impact in helping to minimize the debilitating effects of mercury-laden thimerosal.

I am submitting to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for my colleagues' review a letter that I recently sent to corporate leaders in the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry.

You may already be aware that scientific evidence continues to accumulate regarding

the connection between thimerosal, autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders, and that many parents have become understandably concerned about the safety of pediatric vaccines. Although the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) asked vaccine manufacturers to begin removing the mercury-laden preservative thimerosal from vaccines in 1999, they were not ordered to do so. As a result, we now have a situation where concerned parents who do not wish their children to be exposed to thimerosal are unable to determine which vaccines currently on the market contain thimerosal and which are thimerosal-free.

During my tenure as Chairman of the House Government Reform Committee (1997–2002), a myriad of scientists testified at a series of hearings before the Committee that the mercury in vaccines is a contributing factor to developing neurological disorders, including autism and Alzheimer's Disease. Numerous scientists testified that there is a simple way to prevent doing further harm. Experts believe that if single-shot vials were used for vaccines, then thimerosal would no longer be necessary. Moving to single-shot vials could have an enormously positive impact in helping to minimize and perhaps even eliminate some of the cases of autism, Alzheimer's Disease, and other neurological disorders linked to mercury. Unfortunately, several well-known and firmly-established pharmaceutical companies continue to put thimerosal into vaccines for both children and adults, even though the pharmaceutical industry knows it is a highly toxic substance.

Reports still continue to surface concerning the marked increase in neurological disorders and a possible correlation to mercury-laden vaccines. In May of this year, the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) released a report entitled, "Autistic Spectrum Disorders, Changes in the California Caseload: 1999–2002." The findings of this report are truly alarming. California's autism population has nearly doubled in 4 years—from 10,360 reported cases in 1998 to 20,377 cases in December of 2002. This astounding growth rate represents a 97 percent increase in just four years, and nearly 100 percent increase in California's caseload since 1999. And California is not alone. The rate of growth in the population of persons with autism in California is commensurate with reported increases all across the Nation, in such diverse States as Georgia, Minnesota, and Massachusetts. We have an absolute epidemic on our hands. If this trend is allowed to continue at a constant rate, we could have up to 4 million autistic children in America within the next decade.

As you may already know, many pharmaceutical companies in your industry are concerned that they may be held liable in potential class-action lawsuits for brain damage caused by thimerosal, which is still found in at least three childhood vaccines. It is my belief that because of these concerns, language was inserted—at the last minute and under the cover of darkness—into last year's "National Homeland Security Agency Act" (H. R. 1158). This language would have protected pharmaceutical companies from future classaction lawsuits; however, the language was ultimately removed after being discovered by several deeply concerned Members of both the House and Senate.

As a leader of your industry, I implore you to eliminate mercury from your vaccines immediately. Mercury-free medicine protects and promotes the health of the world, as well as protecting your industry from future lawsuits. Thank you for your prompt and personal attention to this urgent matter.

For a chart of those vaccines that contain thimerosal, I invite my colleagues to visit the