

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

Food and Drug Administration's website at www.fda.gov/cber/vaccine/thimerosal.htm.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE JAMES SINGER, JR.

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember George James Singer, Jr. George proudly served our Nation in World War II in the Army's 38th Division of the 147th Infantry. He served on the island of Tonga for most of his service from January 1941 to May 1943. The recession at his funeral mass was "Ah Weh, Ah Weh", a song that he learned while stationed in Tonga and loved to sing at family gatherings.

Born in 1917, George lived a full life. After devoting his life to his country, George returned home to Cincinnati, OH, where he settled down with the love of his life, his wife, Marjorie (nee Sturwold). A few years later, they had a daughter, Gayle. George worked most of his life at the Cincinnati Post-Times Star newspaper. Everyone who knew George, knew him to be a kind and gentle man. He loved to play golf and loved traveling around the world with his beloved wife, Marjorie. Marjorie passed away a few years ago and life was never the same for George.

This country owes George our appreciation for defending our freedom. America is grateful for his service. I offer my condolences to Gayle, his daughter, her husband, Bob, and George's two granddaughters, Amy and Katie. America lost another hero on September 9, 2003. Our Nation's loss is most certainly heaven's gain.

HONORING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF BILL AND CAROL CLAY

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to my parents, William "Bill" and Carol Clay, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. As many of you know, my father, former Congressman Bill Clay, represented the 1st Congressional District of Missouri in this body for 32 years.

My parents were married on October 10, 1953 in St. Louis, Missouri. Their life together has been built upon a solid foundation of love, mutual respect, honor and dedication. Over the years they have worked very hard to be responsible parents to their three children, while at the same time toiling tirelessly to provide service to the "larger" family of constituents in St. Louis and beyond.

My father served in elective office for over 40 years and my mother stood by his side every step of the way. From their attempt to desegregate the public swimming pool at Fort McClellan in Alabama, to the marches and protests for employment opportunities at the Jefferson Bank and Trust Company and Howard Johnson's Restaurant in St. Louis, my par-

ents were at the forefront of the struggle for justice and equality from the very early years of their marriage. On one occasion, my father spent 118 days in jail as a result of protesting injustice. During that period, my mother would take us regularly to the jail house to see him, so that we would understand what he was doing and why. My parents instilled a deep sense of commitment to fighting injustice and righting wrongs within my sisters and me at an early age.

One of my fondest memories was in January 1969 when my father was sworn in as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Following his lead, as we normally would, my sisters and I raised our right hands in an effort to take the oath of office with him. At that time, we could not have foreseen an even prouder moment for our family when, 32 years later I had the privilege and honor of being sworn in as a Member of this esteemed body. As I was taking the oath of office, I looked over to my father and noticed a tear fall from his eye while my mother stood beside him, misty-eyed as well.

Throughout his long and distinguished career, my father has been a trailblazer, a pacesetter, an innovator and a fearless leader. At the same time, my mother has been the advocate, the nurturer, the rock solid supporter and the foundation of the Clay family. I take pleasure in reflecting upon all of the wonderful lessons and guidance they have given my sisters and me over the years. They taught us the importance of family commitment, being patient and respecting the opinions of others. They also taught us to always be prepared and look at life from a practical point of view.

Their contributions to our community and our Nation are enormous. In addition, their strong commitment to the education of young people is exemplary. Together they have helped raise over \$3 million in college scholarships for minority students through their efforts with the William L. Clay Scholarship and Research Fund. This Fund was founded by my father and the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses organization, of which my mother was a cofounder.

My sisters, Vicki Clay Jackson, Michelle Clay Rorie, and I will honor Bill and Carol in celebration of their golden wedding anniversary on Saturday, October 11, 2003. We are being assisted in this momentous undertaking by all five of Bill and Carol Clay's grandchildren—Angela Clay, Michael Alexis, H. Clay Rorie, Carol W. Clay and William L. Clay, III. Family, life-long friends and colleagues from throughout the Nation will be joining us on that marvelous occasion to extend thanks and appreciation for their love, guidance and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues extend a well-deserved and heartfelt round of congratulations to Bill and Carol Clay as they celebrate 50 years of love and devotion to one another and to the Clay family.

BUILDING MOMENTUM

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, since the first days after 9/11, President Bush has made

clear two priorities in his vision for American security.

First, that the top priority of his administration is to defend our nation and free nations everywhere by declaring and winning a war against global terror. And second, that this war on terror is unlike any conflict in history, fought simultaneously on economic, military, and diplomatic fronts around the world.

In the last week, good news has emerged in several of these sectors.

First of all, American businesses created 57,000 jobs last month, strengthening our economy and putting paychecks back into our people's hands. Our national security is dependent on the creation of even more jobs and economic growth, so that we can afford to meet the ever-changing challenges of the war on terror.

That's why President Bush's tax relief has proven so vital, and why proposals to raise new taxes are so dangerous.

Even as the economy rebounds here at home, we've got to keep military, diplomatic, and economic pressure on the terrorists around the world. So, this week, the Appropriations Committee will take up the President's supplemental war budget request—after two weeks of hearings—to pay for our ongoing military and democracy-building efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We are also committed to keeping up the diplomatic pressure on states that harbor and assist terrorists themselves. Toward that end, this week the International Relations Committee will take up the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act.

This bill, which is cosponsored by 260 members of the House, identifies Syria's continued actions assisting international terrorism and lays out potential sanctions against Syria for such activity.

On the heels of Israel's justified destruction of a Syrian terrorist training camp over the weekend, it's imperative the United States remain true to the Bush Doctrine, support our allies, and stand up to Syria's continued allegiance with evil.

All three of these items, Mr. Speaker—the growing economic recovery, the supplemental war budget, and the Syria accountability bill—will continue to build America's momentum in the war on terror. That momentum will continue to forge prosperity and security for the American people and in turn create peace around the world.

TRIBUTE TO KURT ANDREW DODD

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week the Committee on Appropriations lost a dear friend and valued colleague, Staff Assistant Kurt Dodd. I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his service for the American people and to his memory.

Kurt Andrew Dodd was born on April 17, 1957. He began his Federal service in 1980 at the age of 23 as a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. After 17 years with USGS, Kurt came to work for the Appropriations Committee as a detailee to the Interior Subcommittee in January 1997. He spent the next