

may have been lost. Instead everyone came out okay. No one ever told Annalisha what to do if her dad blacked out but she seemed to know exactly what to do to save his life. The consequences of this event could have been tragic however; Annalisha acted heroically and prevented a disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and all residents of New Mexico in honoring and thanking Annalisha Labastida.

CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ANDERSEN LIBRARY AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Andersen Library at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. The library's tradition of excellence well deserves recognition.

Opened on February 25, 1953, the Andersen Library exemplifies the high standards of education valued by the Wisconsin state university system. Throughout its tenure, the library has served the Whitewater community, professors, and students alike in a variety of important capacities. One of the more notable among these capacities has been the library's accumulation of volumes. In 1953, the Andersen library opened its doors with 41,000 volumes. Today, the collection has grown to an impressive 2 million documents including a variety of print, audio-visual, and electronic files. It has been through this accumulation that the outstanding staff has been able to fulfill the library's mission to provide quality research, service, and teaching facilities to the Whitewater community.

Commitment to service is also well demonstrated by the library's annual reception and exhibit of works recognizing UW-Whitewater faculty and staff for their scholarship and creative achievements. Now in its fifteenth year, the program's fascinating exhibits recognize employee work in all media, including print, paint, and photograph.

The library's dedication to service and education is highlighted by the life achievements of its namesake, Harold G. Andersen. Mr. Andersen, a lifelong Whitewater resident and graduate of the class of 1917, was one of the many individuals who committed time and energy to the library's opening. In particular, Mr. Andersen helped move the collection with then-university President Robert C. Williams from the old site to the new library on what I can only imagine was a cold February day.

Perhaps the original dedication program said it best when stating that the Andersen Library was "planned with an eye to the future." Indeed, the library's past, present, and future are vital to the Whitewater community and deserve recognition.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE
PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE NE-
GOTIATION ACT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, Hubert Humphrey once said, "The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life—the sick, the needy, and the handicapped." Right now we are failing this test.

America has over 40 million elderly and disabled Americans who rely on prescription medication to maintain their way of life. Over the past few years, prescription drug costs have skyrocketed and a prescription drug benefit plan for seniors is long overdue. Many seniors are faced with the choice of paying for the medications they need or paying for the food on their table and the heat in their home. This is not a choice they should be forced to make. The Federal Government should not be turning its back on those who have done so much for this country.

A prescription drug benefit should come under the traditional Medicare program that seniors know and are comfortable with, not placed in the hands of HMOs and private insurers. The experience with Medicare+Choice HMOs leaving Connecticut is proof that private insurers will not buy into this program, at least for an extended period, because drug costs are risky and expensive to cover and because it is not actuarially feasible for them to make a profit. But don't take my word for it, listen to the words of Chip Kahn, former president of the Health Insurance Association of America. He said, "I don't know of an insurance company that would offer a drug-only policy like that or even consider it." He went on to say that it would be like "insuring against haircuts."

Prescription drug prices are virtually unregulated in the United States, as opposed to most other nations. Internationally, seniors pay dramatically less for prescription drugs, while pharmaceutical companies are leaving other countries to enjoy the largely unregulated market in the United States. Nations like Canada are no longer developing innovative drugs. In the European Union, health care quality is diminishing and investors are wary of EU pharmaceutical companies because of the uncertainty of profits due to price controls. Thus, American seniors are shouldering the burden of pharmaceutical research and development for the entire world.

The real problem lies in the cost of prescription drugs. American seniors pay drastically more than in any other place in the world. A solution needs to be identified that reduces this burden without stifling the innovative research that sets America's health care industry apart from the rest of the world.

I believe the solution lies in an idea that is already being used by the Federal Government. Prescription drug prices have been successfully lowered for seniors enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system. The secretary leverages the power of the VA purchasing population (6.9 million peo-

ple) to negotiate substantially lower drug prices. The VA also makes heavy use of generic drugs and mail order purchasing. An investigation by the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services in 2001 found that the VA paid, on average, 52 percent less for a list of 24 drugs than did Medicare.

The legislation I am introducing today, the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act, would allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, to negotiate the prices of prescription drugs purchased by the Federal Government and by Medicare recipients. By using this successful model, seniors will be able to realize actual savings in their prescription drug costs.

As I noted earlier, the United States is the home of major pharmaceutical innovation, due in part to its largely unregulated market. I think that it is vitally important for the United States to maintain its preeminence in this area and my legislation would require the Secretaries to take into account the goal of promoting the development of breakthrough drugs in negotiations with manufacturers. Pharmaceutical companies should be rewarded for their innovative work and their role in improving the lives of so many Americans. However, American seniors should not be the only ones shouldering this burden. I believe it is incumbent on the Federal Government to step in and provide some relief to seniors, many of who live on fixed incomes, who rely on these drugs to maintain their quality of life.

Additionally, my legislation creates an ombudsman within the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that savings are being passed along and resolve disputes between the manufacturers, sellers, and purchasers of prescription drugs. Additionally, the Secretary will be required to report to Congress regarding the effectiveness of this act in achieving reduced prices for Medicare beneficiaries.

We now have an opportunity to pass the test Vice President Humphrey handed down to us. My legislation would provide seniors with the relief they need without stifling American innovation and the creation of lifesaving medications. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and treat those in the twilight of life with the respect they deserve.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER TERESA OF
CALCUTTA

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mother Teresa of Calcutta and to recognize the many contributions she has made to the world. She knew no limits in her caring for other people. She offered unconditional love while asking for nothing in return.

Born in Albania on August 26, 1910, Mother Teresa decided to become a Roman Catholic sister in 1928. She went on to create a religious order based on caring for the sick, disabled, or dying, whether it was a gutter in Calcutta, under a thatched roof in Africa, or in an apartment complex in Harlem.

Mother Teresa is one of the most magnetic figures in the history of the world. Wherever she went, crowds followed in hope of seeing her or hearing her speak. When she did speak, it was with great humility, employing simple yet moving phrases.

Few people in the history of the world have done more to help their fellow human beings than Mother Teresa. She was truly the ultimate example of what it means to be a caring person. I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in formally paying tribute to the many contributions of Mother Teresa.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR
CLINTON N. HEWITT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the distinguished Professor Clinton N. Hewitt, a renowned lecturer, author, and community activist. Throughout his professional career he has been committed to serving education and his community alike.

Professor Hewitt is a proud native of Virginia and a graduate of the Virginia Public School System. He holds undergraduate degrees from Virginia State University and Michigan State University. Furthermore, Professor Hewitt has earned a graduate degree in Landscape Architecture at Michigan State University and has completed the Institute of Education Management Program at Harvard University. Currently, Professor Hewitt is a full-time faculty member at the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota. Before deciding to teach full-time he served as the Associate Vice President for planning at the University of Minnesota for nearly thirty years. It was there that he managed the planning, design, and construction of facilities with funding well over one billion dollars. In addition, Professor Hewitt is the past president of the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), an organization recognized nationally and internationally as the leader in prompting the practice of comprehension planning in higher education.

Professor Hewitt has been recognized for his achievements on many occasions. He has received SCUP's Founders Award for Distinguished Achievement in Higher Education Planning, as well as its Distinguished Service Award. Professor Hewitt has also received the American Institute of Architecture Minnesota Honor and Special Awards for leading its Minority Scholarship Program in 2000 and the Distinguished Service to Higher Education Planning, Torch and Shield Award. He has been given memberships to Alpha Kappa Mu National Honorary Society, Beta Kappa Chi Honorary Science Society, Kappa Phi Kappa Professional Education Fraternity, and Sigma Lambda Alpha Honor Society in Landscape Architecture. In 1987, Professor Hewitt spread his community service internationally when he was one of eleven delegates of U.S. College and University Facilities Administrators who were invited to visit China to examine common problems and develop facilities management programs.

Beyond Professor Hewitt's extraordinary professional career, he has given back much

to his community. He serves on the Board of the University of Minnesota YMCA, the Minnesota Architectural Foundation Board, and the Board of Directors of Hope Community. He is a member of the Minneapolis University Rotary Club, NAACP, and the American Association for Higher Education.

Mr. Speaker, Professor Hewitt has been an asset to the betterment of higher education. His contributions have been great and selfless to those around him. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring Professor Clinton N. Hewitt.

ADOPTION PROMOTION ACT OF
2003, H.R. 3182

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3182, the Adoption Promotion Act of 2003. As we approach the holiday season, our thoughts are often filled with happy family memories. Thousands of families across this great country have relied on adoption for added joy in their home. I am pleased to support the Adoption Promotion Act of 2003 and the included incentives for each state to promote adoption and find families for the thousands of children who would prosper with a stable family. As a husband and proud father of three children, I can attest to the joy they have brought, and continue to bring, into my life.

According to the 2000 Census statistics, 19,733 children have been adopted in Kansas, 3 percent of children under 18 years of age. I am pleased that only 4 states have a higher adoption rate.

Adoption is a satisfying choice and one which spans generations. Chuck Knapp, a member of my staff, was adopted. His mother was also adopted, and he and his wife are proud parents of two sons, one of whom is adopted. His example is testament to the benefits of adoption.

We need to do a better job of encouraging adoption and holding each state's adoption agency accountable to timely work applications. We can all be grateful for someone who has come into our lives through this beautiful choice. For me, I have gained a friend and a fabulous member of my staff.

It is with great anticipation that I support this bill for its benefits are greatly needed as America continues to foster her families. I thank Representative Dave Camp for introducing this important bill and I would like to encourage my colleague to join me in voting "aye" for H.R. 3182.

HONORING THOMAS HOBBS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Thomas Hobbs, on his receipt of the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V. This long delayed award recognizes the incredible heroism and dedication to service dis-

played by Thomas Hobbs when he served his country in South Vietnam more than 30 years ago.

In 1970 Thomas Hobbs was serving as a Specialist 4 with Recon Team 1, Company E, 3rd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. Specialist Hobbs was participating in a multi-team ambush of communist forces in the Suoi Ca Valley when Recon Teams I and 2 of Company E engaged a much larger enemy force. Team 2 was pinned down by enemy fire, with several of its own members wounded. Specialist Hobbs, without thought of his own safety, left the perimeter of Team 1 to bring aid and additional firepower to Team 2. With his help, Team 2 was able to survive the communist attack. Without his bravery, Team 2 would have been overrun, and the long list of Americans sacrificed in the defense of freedom would have been even longer.

I learned of this act of heroism when I received a letter from Ken Burbank, one of the men in Team 2 whom Thomas Hobbs helped save. For more than 30 years, he had remembered the brave soldier who had come to the aid of his unit that dark and dangerous night, and continued to look for Thomas Hobbs so he could thank him for saving his life. I was pleased to recommend to the Army that they honor Thomas Hobbs for his bravery, and I look forward to being able to present him with his award. All Americans should keep the courage and self-sacrifice of Thomas Hobbs, and the men and women who follow in his footsteps today, in mind when enjoying the freedoms he fought so bravely for.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL ZIRPOLO

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor Dr. Michael A. "Mike" Zirpola upon his retirement after nearly forty-five years of practicing medicine in the State of California since his graduation from the University of California. Mike has distinguished himself throughout his career as a dedicated family practice physician who has ministered to thousands of his patients, without regard to whether they could afford the necessary patient care by relying on his independent medical judgment as opposed to non medical determinations.

Dr. Zirpola is nationally known and recognized by both civilian and military pilots for his years of dedication to his additional specialty as a Class I FAA Airmen Medical Examiner, during which he has examined and certified thousands of pilots and ensured the safety of civil aviation by adhering to the highest standards of examination for the certification of pilots.

Dr. Zirpola has played an important role in air passenger and pilot safety during his medical practice and membership in the Civil Aviation Medical Association, American Academy of Air Traffic Control Medicine and Aerospace Medical Association. He has enjoyed the respect and recognition of many active and retired military pilots during his years of practice for his patriotism. Though he is retiring from his general medical practice, he will continue to devote his medical examination efforts to