

The City Council of Boulder, CO, has been fortunate to have had Spenser Havlick as a member for the past 21 years. On behalf of Boulder's residents, I wish him well as he continues to pursue his commitment to a better community and State.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 6, 2003, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote 612, final passage of H.R. 1829, the Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 612.

HONORING JEROME HOLTZMAN

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jerome Holtzman, who on November 20 will receive the prestigious Chicago Athletic Association Ring Lardner Award. Jerome Holtzman has forgotten more about baseball than most will ever know and he is well deserving of the award. Chicago Sun-Times sports columnist Ron Rapoport honored Mr. Holtzman in his column on November 11—a column I am pleased to share with my colleagues:

FOR HIS SCOOPS AND SAVES, HOLTZMAN
AWARDED HONOR

The major exhibit in Jerome Holtzman's baseball legacy always will be his invention of the save rule, but my favorite story about him is the time he scooped the judge.

Charlie Finley was suing baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn, and Holtzman, who had covered every day of the trial for the Sun-Times, got the word that Finley had lost. Holtzman rushed the story into the last edition of the paper, which so infuriated people at the Tribune, they roused the judge out of bed after midnight to demand some information.

"But I haven't even written the decision yet," the judge protested.

Holtzman, who receives the Chicago Athletic Association's Ring Lardner Award on November 20, and I tried to figure out Monday how many baseball games he has covered in his life. The best we could come up with was about 200 a year for 28 years and maybe 100 a year for the decade after that. So how many is that—7,000 or 8,000? A lot, anyway.

"We never had any days off," said Holtzman, who joined the old Chicago Times as a copy boy in 1943, before it merged with the Sun. "Maybe if I didn't go to the All-Star Game, I'd have a two- or three-day break, but otherwise it was every game from spring training to the World Series."

Holtzman was more than just a sports-writer, though. He became our trade's historian, with his classic book "No Cheering in the Press Box" and his beautifully bound reprints of sports books, such as "Eight Men Out, The Boys of Summer and Babe."

When Holtzman invented the save rule, he received a bonus of \$100 or \$200 from The Sporting News. The best closers soon became

rich men because their performances came with numbers attached. Or as former Expos relief ace Jeff Reardon once said, "Jerome Holtzman is a friend of mine."

Mine, too.

The Lardner Awards dinner will be a star-studded affair, with David Halberstam presenting an award to Bob Costas, Ira Berkow giving Holtzman his plaque and Bill Jaus honoring former Chicago Daily News sports editor John Carmichael.

HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN DALLAS-FORT WORTH AREA

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the steady meteoric rise of the deadly epidemic of HIV/AIDS in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is proving to be one of the most devastating social conditions of our time.

In my home state of Texas, the numbers have been steadily rising since 1998 at a rate of about 7 percent per year. In fact, according to the Texas Department of Health, Dallas County reported the highest number of new HIV positive individuals in Texas, that's just ahead of Harris County (which includes Houston) which reported 1,212 new HIV cases.

So far in 2003, Dallas County has reported 609 new HIV cases and 355 new AIDS cases. Moreover, so much work needs to be done to inform the public about this disease's disproportionate impact on African Americans.

Dallas County Health and Human Services chief epidemiologist announced that there were 1,271 new HIV cases and 548 new AIDS cases reported in 2002. African Americans, comprise 20 percent of the Dallas County population, but 41 percent of the new HIV cases and 46 percent of the new AIDS cases in 2003.

As reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), although African Americans make up only about 12 percent on the U.S. population, cumulatively they have accounted for half of the new HIV infections reported in the United States in 2001.

African Americans have accounted for more than 320,000, or 38 percent, of the more than 833,000 estimated AIDS cases diagnosed since the beginning of the epidemic. In addition to experiencing historically higher rates of HIV infection, African Americans continue to face challenges in accessing health care, prevention services, and treatment. Race and ethnicity are not, themselves, risk factors for HIV infection. However, African Americans are more likely to face challenges associated with risk for HIV infection, including poverty, denial and discrimination, partners at risk, substance abuse, and sexually transmitted disease connection.

Globally more than 16 million people have died of AIDS and more than 16,000 people become newly infected each day.

It is imperative for us to take immediate steps to address these alarming statistics. As a former nurse and Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I supported funding increases for the Minority AIDS Initiative and the Housing Opportunities for Persons, which is the only federal housing program that provides

comprehensive, community-based HIV-specific housing programs.

I have always supported the four main lines of action created by an International Partnership against AIDS: encouraging visible and sustained political support; helping to develop nationally negotiated joint plans of action; increasing financial resources; and strengthening national and regional technical capacity.

We must make an ongoing commitment toward working diligently to find a cure for this very fatal epidemic. We must strongly encourage more widespread support for those who are living with this horrifying disease.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in history Congress has voted to protect known polluters from legal liability. H.R. 6, the "Energy Policy Act of 2003", not only implements a restructured energy system that would harm consumers and provide unaffordable subsidies to energy companies, but Title XV of the bill, the Ethanol and Motor Fuels title, would particularly immunize the producers of a toxic contaminant from liability for its effects on those people who have been harmed by it. These provisions were unilaterally inserted into the conference report without the benefit of a single committee hearing or markup.

MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether) has been classified by the EPA as a possible human carcinogen and can render water undrinkable in concentrations as low as two parts per billion. Due to the synthetic chemical properties of MTBE, when it leaks into water, it moves and dissolves through water rapidly, resists natural degradation, and causes water to take on the taste and smell of turpentine. According to the General Accounting Office, MTBE, a chemical which has been shown to cause liver damage, kidney damage, and even cancer in humans, has now been detected in the groundwater and drinking water in every state in the nation.

The Ethanol and Motor Fuels title in H.R. 6 contains an outright and retroactive liability waiver for MTBE producers that knowingly polluted the tap water of millions of Americans. Specifically, the title would:

Protect responsible parties from liability—The title would give MTBE producers a special liability waiver from strict product liability suits. Because these strict product liability suits have been the only effective measure of holding MTBE producers accountable for polluting public water supplies, denying water districts and city and county governments the right to bring defective product lawsuits against the MTBE polluters would effectively end their accountability.

Shift cleanup costs to taxpayers—The MTBE provisions in the bill would shift the burden of paying for the cleanup of the polluted water to the water consumers. An estimated \$29 billion in clean up costs will fall squarely on states, cities, and their citizens. MTBE manufacturers and gasoline companies will

not have to pay for the contamination of the water supplies that they caused, nor will they have to pay to acquire new water sources for hundreds of thousands of customers.

Nullify pending litigation against MTBE producers, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without recourse—There are currently 130 communities and water suppliers across the nation that have litigation pending to reclaim damages for MTBE pollution of public drinking water sources. Because this bill is retroactive, taking effect for lawsuits pending on September 5, 2003, all of these lawsuits would be nullified.

The MTBE provisions contained in the Energy Policy Act of 2003 benefit the wrongdoers and have a number of harmful consequences for the victims of drinking water contamination. Any policy that has the effect of leaving hundreds of thousands of victims without any recourse against their wrongdoers is bad policy.

NATIONAL DIABETES MONTH

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Diabetes Caucus, I rise today in honor of National Diabetes Month. Diabetes is a growing concern in this country as each year increasing numbers of Americans are being diagnosed with the disease. The disease does not discriminate; children, adults and senior citizens alike are realizing the devastating impact of diabetes and its tragic effects have touched the lives of Americans across the country.

Diabetes itself is debilitating, but it can also lead to heart, kidney, nervous system or dental diseases, as well as blindness, high blood pressure, complications during pregnancy, strokes, and even death. Today, 17 million people live with diabetes and approximately 1 million new cases are diagnosed each year in people over the age of 20. It is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, with 19 percent of Americans over the age of 25 losing their lives to diabetes each year. The statistic that 1 million children have been diagnosed with juvenile diabetes is particularly unnerving.

In my home state of California, every half-hour a life is lost due to causes directly or indirectly linked to diabetes. Currently, there are two million Californians who have been diagnosed with diabetes, putting California's average above the national rate. That number is expected to double by the year 2020.

Organizations such as the Juvenile Research Fund are vital to research efforts to find a cure for diabetes. In addition to conducting its own research, JDRF provides valuable outreach programs in schools and the community to educate the public on diabetes related issues.

This past June, the Sacramento chapter of JDRF sent two of my constituents, Juleah Cordi and Gianna Gallo, to the Children's Congress. At this conference, children afflicted with diabetes spoke with Members of Congress to raise awareness of this debilitating disease. As a congressional co-chair of this event, I would like to thank Juleah, Gianna and other Children's Congress participants for their help in bringing attention to this issue.

The cost of diabetes is rising, both in terms of the cost to treat the disease and the number of American lives lost resulting from complications relating to the disease. We must support the National Institute of Health's funding for diabetes research so that organizations like JDRF may continue to provide preventative education and help curb the spread of the disease. Education is a key component in preventative efforts, by encouraging individuals to make life-style changes that will reduce their risk of getting diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, we have made great strides over the years in diabetes research and outreach education. I applaud the many organizations that have contributed to this effort and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring National Diabetes Month. Let's help give those Americans living with diabetes hope that one day soon, we will find a cure to diabetes.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD WREN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute today to Police Captain Richard Wren of La Junta, Colorado. Recently, Richard was honored by the La Junta City Council for two decades of honorable service. Richard has dedicated his life to serving and protecting the citizens of Colorado and it is my honor to call his many contributions to the attention of this body of Congress here today.

Richard was born in Denver, Colorado and moved to La Junta to attend Otero Junior College in 1980. Upon graduation, Richard attended the Law Enforcement Academy in Trinidad and in 1983 he became a patrolman for the La Junta Police Department. He rose quickly through the ranks to achieve his status as Captain.

Richard has achieved a great deal in his tenure with the La Junta Police Department. Richard is an expert in canine police work. During his career, he established the La Junta canine program and attended two national competitions for the United States Police Canine Association. In 2002, Richard furthered his law enforcement education by attending the National Federal Bureau of Investigation's Academy in Quantico, Virginia. In addition, Richard is an expert in firearms and patrol procedures, and he holds teaching certificates in both of those disciplines.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Captain Richard Wren before this body of Congress and this nation. Richard has managed to balance his tireless dedication to the citizens of La Junta, while gladly serving as a loving father and husband as well. The Citizens of La Junta Colorado are safer as the result of Richard's tireless dedication to their well-being and it is my honor to join them in thanking him for his service.

H.R. 1588, DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, when this House voted on H.R. 1588 in May, I voted against it. I didn't think the bill as it stood then was one I could endorse. The conference report that we are considering today is marginally better. Although I still have strong reservations, I will support the conference report.

We are 2 years into our war on terrorism and still engaged in military action in Iraq. There is no doubt that we must continue to focus on defending our homeland against terrorism, we must support our military personnel, and we must give our military the training, equipment, and weapons it needs to beat terrorism around the world.

That's why I'm in favor of provisions in the bill that support those men and women who have put their lives on the line in Afghanistan and Iraq. The bill provides an average 4.15 percent pay raise for service members, boosts military special pay and extends bonuses, and funds programs to improve living and working facilities on military installations.

I am pleased that the report includes provisions recognizing the importance of non-citizen soldiers and the many sacrifices and contributions they have made. The report eases the naturalization process for these soldiers and their families, reducing to one year the length of service requirement for naturalization during peacetime; allowing soldiers to apply and take oaths for citizenship overseas; and granting permanent resident status to the surviving family of U.S. citizen soldiers who are granted posthumous citizenship as a result of death incurred in combat.

I'm also pleased that this bill will allow approximately one-third of eligible disabled military retirees to receive both their retirement and disability benefits. I would have preferred that the bill extend this "concurrent receipt" to all disabled retirees, but this is a great improvement on the bill the House considered earlier this year—which included no such provisions. I am also pleased that the bill extends the military's TRICARE health coverage to National Guard and reservists and their families if servicemembers have been called to active duty. These are all necessary and important provisions that I support.

I do have a number of serious reservations about the bill.

I don't believe it addresses 21st century threats as well as it could. With the exception of the Crusader artillery system, the Administration and Congress have continued every major weapons system inherited from previous administrations. So although the bill brings overall defense spending to levels 13 percent higher than the average Cold War levels, it doesn't present a coherent vision of how to realign our defense priorities.

The bill still includes provisions that would exempt the Department of Defense from compliance with some requirements under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). There is broad-based support for existing environmental laws—as there should be—and these laws already allow case-by-case flexibility to