

Shutting down Selective Service will give taxpayers a break without adversely affecting military efforts. Shutting down Selective Service will also end a program that violates the very principals of individual liberty our nation was founded upon. The moral case against the draft was eloquently expressed by former President Ronald Reagan in the publication *Human Events* in 1979: “. . . it [conscription] rests on the assumption that your kids belong to the state. If we buy that assumption then it is for the state—not for parents, the community, the religious institutions or teachers—to decide who shall have what values and who shall do what work, when, where and how in our society. That assumption isn't a new one. The Nazis thought it was a great idea.”

I hope all my colleagues join me in working to shut down this un-American relic of a bygone era and help realize the financial savings and the gains to individual liberties that can be achieved by ending Selective Service registration.

HONORING JESSICA HUGHES

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of Jessica Hughes, an individual who has overcome her physical disabilities and has become an inspiration to all with whom she comes in contact.

Jessica Hughes, a determined 16-year-old from Idalou, Texas, was born with cerebral palsy, is visually impaired, and is confined to a wheelchair, but does not let her disabilities slow her down. She actively participates in State and local stock shows, in which she proudly shows lambs. She has been showing lambs since she was in the third grade and has won several ribbons at fairs in Lubbock.

At her home, she trains and exercises the lambs every day, sometimes with the assistance of her father. Although she lacks the physical strength to lift the lambs, as many of the children showing them do, she has overcome that barrier with a modification to her motorized wheelchair. All who witness her compete in these shows cannot help but be encouraged by her indomitable spirit.

I would like to call the attention of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to the achievements of this remarkable young lady. Jessica Hughes is indeed an inspiration to all and a fine role model for young people.

HELP SENIORS LOSING HMO
COVERAGE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, in the last Congress, the House passed the landmark Israel-Johnson Medicare+Choice Improvement and Stabilization Act that I cowrote with Republican Representative NANCY JOHNSON. Unfortunately, despite a bipartisan consensus that something must be done and the best efforts

of Senator SCHUMER, the Senate did not pass the needed legislation.

Now, at the beginning of the 108th Congress, and working closely with the administration, leadership of both parties and the Senate, the first piece of legislation I have introduced in the 108th Congress is a bill that will help stabilize the Medicare+Choice program.

Since 1999 more than 2.4 million beneficiaries, including more than 85,000 Long Island seniors, have had their service interrupted by a severe funding crisis. Millions of other beneficiaries have experienced a reduction in benefits or an increase in out-of-pocket costs. These problems are a direct result of the fact that funding for the Medicare+Choice program has not kept up with rising health costs.

From the moment I came to Congress, seniors have been asking me when relief will arrive. They wonder what is taking so long and why Congress can't pass this and the President sign-it. The fact is that while Congress blames HMOs for leaving Long Island, HMOs blame the administration, and Republicans and Democrats blame each other, seniors are suffering.

As we begin a new session of Congress, it is essential that we put partisan politics aside and give seniors the help they so desperately need. Playing the blame game won't help seniors pay their medicine bills. The time has come to act.

Over the past three years, there has been a growing consensus in Congress that the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997 has had the unintended effect of constricting the Medicare market as a whole, and Medicare+Choice health plans in particular. According to a November 2002 report by the Commonwealth Fund, the BBA is limiting M+C payment rates, while health care costs are increasing. As a result, beneficiaries looking to Medicare HMOs as an affordable supplemental insurance option are being asked to pay more for fewer benefits.

And that is only part of the problem. The ultimate result of this flawed system created by the BBA is that HMOs in the program have been deserting seniors on Long Island. Just 4 years ago 12 HMOs offered seniors health plans in Suffolk County; now only two remain. More than 85,000 Long Island seniors have been dropped by their HMOs. This is unacceptable.

It is for this reason that the Medicare+Choice Equity and Access Act is so essential. It will stabilize the program and provide critical funding. The situation is unconscionable. Our seniors are depending on us. I urge my colleagues to quickly pass this bill and correct the funding inadequacies in Medicare+Choice.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT BAR ASSOCIATION AND LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Southeast District Bar Association (SEDBA), the most prominent and largest legal association in the Southeast District of the Greater Los Angeles Area.

SEDBA is an innovative nonprofit community organization established in 1934, by a visionary group of attorneys who recognized the community's need for affordable and credible legal assistance. Through a diverse membership of over 200 lawyers, judges, and business people, SEDBA has been continually providing legal assistance to over 7000 members of the community each year. SEDBA's extensive network of prescreened attorneys, who specialize in a myriad of fields, continues to be a source of expert service to all sectors of the community. In connection with local schools, SEDBA has organized "Law Day" to give students a better understanding of the judicial system. In addition, SEDBA works with local law enforcement agencies to collect holiday gifts for the less fortunate.

This year, I am also proud to recognize Ms. Rose Marie Gallegos, SEDBA's first Latina President and third woman to head the organization.

For SEDBA's dedication to service and commitment to the community, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable organization.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
MITCH GEISLER, MAYOR OF
MARSHALL, MO

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a remarkable public servant, the Honorable Mitch Geisler, Mayor of Marshall, MO, will not seek reelection in 2003, after 12 years of valuable service to the citizens of Marshall.

After high school, Mayor Geisler served his country through his tenure with the United States Army during World War II. He returned to Marshall, MO, and attended classes at Missouri Valley College while working with the Marshall Police Department. At the age of 23, Mayor Geisler was selected to serve as the Marshall Chief of Police. He was then selected to serve Garden City, KS, in the same position. Mayor Geisler again returned to his home town of Marshall and dedicated 27 years of service to the Wood & Huston Bank of Marshall. He retired as the bank's Senior Vice President.

In addition to these accomplishments, Mayor Geisler has served his state and community in many different capacities. He was elected twice to serve as the President of the Western Missouri National Academy Associates. He also was a four year chairman of the State Land Reclamation Commission. Mayor Geisler also served as the President of the Marshall Chamber of Commerce and was the President of the Missouri Chief's of Police Association. He was the District Chairman of the Santa Fe Council, Boy Scouts of America, and served on the Lake Ozark Council's Board of Directors. He also is a 50 year member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. In this capacity, he flew with the Blue Angels Navy Acrobatic and demonstration team and also had the chance to fly off the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*. He was also invited by J. Edgar Hoover to attend the FBI Law Enforcement Institution.

In addition to this service, Mayor Geisler also made many commitments to the service of his church. He was a fifteen year member of his Church Board and also served as the first president of the Mercy Academy School Board, where he also coached football for 5 years. Mayor Geisler and his wife, Dorothy, both had the privilege of meeting the Pope twice, invited the first time to meet the Pope at the White House and then again in St. Louis, MO.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Geisler is a valuable leader of his community and a role model for young Americans. I know that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Mayor Geisler for his outstanding commitment to public service.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF
DRIGGS, IDAHO

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of Idaho's finest. With a zip code of 83422, Driggs, Idaho was recently featured in National Geographic Magazine ZIPUSA section entitled, "Billionaires, Mormon potato farmers and skateboarders share an uncommon home in 83422." The town was featured in the publication because of its pristine location, nestled at the foot of one of the most photographed mountains in the world—the Grand Tetons.

Driggs, Idaho is also one of the fastest growing towns per capita in the U.S. It's easy to see why. With friendly folks and beautiful scenery, Driggs is becoming a destination town. From Internet start up companies to third generation farmers, people flock and stay in Driggs. My wife Kathy and I are among them. We enjoy spending our weekends and holidays at our home with an incredible view of the Grand Tetons.

Driggs is reminiscent of small-town, USA. The town's idea of a traffic jam is waiting for a tractor to go by. It's well known that in Driggs, the drivers you pass will wave at you, with one hand still on the steering wheel. It's like feeling you're home, even if you've never been there. There are no strangers in Driggs, Idaho.

Main Street resembles the ideals of the past. You'll see the neighborhood malt shop, locally owned grocery store and the town bookstore, "Dark Horse Books." The town is surrounded by fields of seed potatoes and gently sloping hills that roll to the foot of the mammoth Grand Teton Mountains. Perhaps Driggs' most famous attraction, other than the Grand Tetons, is the Spud Drive-in Theater. Locals like the old-time atmosphere of a drive in movie theater and the businesses' mascot, a giant cement potato in the back of a flat bed truck.

I'm proud to represent and live in Driggs, Idaho. It's a place worthy of National Geographic praise and attention.

TROOPER THOMAS KOBESKI CHOSEN FOR JOE SAPORITO LIFETIME OF SERVICE AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the honoring of the late Pennsylvania State Trooper Thomas "Kubby" Kobeski with the Joe Saporito Lifetime of Service Award by the Sunday Dispatch of Pittston, Pennsylvania. A reception will be held in his honor on February 2nd.

Trooper Kobeski passed away last May and is survived by his wife, Jackie, and their three children, Thomas, Matthew and Zachary.

As the Sunday Dispatch states in an article outlining why Trooper Kobeski was chosen for this award, "he was only 39, but he did an astonishing amount of good works in that short time. In an age of declining volunteerism, he was the super volunteer."

Trooper Kobeski exhibited this spirit when he was still in high school. James Redington, principal at Seton Catholic High School, told the Dispatch, "He was the most dynamic boy. He was a catalyst to get everybody moving and shaking."

In addition to Seton Catholic, the many organizations to which Trooper Kobeski donated his time included the Stoners Youth Soccer League, St. John the Baptist School, and the Pittston Little League.

At the Pittston Little League, Secretary Nora Shandra, told the newspaper, "It's going to take 15 people to do what he did. He was equipment man, groundskeeper, coach, treasurer of the league and the auxiliary."

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the well-deserved honoring of Trooper Kobeski with the Joe Saporito Lifetime of Service Award, and I wish his family and friends all the best.

PHYSICIANS PHARMACEUTICALS PROVIDES FUNDING FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA AMBER ALERT SYSTEM

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, in the past year Americans have become acutely aware of the horrible crime of juvenile abduction. We have also become aware that time is a crucial factor when attempting to recover an abducted child. The Amber Alert system, which uses the media to inform the public when a child has been taken, has been an effective tool aiding in their rescue.

The State of North Carolina is in a very tight budget year, and could not fully fund the North Carolina Child Alert Notification, or NC CAN. When the budget was passed, NC CAN funding came up \$150,000 short. The program could not expand from the current 15 counties to all 100 counties in North Carolina without the additional funds.

When good people see a problem, Mr. Speaker, they step in to help. That is exactly

what the Tabor family of Kernersville did for their fellow Tar Heels. Physicians Pharmaceuticals, their family business, offered to fill the gap in NC CAN's budget by donating the \$150,000 that the program needed. Physicians Pharmaceuticals makes Revival soy protein products, and it was a natural outgrowth of the company's Christian philosophy that led them to help the children of North Carolina.

I commend Physicians Pharmaceuticals for making this donation. It is very possible that children's lives may be saved due to the company's sacrifice. In a time of great discord in the world, this selfless act is an example of what good works are done in God's name by the faithful. Now all North Carolinians can feel better about the safety of their children because of Physicians Pharmaceuticals.

PROTEST OF SCOTS GUARDS CONCERT AT SOVEREIGN BANK ARENA IN NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, for too long, Great Britain has used its military and police forces to oppress our friends, family and loved ones in Northern Ireland. It is now time that Prime Minister Tony Blair and the British Parliament take immediate steps to right centuries of murders, anti-catholic bias and oppression.

As all of you know far too well, the case of Peter McBride is appalling and reprehensible. I find it unconscionable that the two men who were tried convicted and sentenced for the murder of Peter, were not only released from prison but were allowed to rejoin the Scots Guard. This is absurd.

I am proud to lend my voice in calling on Great Britain to immediately remove these two guardsmen.

I also stand with you today in calling on Great Britain to immediately reinstate the power sharing government that was created by the Good Friday Accords. As many of you know, last October, Prime Minister Blair suspended the Belfast Assembly. The Good Friday Accords and more specifically the participation of all parties in the power sharing government are the only real solution to lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

However, the only way for the agreements and power-sharing institutions to succeed is for Unionists to immediately accept equality amongst all citizens and parties in the North. The Protestant ruling parties must cease their stall tactics and work within the confines of the agreement to create a government that will be representative of all residents of Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland must also immediately implement all of the Patten Commission's recommendations. The North must provide its citizens with a full, fair and just reform of their police service. The PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) must be representative of all ethnic, religious and political groups in Northern Ireland. Prime Minister Blair should immediately demand a full implementation of the Patten police recommendations and ensure that Northern Ireland has a police service that is representative of all parties involved.

Once the Northern Ireland Assembly is reinstated, the first item on their agenda should be