

addition to Mr. KOLBE of Arizona, Chairman, appointed on March 13, 2003:

Mr. BALLENGER of North Carolina, Vice Chairman,
Mr. DREIER of California,
Mr. BARTON of Texas,
Mr. MANZULLO of Illinois,
Ms. HARRIS of Florida,
Mr. STENHOLM of Texas,
Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa,
Mr. PASTOR of Arizona,
Mr. FILNER of California, and
Mr. REYES of Texas.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, June 7, marks the 11th National Trails Day. This important event, held the first Saturday of every June, is coordinated nationally by the American Hiking Society and locally by trail clubs, parks, agencies and businesses.

National Trails Day provides an outstanding opportunity to enjoy trails and thank the countless volunteers who build, maintain and protect them.

As cochairman of the House Trails Caucus, this Member encourages his colleagues to show their support for trails on June 7 and throughout the year.

The theme for National Trails Day 2003 is "Healthy Trails, Healthy People." It will emphasize the many health benefits associated with trail use.

The existing network of trails throughout the U.S. would not be possible without the assistance provided by grassroots trails groups and individuals who are determined to make a positive difference in their communities. The tireless efforts on behalf of trails by countless volunteers across the nation help to ensure that future generations will be able to discover the wonders of our country's rich diversity and history.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, trails play an important role in communities throughout the country and this Member urges his colleagues to join in the celebration of National Trails Day on Saturday, June 7th.

This effort fits well with President Bush's "Healthier U.S. Initiative" to encourage physical activity. In addition to promoting healthier and more active lifestyles, trails provide outstanding, family-oriented recreational opportunities to all Americans. They also offer important economic development benefits to nearby communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELAINE PATTERSON

(Mr. SHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the contributions to the academic excellence of St. Anthony's Catholic School in Fort Lauderdale,

Florida, through the efforts of its principal, Elaine Patterson, who is retiring. St. Anthony's School is the oldest Catholic school in Broward County, Florida, and Elaine has guided thousands of students throughout her 22-year tenure.

Elaine has served as St. Anthony's principal from 1986 to 2003. In that time, she introduced the school's pre-kindergarten program, forwarded technology by way of computers, and promoted innovative programs which helped in the total development of the children in her care.

Mr. Speaker, through the years, Elaine has earned the respect of fellow principals in the Archdiocese of Miami, as well as many of the teachers who have worked with her.

As a grandfather whose grandchildren have benefited from Elaine's professionalism, I can say that her retirement will be a loss to the school and the families she has guided during her career.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Elaine Patterson on a distinguished career educating South Florida's youth; and on behalf of the entire Shaw family, I wish to thank Elaine for her great service.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the contributions made to the academic excellence of St. Anthony's Catholic School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida through the efforts of its principal, Elaine Patterson, who is retiring. St. Anthony's School is the oldest Catholic school in Broward County, Florida, and Elaine has guided thousands of students throughout her 22-year tenure.

Elaine received a Bachelor of Science Degree at Southern Connecticut State University and a Master's Degree in Guidance at Florida Atlantic University. Her experience includes elementary classroom teaching, guidance counseling, and serving as a vice-principal before becoming a principal.

Elaine has served as St. Anthony's principal from 1986 to 2003. In that time, she introduced the school's pre-kindergarten program, forwarded technology by way of computers, and promoted innovative programs which helped in the total development of the children in her care. She worked very closely with St. Anthony's Pastor, Father Timothy Hannon, in achieving these goals and was very active in fund raising activities which made attaining them possible.

In addition to her administrative activities, Elaine has served with distinction on numerous committees for the Archdiocese of Miami and has headed two very successful Self Study Committees. She served as a member of the St. Anthony's Advisory Board, the Parish Council, St. Anthony's Foundation for Education, the Home and School Association and the Victoria Park Civic Association of Homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, through the years Elaine has earned the respect of fellow principals in the Archdiocese of Miami, as well as, the many teachers who have worked with her. Elaine's leadership and example have made her a mentor to many. She believes in an open-door policy for everyone and will be remembered as a kind and compassionate administrator. As a grandfather whose grandchildren have

benefited from Elaine's professionalism, I can say that her retirement will be a loss to the school and the families she has guided during her career.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Elaine Patterson on a distinguished career educating South Florida's youth, and on behalf of the Shaw family, I thank Elaine for her service. God bless Elaine Patterson and the entire St. Anthony's family.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ERIC K. SHINSEKI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have before me an outline of information regarding General Eric Shinseki, Chief of the United States Army, who is on the verge of his retirement. The material before me involves much more than the 5 minutes that is available to us at this moment, but the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) and I want to make sure that all of this is in the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a genuine American hero, our retiring Chief of Staff of the United States Army, Eric K. Shinseki. After leading the Army during successful campaigns against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq and putting the Army on an irreversible track towards transformation, General Shinseki is stepping down as Chief of Staff of the Army next week.

Mr. Speaker, there is many a thing that I would say, but most of us in the House have come to know and be spellbound by the story of General Shinseki's life. Indeed, Hollywood could not have written a better story that would reflect an Horatio Alger kind of hero during our very age.

Mr. Speaker, when I first met General Shinseki, I was a newly elected chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security of the Committee on Appropriations. Shortly after assuming that responsibility, I was asked to go to the swearing-in of the new Army Chief, meeting a general whom I had really not known at all for the first time, the beginning of a very deep and growing friendship.

Eric Shinseki, upon being sworn in, was introduced; and in that introduction I learned for the first time when he was born, Rick Shinseki was born a foreign alien, for he was of Japanese descent, born in Hawaii, and World War II was raging. So a foreign alien. Think of that and think of the reflection and what that says about our country that some years later that same individual rises to be the Chief of the United

States Army. It is a fantastic reflection of this country's strength and what it means in terms of service and opportunity for those who will but serve.

Another piece of that introduction and the Chief's speech says an awful lot about this guy Rick Shinseki. I will never forget his words. Turning to the audience, he said, I want all of you who are here present to know I would not be here today if it were not for the Shinseki women, and he pointed out some two dozen of those women who were in the audience, his grandmother, his mother, wife, daughters, et cetera. With that, he went on to outline his vision for the future of the Army relatively near term, and for the first time I heard in a meaningful way an outline by a military leader that involved the term transformation. He was about transforming the American Army and making sure we found ourselves on a pathway that would allow the Army to lead this free country as the only remaining superpower for the decades ahead.

As he discussed the fact that the Army needed to be lighter and quicker and stronger, I heard a fellow just behind me who also had stars on his shoulders, I heard him gasp, what does this guy think the Marine Corps is for, although the terms he used in expressing that sentiment were a little stronger than I have used here. But, nonetheless, a clear illustration that there continues to be competition between our branches, which is good, but there also continues to be a great need for transformation throughout the Department of Defense. And the first guy out on the point regarding that transformation is this great Chief who is now retiring, Eric Shinseki.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) and I have had a chance to work very closely with the Chief. We have had a chance to play a role in developing ideas of his such as the future combat system, to talk out loud about what that future battlefield might look like and to talk about the fact that we are responsible for by far the largest budget in the Congress, those moneys that flow on behalf of our national defense and allowing America to be the voice for freedom. Indeed, in those conversations time and time again, the General and I come back to this thought:

□ 1700

That is the thought that the reason we spend these moneys is not because we are about to wage war but because America is the force for peace and we appropriate these dollars and work with the Army and the rest of our forces on behalf of peace in the world. So as General Eric K. Shinseki goes on to a new part of his life, we thank him for his great and wonderful service, and we all are in his debt.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a genuine American hero—our retiring Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General Eric

K. Shinseki. After leading the Army during successful campaigns against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq and putting the Army on an irreversible track towards transformation, General Shinseki is stepping down as chief of staff next week.

Many of us in the Congress have come to know, and be spellbound by, the story of General Shinseki's life. Indeed, Hollywood couldn't have written a better Horatio Alger story. General Shinseki, as we've all come to know, was born during World War II to Japanese-American parents at a time when the fears of war created a regrettable episode in our history—the internment of American citizens and loyal immigrants. Between then and now, much has changed in the world and in this country. General Shinseki has been a positive force for some of that change, even as his incredible professional accomplishments are a symbol of that change.

Indeed, I remember so well the first time I heard the Shinseki story. It was during the introduction at his swearing-in ceremony as the Army's Chief of Staff. That story moved me, but I was also struck by General Shinseki's own remarks that followed. He spoke eloquently and forcefully on a broad range of topics—it was during these remarks that I first heard the term "transformation." General Shinseki shared with us his powerful vision for change and I was intrigued at how clear his transformational ideas were, and how resolute and determined he seemed in bringing this about. I also remember what he said about his family—just how important they were to him. He singled out, as he called them, the dozen or so "Shinseki women," in the audience—his grandmother, mother, sisters, wife, and daughters—saying he wouldn't be where he was today without them. His sincere humility and gratitude on this his big day, was inspiring. It was a moving set of remarks on a propitious and portentous day, an event that remains fresh in my memory even now.

With the guiding hand of loving parents, Ric Shinseki matured into an extraordinary young American with rock-solid values and with a calling to serve—"Duty, Honor, Country." This West Point graduate is a decorated combat veteran and an accomplished peacemaker. He is a fierce warrior-leader with a Master's degree in Literature—a true Renaissance man. His story is an inspiration for us all. He has lived the "American Dream" rising to become the 34th Army Chief of Staff.

As a young junior officer, Ric Shinseki served valiantly and selflessly in Vietnam, where he was wounded twice—once so severely his troops were convinced he would not survive. His valor and courage under fire won him three Bronze Star Medals for valor and two Purple Hearts.

A "soldier's soldier" who has commanded at every level, General Shinseki is also a reflective and intellectually gifted leader. In addition to West Point, General Shinseki has attended the National War College and Duke University. Those of us in the Congress involved extensively with defense issues have come to know him as an insightful thinker and inspirational speaker and writer. He is someone we all trust and respect.

Nearing the pinnacle of his Army career, General Shinseki spent 15 months as the commander of the NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia in 1997. He led this force with remarkable skill, helping that land begin to heal the

wounds of years of war. His abilities as a warrior-diplomat subsequently helped the Army prepare for and execute its peacekeeping responsibilities in Kosovo.

General Eric Shinseki became Army Chief of Staff in June 1999—just six months after I took the job as chairman of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. Over the past four years, we have spent a lot of the time together, professionally and socially, and I have always come away from those meetings inspired and thoughtful about the general's visionary ideas.

In many ways his early performance in Vietnam revealed the true measure and character of this man. This is a tough man who sticks to what he believes is right, even when it is unpopular, controversial, and sometimes even when it is against his own interests. True courage. And we have seen more of this during his tour as Army Chief of Staff.

After only a few months into his tenure as Army Chief, General Shinseki unveiled his comprehensive plan for transformation, the vision for which, as I mentioned earlier, he introduced at his swearing-in ceremony. This town is indebted to him for bringing our collective attention to this important mandate. Transformation is now a very popular phrase in defense circles, with many proclaimed authors, but in this Body in these chambers, we know where this all started and gained traction—the humble and understated Ric Shinseki.

Think about how difficult it was for this career Armor officer, a Tanker himself, to lead the Army in a direction away from 70-ton tanks towards a lighter, more strategically responsive force. Indeed, General Shinseki faced considerable skepticism within the naturally conservative institution that is the U.S. Army. An Army, after all, that had been tremendously successful over the past decade during major combat operations in Panama, the Persian Gulf, and in several other lesser contingencies and peacekeeping operations around the globe. Yet, General Shinseki knew that more than incremental changes were needed to get the Army ready for future requirements—it wasn't enough to look backwards as validation of work well done.

After 9-11, and after devastating attacks only yards away from his office, General Shinseki quickly moved the Army onto a "war-time footing." Like all Americans, I watched with pride and wonderment as our armed forces quickly accomplished their objectives time and again in Afghanistan and most recently now in Iraq. This is the legacy that General Shinseki leaves behind—a fabulously well trained and disciplined force that is helping win the Global War on Terror, while at the same time it is transforming itself to meet the threats of the 21st Century.

Throughout our time together, I have greatly valued this man's opinion and judgment that is always carefully arrived at and based upon over three and a half decades of experience and committed service to the nation. We haven't always agreed, in fact, we've had some major differences over the years, but there is not one in this town I respect more than our outgoing Army Chief of Staff. We will miss him sorely. And we will miss his lovely wife Patty, too. She has steadfastly and selflessly stood by her husband and the Army for over 38 years and today on behalf of my colleagues of the United States Congress, we say "thank you" for a job well done, and may

God bless you with health and happiness in all future endeavors. Although we now end our time together as Chairman and Chief, we will always remain friends.

Mr. Speaker, I greatly appreciate this very special opportunity to honor my friend, General Eric Shinseki—a model citizen and soldier.

MEDICARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PORTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico like the majority of States is confronting a number of challenges as it strives to provide quality health care to its 4 million citizens. Our local government is committed to strengthening the health care system. In fact, the Commonwealth finances approximately 85 percent of the costs of Medicaid in Puerto Rico, a burden no other jurisdiction has and one that is becoming unbearable. For us to move forward, it is essential that the Federal Government be an active and strong partner in this endeavor. As Congress considers creating a prescription drug benefit as well as enacting fundamental Medicare reform, I urge my colleagues to ensure that any Medicare legislation approved by Congress addresses the needs of the U.S. citizens living in Puerto Rico.

Since its inception, Medicare has provided health care for seniors living in Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, we must not exclude now our 525,000 seniors from any new basic health care coverage. Therefore, it is essential that beneficiaries living in the island have access to the same level of prescription drug coverage under the same terms and conditions as is offered to all others throughout the country. In addition, any Medicare prescription drug program must provide appropriate subsidies for low-income beneficiaries in Puerto Rico as in other all jurisdictions.

Puerto Rico's workers and employers pay their full share of Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes to the Federal Government. Beneficiaries who live in the island are as much a part of Medicare as those living in Florida, California, or Nebraska. Limitations on the benefits of subsidies that have no foundation in health care policy but based on geographic location would undermine the social insurance nature of this vital programs and would fail the fundamental goal of providing uniform Medicare benefits to all.

The second issue that I expect Congress to address in the Medicare reform bill is the payment to hospitals in Puerto Rico. While all U.S. hospitals receive 100 percent Federal reimbursement, hospitals in Puerto Rico only receive 50 percent through a special formula. No other jurisdiction receives this type of treatment under the Medicare system. As a result of this dis-

parity, our hospitals operate under extreme financial constraints and some have even decided to withdraw from the program.

Again, U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico pay the same Federal payroll taxes as any other jurisdiction. They deserve equity. Therefore, Medicare reimbursement to Puerto Rico hospitals should be equitable with all other U.S. jurisdictions' hospitals.

Finally, I urge Congress to enact legislation to correct the great disparity that currently assists in Medicare payments to physicians in Puerto Rico. This is the same disparity that rural physicians across the country experience today. In fact, our physicians currently have the lowest geographic cost-of-practice index value in the entire United States despite the fact that the city of San Juan has the eighth highest cost of living in the United States. As a result, not only are our rural areas suffering; physicians in metropolitan areas such as San Juan are carrying a great burden when they treat Medicare patients.

Mr. Speaker, doctors in Puerto Rico provide the same time and skill to patients, and they must be paid appropriately for their great, noble work.

I would like to finish by thanking my colleagues in the House and Senate who have continuously supported us on resolving these critical issues to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries in Puerto Rico are afforded quality health care. They all realize that fairness is essential to quality health care, and that is as true in Puerto Rico as it is elsewhere in the United States.

THE HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise again to speak to the House today about the cost of prescription drugs here in the United States, particularly relative to the rest of the world. Mark Twain once was talking about facts, and he said you can ignore the facts, you can deny the facts, you can even distort the facts, but in the end there they are.

I would like to talk today about the facts because there are people in this town who are attempting to both deny and distort the facts, but I think the facts more and more are indisputable. For example, we have been doing much of our own research. We purchased a number of the top-selling drugs in Munich, Germany, about a month ago. For example, we bought this package of Glucophage. Glucophage is a marvelous drug, particularly for those suffering from diabetes. We bought this drug in Munich, Germany, at a pharmacy for \$5. This same package of Glucophage sells here in the United States for \$29.95. We bought another drug, a very commonly prescribed drug that is a

blood thinner. In fact, my father takes this drug. It's called Coumadin. Coumadin here in the United States, this package of Coumadin sells for roughly \$84. We bought this drug in Germany for \$21. But I think the one that bothers me the most, and I have talked about this before and I still do not have a good answer and frankly some of the people in the FDA ought to help us get the answer, this is a drug called Tamoxifen, perhaps the real miracle drug as it relates to treating women's breast cancer. Tamoxifen. We bought this drug in Munich, Germany, for \$59.05 American. It sells here in the United States, the same box, same milligrams, it sells for \$360; \$60 in Germany, \$360 here.

The question we have to ask is why? Why the big disparities? And some people say it is price controls, but that is not exactly true in Germany. The Germans do not have what some people say they do in terms of price controls. What they do allow is for their pharmacists to be able to shop around to get the best price. Unfortunately, Americans are held hostage. If one goes to Tokyo, Japan, and buys a steak, that steak will cost over \$100. One can buy that same steak here in Washington even at inflated Washington, D.C. prices, for probably \$25. Back in my home district one can buy the best steak in town in many of the towns I represent for \$10 or \$15. But the difference is the Japanese are held captive. They do not allow American beef into their markets; so those captive Japanese are forced to pay those higher prices.

What we are saying in the legislation which I hope to introduce next week is let our people go. Allow the markets to work, open up markets. And that is why I have sponsored the Pharmaceutical Market Access bill. Facts are stubborn things, as John Adams said. I would invite Members and those who may be watching to get a copy of this book: The title is "The Big Fix, How the Pharmaceutical Industry Rips American Consumers Off." It is by Katharine Greider. I do not know that much about Katharine Greider, but she has got some very interesting things to say about what has been happening in the pharmaceutical industry.

Finally, let me say the big argument is safety, safety, safety, we cannot guarantee that if people buy their drugs from Munich, Germany, or Geneva, Switzerland, that those drugs will be safe. But I would invite the Members to look at some of the counterfeited technology that is available today. There are companies that make this technology so that we can guarantee that this is in fact Coumadin and not something else. We can do this safely. Americans deserve world-class drugs at world market prices. Americans are willing to subsidize sub-Saharan Africa. We are unwilling to continue to subsidize the starving Swiss. I hope Members will get the facts. I hope Members will look at this bill. I hope