

that would define marriage differently. This year alone, voters in eleven states will consider amendments to their state constitutions barring gay marriage.

The charade on the House floor today is a strategy to change the subject, and I certainly can't blame the Republican Party for wanting to distract voters from their record. That is why the Republican leadership bypassed the committee of jurisdiction and brought H.J. Res. 106 directly to the floor in the middle of the campaign season.

THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW PRESIDENT AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the October 10th inauguration of Dr. Ronald D. Liebowitz as the sixteenth president of Middlebury College. Middlebury is one of the nation's finest liberal arts colleges. We in Vermont are proud that we have, in our midst, a beacon of learning for students all across the nation.

Dr. Liebowitz was chosen as Middlebury's forthcoming president after a five-month search during which 400 prospective candidates were reviewed. Despite the fact that the prestigious position attracted many of the nation's foremost educators, Middlebury selected one of its own, the third time it has chosen a member of its faculty to head the institution. His able predecessor, John McCardell, was also a longtime faculty member when he became president in 1992, and Dr. McCardell's thirteen-year leadership has amply confirmed Middlebury College's confidence that its own faculty have some of the finest minds and some of the most humane administrative abilities that can be found in the entire nation.

A professor of geography, Dr. Liebowitz is a widely recognized authority on Russian economic and political geography. Dr. Liebowitz has served as provost and executive vice president of Middlebury College since 1997. Earlier, he served for two years as dean of the faculty. During his administrative years he played a significant leadership role in the internationalization of the curriculum, including the introduction of innovative interdisciplinary, team-taught senior seminars in international studies, the establishment of a new major in international studies, and the strengthening of the program in international politics and economics.

We in Vermont welcome his leadership as he shepherds this outstanding college into the future. We look forward to a rich partnership as Middlebury brings its student and faculty resources to bear on helping us address Vermont's, and the nation's, problems and priorities. And in these difficult times, we have confidence that Middlebury's long-standing choice to focus on international affairs will educate yet more generations of students to look outward, to recognize that they have a dual obligation: to work for domestic justice by helping those in America who are less fortunate than themselves, and to work for international justice by giving support to foreign na-

tions as they attempt to realize social justice for their own citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELLEVILLE SHOE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company located in my hometown of Belleville, Illinois.

Founded in 1904, Belleville Shoe produced their first military footwear for World War I in 1917 and continues providing footwear to each branch of our Nation's military and law enforcement personnel.

The original group of investors for Belleville Shoe was of German descent: Adolph Knobloch, H.E. Leunig, Joseph Reis, James Rentchler, and William Weidmann. Reis was named president, but it was Weidmann, the company's secretary-treasurer, who had introduced the shoe-factory idea. The company began operations in the former Rentchler machine shops at East B and Delmar streets. Born in Belleville, William Weidmann was one of eight children of a German immigrant couple. His parents arrived in the area in the second half of the nineteenth century. By the time he was gathering investors for the company, he and his wife Caroline (Leunig) had two sons, William and Walter.

In the same year that Belleville Shoe was incorporated, Walter graduated from the St. Louis Manual Training School. Soon thereafter, he joined the company as the operational manager. Walter directed Belleville Shoe's operations successfully through the Great Depression, World War II, and into the 1950s. Through the 1960s, 1970s, and into the mid-1980s, Walter's son, Homer Weidmann led the company. Today, William Weidmann's great-grandson, Eric R. Weidmann, is the president.

In its beginnings, the Belleville Shoe Company produced everyday footwear for men and boys. During World War I, the company produced its first line of combat boots for the military. With the end of World War I, the factory again started producing more than 25 styles of shoes. During this time, the company became the first in the Belleville area to offer worker incentives and daily attendance was rewarded with profit bonus and a life insurance policy.

By the time Belleville Shoe celebrated its 25th anniversary, the company employed 300 people and manufactured about two thousand pairs of shoes daily. Like many companies in that day, Belleville Shoe struggled during the Depression—it was a military contract, which was again awarded to produce military footwear for World War II, that brought the company back to the heavy production schedules it had during World War I.

By the end of World War II, Belleville Shoe had earned an award for continued on-time delivery throughout the conflict. It was during this period that the strong relationship with our Nation's military was forged, permitting Belleville Shoe's claim to be "the country's oldest and largest supplier of military footwear."

From 1940 to the present, Belleville Shoe Manufacturing has provided a continual flow of military boots to various divisions of the nation's armed forces.

In terms of its dress shoe production lines, from the 50's up until the 70's, Belleville Shoe experienced significant declines in production of dress shoes. During the 70's, Belleville Shoe increased production of their sports shoe lines. These sport lines of track, baseball and football shoes were produced in Belleville and sold under the Rawlings brand name. By the mid-1980s, however, shoe imports of all types increased in the United States, particularly sports shoes and Belleville Shoe began to focus exclusively on military products. Production needs during this time also increased the requirements for additional space and heavier equipment to produce larger quantities of military shoes. In 1986, a new facility was opened in the Belle Valley Industrial Park in Belleville to accommodate this production.

During Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s, Belleville Shoe was again called upon to dramatically increase the military's supply of footwear. The design and material of the traditional black all-leather combat boot was changed to suit the conditions in the Persian Gulf A desert-colored, suede and nylon boot with insulation to protect against the desert heat was created and shipped out. These boots are in use today in operations in the middle-east and throughout the world.

In this, its 100th year, Belleville Shoe is the largest supplier of military boots to our U.S. Armed Forces. With two plants, one in Belleville, Illinois and DeWitt, Arkansas, the company is producing over 1,000,000 pairs of shoes annually.

And today, as in 1917, their boots are Made in the USA. Wherever U.S. military forces have walked, Belleville Shoe footwear has been on duty.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Belleville Shoe Company, it's Company President Eric Weidmann and all of the men and women at Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EIGHTH AVENUE SENIOR CENTER'S 11TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the 11th anniversary of the Brooklyn Chinese American Association's Eighth Avenue Senior Center.

The Eighth Avenue Senior Center is part of the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association (BCA), which has been serving the growing Asian-American population in the Sunset Park, Borough Park, and Bay Ridge communities of Brooklyn for the past 17 years, as a human services and community development organization.

Today, the BCA's Eighth Avenue Senior Center touches the lives of over 3,000 elderly residents in the area, and offers services to over 250 seniors on a daily basis. The center provides older Asian-Americans with a variety

of enriching educational programs and recreational activities.

Over the past 11 years, the Eighth Avenue Senior Center has integrated a variety of services integral to this elderly population, which it otherwise would not have had access to. This includes providing meals, bilingual information, English and citizenship classes, health services, and housing assistance.

This center also plays an important role in coordinating town hall meetings, assisting senior members in meeting their housing needs, and educating the community on the importance of exercising their voting rights. Because of these services, the Eighth Avenue Senior Center creates a sense of community and enhancement for the elderly population living in Brooklyn.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 11th anniversary of the Eighth Avenue Senior Center, and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize their outstanding service to the elderly Asian-American population in Brooklyn.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE WEEK

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Mr. WOLF and I rise today to remind our colleagues that this week, October 3 through October 9, is Nuclear Medicine Week. Nuclear Medicine Week is the first week in October every year and is an annual celebration initiated by the Society of Nuclear Medicine. Each year, Nuclear Medicine Week is celebrated internationally at hospitals, clinics, imaging centers, educational institutions, corporations, and more.

We are particularly proud to note that the Society of Nuclear Medicine is headquartered in Reston, Virginia. The Society of Nuclear Medicine is an international scientific and professional organization of more than 15,000 members dedicated to promoting the science, technology and practical applications of nuclear medicine. We commend the Society staff and its professional members for their outstanding work in the field of nuclear medicine and for their dedication to caring for people with cancer and other serious and life-threatening illnesses that can be diagnosed, managed, and treated with medical isotopes via nuclear medicine procedures.

With nuclear medicine, health care providers can use a safe, noninvasive procedure to gather information about a patient's condition that might otherwise be unavailable or have to be obtained through surgery or more expensive diagnostic tests. Nuclear medicine procedures often identify abnormalities very early in the progression of a disease—long before some medical problems are apparent with other diagnostic tests. This early detection allows a disease to be treated early in its course, when there may be a more successful prognosis.

An estimated 16 million nuclear medicine imaging and therapeutic procedures are performed each year in the United States. Of these, 40–50 percent are cardiac exams and 35–40 percent are oncology related. Nuclear medicine procedures are among the safest di-

agnostic imaging tests available. The amount of radiation from a nuclear medicine procedure is comparable to that received during a diagnostic x-ray.

Nuclear medicine tests, also known as scans, examinations, or procedures, are safe and painless. In a nuclear medicine test, small amounts of medical isotopes are introduced into the body by injection, swallowing, or inhalation. A special camera, PET or gamma camera, is then used to take pictures of your body. The camera does this by detecting the medical isotope in the target organ, bone or tissue and thus forming images that provide data and information about that area of your body. This is how nuclear medicine differs from an x-ray, ultrasound or other diagnostic test—it determines the presence of disease based on function rather than anatomy.

Recently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced its decision to approve coverage of positron emission tomography or PET for Medicare beneficiaries who have suspected Alzheimer's disease. This decision will allow physicians to obtain an early and more definitive diagnosis and to begin treatment at the time when it provides the best chance of prolonging cognitive function for our Medicare beneficiaries.

Some of the more frequently performed nuclear medicine procedures include:

Bone scans to examine orthopedic injuries, fractures, tumors or unexplained bone pain;

Heart scans to identify normal or abnormal blood flow to the heart muscle, measure heart function or determine the existence or extent of damage to the heart muscle after a heart attack;

Breast scans that are used in conjunction with mammograms to more accurately detect and locate cancerous tissue in the breasts;

Liver and gallbladder scans to evaluate liver and gallbladder function;

Cancer imaging to detect tumors and determine the severity, staging, of various types of cancer;

Treatment of thyroid diseases and certain types of cancer;

Brain imaging to investigate problems within the brain itself or in blood circulation to the brain; and

Renal imaging in children to examine kidney function.

Unfortunately, the field of nuclear medicine is not attracting enough incoming students to fill the current demand for nuclear medicine technologists—usually called NMTs. Currently, there is approximately an 18 percent vacancy of NMTs as determined by the American Hospital Association, AHA. By 2010, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, BLS, projects that the U.S. will need an additional 8,000 NMTs to fill the projected demand created by the aging workforce and expanding senior population. Over the next 20 years, the BLS expects that there will be a 140-percent increase in the demand for imaging services. The use of diagnostic imaging services has been increasing by approximately 4 percent a year, even as the number of certified NMTs and registered radiologic technologists has remained stable. As a result, imaging technologists often work longer shifts, and patients can face weeks of delay for routine exams.

A similar situation is developing for nuclear medicine physicians. According to the American Board of Medical Specialties, there currently are 4,087 certified nuclear medicine

physicians in the United States. At the same time, the number of physician training programs is also declining, exacerbating the future shortage.

Over the next 20 years, the number of people over the age of 65 is expected to double at the exact same time when the Nation will face shortages of medical personnel—including nurses, NMTs, physicians, laboratory personnel, and other specialists. With an increasing number of people needing specialized care—such as nuclear medicine-coupled with an inadequate workforce, our Nation quickly could face a healthcare crisis of serious proportions with limited access to quality cancer care, particularly in traditionally underserved areas.

We encourage our colleagues to support Nuclear Medicine Week and to support increased funding for programs so that our nation will have a sufficient supply of nuclear medicine physicians and technologists to care for all patients in need of nuclear medicine procedures and related care.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN SCOTT ABERNATHY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Stephen Scott Abernathy of Centerville, Indiana. He died on Saturday, September 25, 2004 of injuries resulting from a motorcycle accident.

Upon graduating from Centerville High School in 1995, Scott nobly served four years with the United States Marine Corps, where he joined the rugby team. He served as the assistant wrestling coach at Avon High School from 1999–2001 and graduated magna cum laude from Indiana University in 2003.

Scott settled back in Wayne County and became a member of American Legion Post 18 and the Centerville Christian Church.

Mr. Speaker, I express my heartfelt condolences as well as those of the United States Congress to Scott's parents, Stephen and Barbara; his brother, David of Richmond; his niece, Kaytlyn; and his grandparents, James and Josephine Williamson of Munster, Indiana.

Stephen Scott Abernathy was a role model for all Americans and led a life of great quality. All those who knew him well will sorely miss him.

IN HONOR OF THE OPENING OF THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to commemorate the opening of New York's newest museum, located in my Congressional District in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. The Rubin Museum of Art (RMA), a cultural and educational institution dedicated to the art of the Himalayan region, opens this week with a series of fascinating exhibitions and programs.