

front-line in the battle against cancer, providing critical patient care services and also helping conduct cancer research through clinical trials. This complex and multifaceted chronic disease demands an adequate supply of trained, educated, and experienced nurses. As such, we must adequately fund the Nurse Reinvestment Act and other nursing workforce programs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, advances in cancer prevention, detection and treatment over the past several decades have increased longevity and improved the quality of life for many people. Once again, however, not all segments of the U.S. population have benefited equally. A strong investment in the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHHD) will expand our knowledge about health disparities and target initiatives geared to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the disparate burden of cancer and other diseases on minority and medically underserved communities. The Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act of 2003, H.R. 3459, introduced by the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Asian-Pacific Caucus, would help enable community-based organizations to increase detection and screening efforts; would establish guidelines for treatment modalities for minorities; and would provide additional funding for cancers that impact minorities more adversely, such as prostate and breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to use the 18th anniversary of National Minority Cancer Awareness Week to renew its commitment to the eradication of this devastating disease. Together, we can reduce and ultimately eliminate the disparate burden of cancer and other diseases on minority and medically underserved communities.

RENEWING THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of renewal of the Assault Weapons Ban. In 1994, President Clinton signed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, which banned the manufacture and importation of many semiautomatic assault weapons. This law is set to expire on September 13, 2004, just 144 days away.

In 1995, the FBI reported that trace requests for assault weapons declined 20 percent only one year after enactment of the ban. Since enactment, criminals are using these guns less frequently, and innocent lives are saved every day as a result.

I am proud to join 108 of my colleagues as a cosponsor of H.R. 2038, the Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act. This vital legislation will permanently extend the 1994 Act and help keep these weapons out of our country and away from criminals.

If we allow the assault weapons ban to expire, our streets will again be flooded with an arsenal of Uzis and AK-47s—guns which are responsible for pre-ban killings such as the Stockton Schoolyard Massacre and a shooting at the CIA Headquarters.

Twenty percent of police officers killed in the line of duty today are shot using these banned

assault weapons. This number is sure to increase if these weapons are more readily available. The weapons banned under current law pose too great a risk to the general public, and especially law enforcement officers, to be legalized. For this reason, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Fraternal Order of Police both support extending the ban.

In addition to this important measure, I have introduced two other pieces of legislation to cut down on shooting deaths. Approximately 1 percent of the nation's gun stores are the source of 57 percent of the firearms traced to crimes. H.R. 1540, the Crackdown on Deadbeat Dealers Act, would increase the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to investigate record-keeping compliance among these delinquent gun dealers. The second bill is H.R. 821, the Accidental Shooting Prevention Act, which requires chamber load indicators on handguns, allowing gun owners to quickly recognize if their weapons are loaded. I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor these two bills and help reduce the number of gun deaths in America without infringing on the rights of lawful gun owners.

The three pieces of legislation I have mentioned do not unreasonably restrict law-abiding citizens from using appropriate firearms for sporting purposes or self-protection. Rather, sensible gun control prevents firearms from getting into the wrong hands.

My colleagues in the House and Senate must understand how important it is that we continue this ban on assault weapons to prevent parents and children from suffering life-altering senseless violence should these guns again become legal.

**WILLIAM A. BOOTHE, M.D.,
REACHES 50,000**

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate William A. Boothe, M.D. on his successful completion of 50,000 laser vision correction procedures. Dr. Boothe, a benchmark of success and a pioneer in his field, has certainly set the standard for which his colleagues will aspire.

For years, Dr. William Boothe has administered a state-of-the-art refractive surgical procedure called Laser In-Situ Keratomileusis (LASIK) which requires much experience and extensive research. Dr. Boothe, second to none, is one of the first surgeons in the country with the necessary talent required to use the technologically advanced equipment required in LASIK procedures.

As a member of several professional organizations, with an impressive educational background and years of experience, Dr. William Boothe has provided a better quality of life for all who receive this surgery under his care. I place great confidence in Dr. Boothe. He will continue to lead the corrective eye surgery profession for years to come.

I congratulate Dr. Boothe for his lasting dedication and selfless efforts in helping correct people's vision. Best wishes to Dr. Boothe and his staff in their future endeavors.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VILLAGE OF YOUNGSTOWN, NY

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Village of Youngstown, New York.

The Village of Youngstown is a small village that has evolved with the times, but whose residents have never lost touch with their roots. Its history resembles that of many of the small towns on which our Nation was built. The area began to grow after the American forces took over Historic Old Fort Niagara. Many tradesmen and shopkeepers came to the area during the War of 1812 to provide needed supplies and services to the Fort, which sits at the edge of the village. The village was the site of many major battles during the War of 1812 and was also a major shipping port in the 1800's.

The village was named for John Young who originally came from across the river in Canada. One hundred fifty years ago, the Village of Youngstown was officially incorporated in Niagara County, on the shores of the mighty Niagara River and Lake Ontario.

The village sits on beautiful, fertile Western New York land which is renowned for its sailing regattas and year round sportfishing. The surrounding area is home to many of New York's famous apple orchards. Youngstown is an internationally designated important Bird Area.

With a population of nearly 2,000 people, Youngstown is a close-knit community where everyone is a neighbor. Most people know each other, and even if you are not well acquainted, faces smile with recognition and greetings are exchanged with warmth. Friendly inquiries are made when there has been an experience with pain—or joy. Anytime a neighbor is suffering from ill health or some loss, the community is there to help, to lighten the burden, and to express its loving concern. Beyond the village's long and distinguished history, Youngstown is simply a place residents are proud to raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the Village of Youngstown's 150th birthday, I unite with its residents to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to Niagara County, our state, and our Nation.

RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 25th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Alameda, California. The League of Women Voters of Alameda became a fully approved Local League in September 1978. The founders of the League established the organization based on their belief that our Nation's democracy depends on an informed and participative citizenry.

The Alameda League has made significant contributions to the City of Alameda, as well

as Alameda County, the State of California, and the Nation by supporting sound government initiatives, providing voter education on ballot measures, conducting candidate's forums, and registering voters.

The Alameda League continues to be an active participant in local and regional civic committees and has taken action in addressing city, state and national issues through careful study. The League reviews issues and takes positions that enhance the quality of the city of Alameda such as clean air and water, education, libraries, civic safety preparation, housing planning and development, and open space. Additionally, the Alameda League provides neutral observers to monitor the activities of the city council, school board and other boards and commissions within the City of Alameda.

I congratulate the Alameda League of Women Voters for their commitment to public service. The organization, over the last 25 years, has provided valuable contributions to Alameda, California. I applaud their dedication to making sure their local, State, and Federal government is close to the public's pulse as they continue to reach out to the citizenry through education and civic participation.

HONORING KENNETH CLARK
LOGGINS

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas Kenneth Clark Loggins was born in Everett, Washington, on January 7, 1948 and is now professionally known as Kenny Loggins; and

Whereas Kenny Loggins has become one of the most world-renowned singers/songwriters and guitarists of his time; and

Whereas Kenny Loggins has enjoyed a music career that has spanned more than three decades; and

Whereas Kenny Loggins has sold over 20 million albums worldwide; and, he has attained 12 Platinum Plus albums and 14 Gold albums; and

Whereas the music of Kenny Loggins has spanned many genres, earning both the respect of his peers and a widely-diverse fan base; and

Whereas Kenny Loggins has earned a reputation of historical importance in the field of film music for his creative contribution to movie soundtracks; and

Whereas Kenny Loggins is active in environmental and social projects; and

Whereas Kenny Loggins tirelessly gives his time, talents, and resources to benefit these organizations and his community; and

Whereas Kenny Loggins is well respected and admired throughout the entertainment industry for his enormous impact on the world of music; and

Whereas Kenny Loggins is loved and appreciated by his family, friends, and devoted fans; and

Whereas in the month of August of 2000, Kenny Loggins was the first recipient of the Hollywood Film Festival's Outstanding Achievement in Songwriting Award; and in that same month, he also received a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; and

Whereas in August 2003, Kenny Loggins' fans launched a year-long Celebration in tribute to the longevity of his outstanding music career; and

Whereas the United States Congress now wishes to recognize Kenny Loggins for his many accomplishments.

Whereas it is the overwhelming consensus of all concerned parties that Kenny Loggins is much deserving of this honor.

Therefore, I, RICK LARSEN, Member of the Congress representing the Second Congressional District of Washington State, do hereby hold up Kenny Loggins for great honor and recognition and declare the month of August to be Kenny Loggins Appreciation Month.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States Congress to be affixed this 22nd day of April 2004.

HONORING CLEVELAND READS
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
WILMA CHRISTIAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mrs. Wilma Christian and every volunteer who participated this past year in Cleveland Reads, bringing hope and possibility through the gift of literacy to countless children and adults—thereby changing their lives forever. I also rise in recognition of Cleveland Reads Volunteer of the Year Nominees: Andy Everidge; Anne Gannon; Edna Goodwin; Stephanie Hiedman; Reid Isaac; Kristen Monchak; and Elaine Thiery.

Established in 1987, Cleveland Reads, a non-profit organization, has consistently worked to draw individuals, businesses and agencies into their, volunteer literacy projects and campaign. Mrs. Christian, seventy-seven years young, consistently reflects a joyous, caring and enthusiastic attitude throughout her busy days in service to others.

Every Monday through Friday for the past three years, Mrs. Christian volunteers mornings as an Experience Corps Tutor at Marion-Sterling Elementary School, then volunteers her lunch hour to prepare and serve meals to disabled residents of the Golden Age Center. Then remarkably, she heads back to Marion-Sterling School for three more hours of tutoring. All the while, her levels of enthusiasm and energy remain as expansive as her love and concern for others.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring every Volunteer of the Year Award nominee, especially, Mrs. Wilma Christian, as she is named the Volunteer of the Year by Cleveland Reads. Mrs. Christian's patience, kindness and concern for our children and our elderly offers them strength, hope and a promise of a better tomorrow, where none existed before. By giving of her time and talent to the children at Marian-Sterling Elementary School, Mrs. Christian empowers them daily with the priceless tool of literacy, which leads to understanding and offers these children the self-confidence to dream and to achieve. By raising up the life of a child, Mrs. Christian raises up our entire community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL SCIENCE COMPETITION RESOLUTION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, today, along with 35 of my House colleagues, I introduce bipartisan legislation to authorize the Congressional Science Competition. This legislation will allow Members the opportunity to conduct academic competitions in the sciences among high school students in their Congressional Districts.

Pre-college science and mathematics education is one of the most important factors affecting the nation's scientific literacy and awareness, as well as the future supply of America's scientific and technological personnel. Unfortunately, indicators of the performance of United States students in pre-college science and math education indicate a need for improvement, including the need to increase student interest in science.

In 2000, the National Center for Education Statistics, NCES, released its most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress, NAEP, on the Sciences. As a division of the United States Department of Education, the NCES has, since 1969, issued National Assessments on subjects such as reading, mathematics, history and civics.

Unfortunately, the 2000 Science Assessment found that from 1996, the first year a Science Assessment was completed, to 2000, proficiency in the sciences by America's 12th graders declined. Using a scale of 0–300, America's 12th graders scored 147, with 47 percent of students testing below a basic knowledge in the sciences. Only 34 percent of students showed a basic knowledge and even more discouraging, only 16 percent of students tested at or above a proficient knowledge in the sciences.

Coupled with these declining scores and declining interest in the sciences from pre-college students, enrollment in graduate science and engineering programs over the last decade has not kept pace with foreign student enrollment in these same programs. According to a report released by the National Science Foundation, enrollment in graduate science and engineering programs by United States citizens and permanent residents from 1993 to 2001 declined by over 10 percent from just over 330,000 students to 296,000 students. However, at the same time, enrollment in these same programs by foreign students living in the United States with temporary visas rose by over 26 percent from just over 105,000 in 1993 to approximately 133,000 in 2001.

Global competition and rapid advances in science and technology increasingly require a national workforce that is more scientifically and technically proficient and Congress must take action to support the need to develop national expertise in the areas of science and engineering.

Americans have been responsible for some of the most fantastic scientific discoveries. From Thomas Edison's work with electricity, Dr. Jonas Salk's discovery of the Polio vaccine, to the development of the personal computer and the Internet, Americans and their