

state track meet in their first season. Ruth moved to East High School in 1981, where she taught and coached swimming until her retirement in 1989. In 1983, she became only the fourth woman inducted into the Greater Pueblo Sports Association Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to the achievements of Ruth Hulsey before this body of Congress and this nation, and to thank her for her contributions to the great tradition of athletics in Colorado. Her efforts to instill the love of sport in the youth of her community is truly commendable. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AND THE "E-REACH PROJECT" IN ILLINOIS 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to my colleagues that the Medical Library Association will hold its Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. on May 22–May 26. Headquartered in my congressional district in Chicago, MLA is a nonprofit, educational organization of more than 900 institutions and 3,600 individual members in the health sciences information field, committed to educating health information professionals, supporting health information research, promoting access to the world's health information, and working to ensure that the best health information is available to all.

The advancement of information technology holds great promise for dramatically increasing the delivery of health care to underserved communities across the country and throughout the world. Medical librarians and health information professionals play a key role in the delivery of quality health care services by facilitating access to web-based health care information and telemedicine services. Despite the value of electronic-based health information, a recent needs assessment survey conducted by Loyola University Health System, the Loyola University Health Sciences Library and their Pediatric Mobile Health Unit highlighted the fact that 60 percent of respondents in the predominately minority communities of Bellwood, Maywood and Cicero, IL had not used the Internet to access health care information. Moreover, 80 percent of respondents had never consulted a librarian to help them find health related information.

In response to these findings, the Loyola University Health System, Loyola University Health Sciences Library, and Loyola University Health System Mobile Health Unit have developed a project designed to strengthen and enhance access to health information among underserved and under-represented populations in Maywood, Bellwood and Cicero. The E-REACH (Electronic Realtime Education Aiding Community Health) initiative will provide "on demand" health information to patients and families served by the Loyola University Health System Mobile Health Unit and Loyola Children's Center. The program will focus on expanding electronic access to health information at the point of patient care, promoting the use of health information by physicians and

other health workers involved in the project, increasing patient awareness of health insurance programs and other health information resources, and increasing awareness of electronic health care information for individuals with Internet access.

The E-REACH initiative is partially funded by a grant from the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and is an excellent example of how the NLM has taken a leadership role in promoting educational outreach to underserved populations as part of an ongoing effort to reduce health disparities among large sections of the American public. NLM currently funds over 280 outreach projects, with at least one such project in every state.

I congratulate all those involved in this promising new initiative, including the project director, Dr. Logan Ludwig, Associate Dean of Library Services and Telemedicine at the Loyola University Health Sciences Library. It is my hope that the E-REACH program will serve as a model for other communities seeking to expose the benefits of health information services to medically underserved and minority populations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming the Medical Library Association to Washington for their Annual Meeting, and recognize the invaluable contribution that health information professionals make to our nation's health care system.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEN NESBITT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of Ken Nesbitt, who recently passed away after sustaining fatal injuries in a motorcycle crash. I personally knew Ken well, and he was a devoted family man, a dear friend, and a beloved member of his Grand Junction, Colorado community. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man, and his many contributions to his community and state.

After graduating from Arizona State University in 1968, Ken served our nation for five years as a Navy pilot where he was selected for the Apollo 16 Recovery Mission. In 1973, he moved back to Grand Junction where he joined the family construction business that his father started in 1954. He took over the business in 1977 at age twenty-eight, and his strong leadership and business acumen saw the company grow into an industry leader and a vital asset to the community. Due in large part to personally donating land and the resources of his business, he made sure the Grand Junction/Mesa County Riverfront Project was completed, which Grand Junctionites still enjoy today. For his efforts, Ken received the Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award by the State of Colorado Parks Board, and his company received an award for Reclamation Project of the Year for Greenbelt.

One of the most dedicated, hard-working, and likable people that I have ever known, Ken has made a lasting impact on Grand Junction and the State of Colorado. He helped

found the Grand Junction Economic Partnership and was a president and board member of the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce. He was a trustee on the Board of Directors for St. Mary's Hospital and sponsored the Winter Sports Clinic for the Vietnam Veterans of America in 1993. He also served on the board of numerous civic and business organizations, including the Colorado National Bank, Riverfront Commission, Mesa County Economic Development Council where he also served as chairman, and the Grand Junction Lions Club. Above all, Ken was devoted to his beloved wife JoAnn, sons Chris and Jeff, and daughter Ashley.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life and memory of Ken Nesbitt. I am proud to have known such a great man who enriched the lives of his family and community. My heart goes out to his family, friends, and Grand Junction community during this difficult time of bereavement. Ken, we will miss you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on May 18, I was returning to Washington from the World Economic Forum in Amman, Jordan and, therefore, missed three recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on recorded vote No. 180, "yes" on recorded vote No. 181, and "no" on recorded vote No. 182.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JENNY INGE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jenny Inge of Creede, Colorado, on being recognized by the Creede-Mineral County Chamber of Commerce as their 2004 Employer of the Year. The award recognizes an employer who has shown an exceptional devotion to the community and to promoting the local economy. This award is a well-deserved testament to her achievements.

Jenny is the proud owner of Rare Things, a business that sells fine jewelry, antiques, and various works by artisans. In addition to running the business, Jenny also creates many of the fine pieces of jewelry and art displayed in the store. The business has been a success in the community for thirty years, and is Creede's largest year-round employer. The success of the business can be credited to the creative and open environment Jenny creates, as well as her entrepreneurial skills in attracting tourists and other customers to Creede. Her civic involvement and dedication to Creede includes the Mineral County Gem and Mineral Show, and her work with the Mineral County Fairgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service and achievements of Jenny Inge before this body of Congress and this nation. Her efforts to strengthen her community are truly remarkable, and the recognition she received from the Creede-Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, as their 2004 Employer of the Year, is a well-deserved testament to her tireless efforts. I sincerely thank Jenny for her service, and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3722, which I believe poses a significant threat to the health of all Americans. If H.R. 3722 is enacted, the fear of deportation will inevitably discourage undocumented immigrants from seeking care for potentially communicable diseases. As a result, serious health problems will likely go untreated and unreported with serious negative consequences to the health of entire communities.

In addition, numerous hospital and local government organizations have told Congress that the reporting and record keeping requirements included in H.R. 3722 will not only place a serious administrative burden on already overburdened hospitals, but also harm the relationship of trust between health care providers and their patients. This will undermine health care providers' basic and vital mission—tending the sick and injured. I would like to include in the RECORD a letter in opposition to H.R. 3722 I received from El Centro, an organization in my district dedicated to family improvement.

Like many of my colleagues, I am dedicated to continuing to seek solutions to the challenges we face in our immigration policy. I have supported multiple efforts to strengthen our immigration and border patrol systems. I do not believe, however, that denying emergency health care to those critically in need is consistent with the successful curbing of illegal immigration.

EL CENTRO, INC.,

Kansas City, KS, May 7, 2004.

Congressman DENNIS MOORE,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

CONGRESSMAN MOORE: El Centro, Inc. sincerely hopes that you will oppose Representative Dana Rohrabacher's (R-CA) extreme bill threatening access to emergency health care for undocumented immigrants and, we fear, for many U.S. citizens living in immigrant families and communities.

Among its provisions, H.R. 3722, the Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004, would deny hospitals and other health care providers reimbursement for uncompensated emergency care they provide to undocumented immigrants unless they report those immigrants to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). As a practical matter, this would oblige providers to verify the immigration status of all uninsured patients presenting health care emergencies. The information health care providers would be required to

transmit to DHS would include their patients' financial data, identity of employer, and biometric information.

H.R. 3722 would also narrow the scope of emergency health services available to undocumented persons and make inability to pay medical expenses a basis for removal from the U.S. Employers of undocumented workers whose medical expenses are reimbursed by the federal government would be required to repay the government for those costs.

This proposal would jeopardize the health of immigrants and the general public. The threat of separation from their communities and families would deter immigrants and their family members from seeking needed health services, including testing and treatment for communicable diseases. Overburdened emergency health care providers would be forced to verify the immigration status of emergency patients, and report those believed to be undocumented to immigration authorities, in conflict with patient privacy rights and the fundamental principle that they refrain from harming their patients. The bill would impose additional burdens on employers, including small businesses, who already are required to verify the citizenship and immigration status of workers. It also would increase the likelihood of discrimination against persons assumed to "appear foreign" because of their race, accent or other prohibited factors.

Though Rep. Rohrabacher's intentions may be to contain emergency health cost and the flow of undocumented immigrants via this proposal, this is certainly not the way to do it. In fact, we believe the only possible outcome of the proposal is the creation of a disastrous and costly public health scenario. We ask that you oppose attempts to move this proposal forward.

Most sincerely,

MELINDA K. LEWIS,
Director of Policy Advocacy and Research.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF THE ROCKIES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation today to pay tribute to First National Bank of the Rockies, a business that has given a century of service to the citizens of Colorado. Recently, the bank moved its headquarters from Meeker to Grand Junction where most of its corporate officials reside. As First National celebrates its 100th Anniversary, let it be known that I, along with the people of Colorado, are grateful for the valuable service it provides.

First National Bank of the Rockies first opened its doors in 1904. Originally chartered as The First National Bank of Meeker, the name was changed in 1989 when a group of investors bought the bank, as well as First Federal Savings & Loan in Craig, and renamed it. Since the new owners took over, the bank has rapidly expanded, increasing its total assets ten-fold, and buying Rocky Mountain State Bank and Rio Blanco State Bank in 1997. As First National continues its expansion, it sees a bright economic outlook for Grand Junction and the State of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the service and dedication of First National

Bank of the Rockies to Grand Junction and the State of Colorado. It has maintained strong community involvement and excellent personal customer service while continuing to grow and expand throughout the state. I congratulate First National on its 100th Anniversary and wish it continuing success.

PAPERWORK AND REGULATORY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I speak out in opposition to H.R. 2432, the "Paperwork and Regulatory Improvements Act of 2003." This bill would weaken, rather than improve, the process of developing federal regulations by elevating the interests of regulated industries over all other considerations. The bill would needlessly divert resources from implementing important regulations and does nothing to protect current public health and environmental regulations, which are under fire from the Bush administration. These are regulations that even the Office of Management and Budget has indicated have immense benefits: in September of 2003 an OMB study concluded that environmental regulations are well worth the costs they impose on industry and consumers, resulting in significant public health improvements and other benefits to society. For example, the study found that the health and social benefits of enforcing clean-air regulations during the past decade were five to seven times greater in economic terms than were the costs of complying with the rules. Yet the Bush administration continues to issue rules and guidelines that weaken the Clean Air Act.

I strongly support the Waxman-Tierney amendment to establish an independent commission on the politicization of science in the regulatory process. The amendment responds to a growing concern among scientists and the environmental community that the Bush administration is placing politics above science. From refusing to release a report contradicting their views in the Klamath basin of Oregon to removing information on global warming in an Environmental Protection Agency report, this administration has shown little more than flat out contempt for science. Just last month we saw the Bush administration issue a new policy that would allow hatchery-raised salmon in the Pacific Northwest to be included in wild salmon population counts, which could have a significant impact on whether or not the species are listed under the Endangered Species Act. Press accounts show that this was done over the objection of an independent panel of scientists commissioned by National Marine Fisheries Service to advise them on the issue.

In February of this year, 60 leading scientists—including 20 Nobel laureates, leading medical experts, former federal agency directors, and university chairs and presidents—voiced their concern over the misuse of science by this administration. I am deeply disappointed that H.R. 2432 takes us in the wrong direction by advancing a misguided concept that elevates the interests of regulated industries over the health of our communities.