

of achievement in high school. He has participated in F.F.A./4-H for four years and has served as both Secretary and Vice President. Notable among his many activities are his four years on both the Varsity Football and Baseball teams. Tyler also hopes to one day become a teacher.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to join his many admirers in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Tyler William Losinski for his selection as winner of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor not only recognizes his efforts, but is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and other individuals whose personal interest, strong support, and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, we extend our most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT
CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan for having narrowly won his reelection on March 20. He will be inaugurated as the eleventh president of the Republic of China this May 20th.

As many of us know, Mr. Chen has a very interesting story. He came from a poor Taiwanese farming family. After his university days, he became an active political reformer and activist for many years and served time in prison for his beliefs. After gaining his release, he became a lawmaker and later as mayor of Taipei. He won his first presidential race in March 2000, the first time in Chinese society that an opposition party candidate was elected president. During his first term in office, he led his country toward full democratization and drastically improved Taiwan's human rights record. Today Taiwan's constitution guarantees its citizens basic civil liberties, including freedom of peaceful assembly and association, freedom of speech and press, and freedom of religion.

In the next four years, I am hopeful that Mr. Chen will continue Taiwan's political reforms and strive for better relations with China. Recently, Mr. Chen reiterated his determination to maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and good relations with the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Mr. Chen the best of luck in all areas. As a beacon of democracy, Taiwan richly deserves our friendship and support.

INTRODUCTION FOR THE EQUAL
SURETY BOND OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Equal Surety Bond Opportunity Act (ESBOA). The ESBOA will help qualified women and minority-owned

businesses to compete in the contracting business by helping them obtain adequate surety bonding. In addition, the ESBOA is directed against barriers that many qualified small and emerging construction firms encounter in obtaining surety bonding. I have introduced this bill before. I do so again because it is a common sense way to eliminate a serious form of discrimination without an additional enforcing bureaucracy.

A surety bond is issued by insurers for the purpose of guaranteeing that should a bonded contractor default, a construction project will be completed and the contractors employees and material suppliers will be paid. Surety bonding is mandatory for competing for all Federal construction work in excess of \$25,000, all federally assisted construction projects in excess of \$100,000, and most state and local public construction. However, surety bonding requirements are not restricted to government contracting. Increasingly, private construction contracts also require surety bonding. As surety bonding has become a widespread requirement, the inability to obtain surety bonding can cripple a construction firm, especially a small or a new one.

In 1992, Congress acknowledged the importance of this issue when it enacted the Small Business Credit Crunch Relief Act and included legislation to study the problem of discrimination in the surety bonding field, Public Law 102-366, that I had introduced. The survey provision required the General Accounting Office (GAO) to conduct a comprehensive survey of business firms, especially those owned by women and minorities, to determine their experiences in obtaining surety bonding from corporate surety firms.

The GAO completed the requested survey in June 1995. The survey found that of the 12,000 small construction firms surveyed, 77 percent had never obtained bonds. In addition, minority and women-owned firms were more likely to be asked for certain types of financial documentation. Further, minority-owned firms were also more likely to be asked to provide collateral and to meet additional conditions not required by others.

The ESBOA bill I am introducing today is modeled on the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1968, which prohibited discrimination in credit practices. The ESBOA requires the contractor notify the applicant of the action taken on his or her application within 20 days of receipt of a completed bond application. If the applicant is denied bonding, the surety would also be required, upon request, to provide a written statement of specific reasons for each denied request. Furthermore, the bill would provide civil liability in the form of damages and appropriate equitable relief should a surety company fail to comply with this notice requirement.

This legislation would help all contractors to have a better understanding of the reasons behind the denial of their bond applications. Furthermore, the importance of civil penalties cannot be understated for minority applicants who currently have no recourse when they suspect that the denial of surety bonding was based on considerations such as gender, race or religion.

The disclosure of pertinent information to rejected applicants is an equitable principle familiar throughout the federal acquisition process. This is the case when a small business is turned down for a government contract and

has the opportunity to demand a negative pre-award survey. With this information, the business can contest the award or use the information to be better prepared for the next award competition. The more a business knows about what is wrong with its proposal, the greater the likelihood that the next time the business will submit a better and more competitive proposal.

According to the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC), many minority contractors reported being turned down for a bond without an explanation. When explanations are not proffered, a perception of discrimination in the surety industry is created. This perception drives minority contractors to obtain sureties outside the mainstream, often at significant additional expense and fewer protections, placing themselves, their subcontractors, and the Government at greater risk.

Civil penalties in this bill are necessary to compel surety bond companies to provide accurate and non-discriminatory reasons for denial of surety bonding. This bill will provide the applicant with the necessary civil remedy should the surety bonding company refuse to provide this important information. In addition to providing essential information for future bond applications, a clear response will identify whether surety bonding companies are using discriminatory or fallacious criteria in making these decisions.

This legislation will create an environment in which small business firms, particularly those owned and controlled by minorities and women, can successfully obtain adequate surety bonding. This legislation will enable us to ferret out continuing biases in the industry. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and help abolish the artificial impediments to the development and survival of emerging small businesses.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "DOC"
SAMKO

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to William "Doc" Samko, in honor of his 37 wonderful years of service to Worcester Academy—my alma mater.

Doc has been the athletic trainer at Worcester Academy since the 1966-67 school year. Throughout his tenure he has been a teacher, a healer, a mentor and a friend to thousands of young students. He has guided them through injury and defeat with grace and humor.

I myself played football at Worcester Academy, although I never really got enough playing time to risk injury. I like to say I played "left bench." It's probably for the best. But I knew that if I ever got hurt, Doc Samko would be there to help.

Before his time at Worcester Academy, Doc worked at Holy Cross College in Worcester, where he helped the likes of Bob Cousy, Tommy Heinsohn, and other greats of that era. A pioneer in his field, Doc has been inducted into the Worcester Academy Hall of Fame and the National Athletic Trainers Hall of Fame.

Now in his 80's, he's still going strong. On May 22, Doc will be honored at a dinner in the Worcester Academy gymnasium, where he will be surrounded by family, friends, and admirers. I only hope the gym is big enough, because a lot of people admire and love Doc Samko.

Mr. Speaker, I know the entire House of Representatives joins me in paying tribute to Doc Samko, and we wish him and his family all the best in the years to come.

HONORING THE BOULDER CITY
HOMETOWN FIDDLERS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to give honorable recognition to the Boulder City Hometown Fiddlers. This talented youth organization is the only musical group from the state of Nevada that will be performing at the dedication of the WWII Memorial.

Mr. Speaker, these young musicians will truly be honoring our veterans and fallen heroes, including those that died in wars past, and those that have died recently in the war with Iraq. The Boulder City Hometown Fiddlers will also be paying tribute to one of Nevada's own, Corporal Matthew Commons, of Boulder City. Corporal Commons was killed while serving in Afghanistan.

They will represent the Silver State and all those within its borders who wish to pay tribute to those brave men and women who gave their lives in the name of freedom and democracy. It is with great honor that I stand here today and recognize this group of fine musicians as they convey our honor, respect, and gratitude to all those that died and risked their lives for their country.

HONORING COACH TIM
MARZUOLA'S ELECTION INTO
THE NATIONAL WRESTLING
HALL OF FAME

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a legend in high school wrestling in Texas, Coach Tim Marzuola of Highland Park High School. Coach Marzuola has been elected as a member of the 2004 induction class for the National Wrestling Hall of Fame located in Stillwater, Oklahoma. I am proud to represent Highland Park in Congress, and I have four graduates of Highland Park High School that serve in my Dallas and Washington, D.C. offices. My Washington office Chief of Staff wrestled for Coach Marzuola back when he was at Highland Park High School.

In 1999, Highland Park's wrestling team was nationally ranked and Coach Marzuola was a national high school coach of the year award-winner. The Scots won state titles in 1999, 2000, and 2003 and placed second in 2002 and 2004. Coach Marzuola has guided the Scots since 1982, and last year he was

named as a coach for the tremendously successful Team Texas program. He was inducted into Texas Hall of Honor in 1994. I am very proud that he is being recognized nationally for over twenty years of diligent service to wrestling in Highland Park.

Coach Marzuola's commitment to his team on and off of the mats is exceptional, as he has set a standard for excellence within his sport. Coach Tim Marzuola has provided his athletes with exceptional leadership and inspiration, emphasizing to each student the necessary traits of individual responsibility, accountability, and working as a team to accomplish a common goal.

I thank Coach Marzuola for his tireless efforts and service to the greater Highland Park community. In addition to his duties as the Head Wrestling Coach, he also is a superb Economics and United States History teacher inside the classroom. I wish him and the Highland Park wrestling program all the best for continued success and achievement.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF RON AND
SHARON ESKEW OF URBANA, IL-
LINOIS

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the marriage of my good friends Ron and Sharon Eskew of Urbana, Illinois. April 3, 2004, marked the 50th anniversary of the day that they exchanged wedding vows and started a long, happy life together. Ron Eskew, of Urbana, met his future wife Sharon Campbell at Urbana High School in the early 1950's. They were married in the spring of 1953. The bond created by their marriage has only grown stronger in the past 5 decades, even during Ron's active duty in the United States Army. After his service, the couple returned to their roots in Urbana, picking up right where they left off. I have known the Eskews for many years. In fact, when I was a young man working for a real estate business, I had the pleasure of selling them one of their first houses in 1969. Throughout the years, Ron and Sharon have filled that house with love and a family so caring and appreciative of the example they set that they believe the rest of our country's citizens should know their happiness as well. Ron and Sharon's children certainly admire their devotion to one another after all these years. 50 years is an important milestone few married couples are fortunate enough to experience. I salute Ron and Sharon Eskew of Urbana, Illinois on their 50 happy years together, and wish them the best for many years to come.

HONORING GINGER L. GRAHAM
AND DR. WILLIAM H. RASTETTER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two leaders in the health care industry from my Congressional District who

have been elected to the Board of Directors for The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). PhRMA companies are devoted to discovering and developing new medicines that will enable patients to live longer, healthier and more productive lives. In 2002 the companies invested more than \$32 billion in discovering and developing new medicines, marking the 32nd straight year the industry has increased its investment in R&D. PhRMA's mission is to conduct effective advocacy for public policies that encourage discovery of important new medicines for patients by pharmaceutical biotechnology research companies.

The experience and expertise of Ms. Ginger L. Graham, and Dr. William H. Rastetter will bring San Diego's unique perspective to PhRMA, the association that represents the leading research-based pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in the United States.

Ms. Ginger L. Graham has an impressive resume. In 1986, she received her MBA from Harvard University, which began her career at Lilly. During Ms. Graham's time at Lilly she held management positions in finance, sales, marketing, and strategic planning. In 1993, she was appointed president and CEO of Advanced Cardiovascular Systems. Ms. Graham was then a part of the team that formed Guidant, a medical technology company. After taking Guidant public in 1994, she became the president of Guidant's Vascular Intervention Group. Ms. Graham also held the position of Group Chairman, Office of the President, at Guidant. She is currently the President, CEO, and Director of Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Ms. Graham is the first female ever to be appointed to the board of directors at Phrma.

Dr. William H. Rastetter received his Ph.D. in 1975 from Harvard. Between 1975 and 1982, he held numerous faculty positions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He directed the Biocatalysts and Chemical Sciences Groups at Genentech from 1982 to 1984. From 1988 to 1993, Dr. Rastetter held the position of chief financial officer of IDEC Pharmaceuticals. Then he became president and CEO of IDEC from 1986 to 2002. During this time Dr. Rastetter was appointed chairman of the IDEC board of directors. Dr. Rastetter is currently the executive chairman of Biogen Idec, Inc.

These two highly qualified individuals have devoted their careers to improving health care by bringing new pharmaceutical products through research and development and into the marketplace. I am proud that these two companies from my Congressional District will be represented on the PhRMA Board. San Diego has attained the position as the third largest life science cluster in the world, and is also renowned for being the most highly concentrated and one of the most diverse centers for life science. As the industry in San Diego grows and develops further, these two individuals are uniquely positioned to place San Diego's fingerprint on the pharmaceutical industry. As a stalwart supporter of medical research, I am dedicated to ensuring that America's healthcare system remains the best in the world and to promoting policies that encourage increased healthcare innovation. I look forward to working with Ms. Graham and Dr. Rastetter on public policy initiatives.