

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
JUDGE ART DANNER

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2006*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend, the late Judge Art Danner. Art died unexpectedly on Saturday the 28th of January, leaving a void in both the legal community and the community at large. As a friend, experienced lawyer, Superior Court Judge and respected public servant, Art heavily impacted Santa Cruz County, and it is fitting that we honor him today. Art is survived by his wife, Betty Danner; his parents, Arthur Danner Jr. and Marie Danner; and his sons, Arthur and Andrew Danner.

Art was revered in Santa Cruz for his commitment to justice and the strength of his personal convictions. Art built a reputation for tenacity as the district attorney for Santa Cruz County, as each of his cases was debated with patience and fortitude. This determination was characteristic of Art throughout his career as a prosecutor. As district attorney, he was known for his tireless pursuit of justice and was acutely aware of his responsibility to the public as the chief law enforcement officer in the County. This sense of responsibility and service resonated throughout the community, instilling public confidence in the judiciary and the Judge himself.

Art retained these qualities as a jurist, proving to be dynamic in approach and pragmatic in his application of the law. In the courtroom, he applied himself with imagination and fervor, showing himself to be a considerate and pensive judge, ensuring that every case before him was decided in accordance with established law and the principles of justice, liberty and equality.

As a member of the society, he was held in the same high regard. Community groups have recognized Art for his tireless work as a prosecutor, judge and active citizen. For all that knew him, both in his professional and personal capacity, he was an inspiration and is regarded as a man of integrity and unrelenting diligence. Today we honor the memory and cherish the legacy of Judge Art Danner.

HONORING JUDGE SHARON S.  
TOWNSEND

**HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2006*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor a respected jurist, a dedicated public servant and a trusted friend upon the occasion of her selection as recipient of the Susan B. Anthony Award from the Interclub Council of Western New York.

Judge Sharon S. Townsend is most deserving of this award, as she exemplifies the spirit and character of Susan B. Anthony by her record of professionalism, community service and achievements. Judge Townsend was the first woman in the Eighth Judicial District to be appointed Administrative Judge, a position she assumed in January 2003.

This fine judge's career is marked by her election to the New York State Supreme Court in November 2003, and she was previously elected to the Family Court in 1992 and re-elected to a second 10-year term in November 2001. Judge Townsend's community service also includes seven years as Justice in the Village of Williamsville.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Townsend's involvement in a variety of civic and community organizations have made their mark on the community. She serves on the Board of Trustees and was a model court lead judge for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. In 1995, she was appointed a member of the Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children. Since 2003, she has served as a member of Chief Judge Kaye's Adoption Now Task Force, and she served as chair of the Family Court Advisory and Rules Committee for the New York State Office of Court Administration for four years.

Her community activities reflect this dedication to Western New York. Her activities, among others, include, YWCA Public Leadership Alumnae Network, Governor's Commission on Child Abuse and Neglect, Bryn-Lyn Community Hospital Advisory Board, Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital and Gates Circle Operating Boards, Erie Community College North Advisory Board, and served as an adjunct professor at Medaille College.

Her efforts have not gone unnoticed. Judge Townsend was recipient of the Erie County Court Appointed Special Advocates Light of Hope Award, the Outstanding Jurist of the Year Award from the Erie County Judges and Police Conference, and the Erie County Bar Association named her Jurist of the Year in 2001. In March 2004, she was recognized as one of the Women Making History in Erie County, and the next year she received from the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Western Chapter, the Lady Justice Award, named in memory of Judge Townsend's mentor, the Honorable M. Dolores Denman.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of and in gratitude for her service, leadership and patriotism, I ask that this honorable body join me in honoring Judge Sharon S. Townsend upon receiving the Susan B. Anthony Award from the Interclub Council of Western New York.

HONORING THE PEOTONE FIRE-  
MAN FOR 125 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2006*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Peotone Firemen who are celebrating 125 years of service to the Village of Peotone and the surrounding area. The Peotone Fire Protection District lies wholly within the 11th Congressional District in Illinois.

In 1881, the Village of Peotone purchased its first fire truck and the first drill for the volunteer firemen was held on April 15, 1881 under the command of Captain John Fedde. In 1924 a Model T Fire Truck was purchased. The Rural Fire District was formed in 1940 and a tanker was purchased in 1953 that could carry 1,000 gallons of water. In 1975, the Fire Dis-

trict purchased an ambulance and had the first operational paramedics in will County.

1978 was a banner year for the Fire District. The voters passed a resolution to support an ambulance service, the Peotone Fire Protection District was established and the Peotone Fire Protection District accepted the Peotone Fire Department as the organization to protect the residents of the district from fire; promote fire protection and prevention; and to provide emergency medical services to district residents. A new fire station broke ground in March 1992 and was dedicated to the memory of Trustee Gerald Borchardt in 1993.

Today, the Peotone Fire Protection District has approximately 50-volunteer and part-time dedicated personnel under the direction of Fire Chief John Young. The district maintains a modern and well-equipped station at 7550 West Joliet Road in Peotone and also operates two Advanced Life Support ambulances. Residents in the entire Peotone area can rest assured they are well protected by firemen from the Peotone Fire Protection District.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other individuals in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's families and communities.

HONORING HOWARD T. PAGE

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2006*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Tom Page for his many years of service to his community. Starting in 1958, Mr. Page devoted 30 years of his life to the Barrington Police Department, climbing the ranks from patrolman to chief. His service did not end there. He went on to represent Barrington, New Jersey, as a councilman for a total of 7 years, with a term as mayor in between.

Mr. Page took time out of his busy schedule to coach in and manage the Barrington Little League and Girl's Softball League. He is a past member of the Barrington Ambulance Corps., the PBA Local 328, and a past associate member of the Barrington Fire Co. Tom is retired from the International Association of Chiefs of Police and NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police, as well as the ex-president of Camden County Police Chiefs Assoc. Currently, Tom Page works for Camden County Department of Corrections as a training officer.

Tom Page is a pillar in my community, and he has served us well for 43 years. I express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Page for over four decades of service to his community.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 657, which has been offered by Mr. KENNEDY from

Minnesota. I thank my colleague for introducing this resolution during Catholic Schools Week 2006.

Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country play in providing quality education for American youth. The mission of these institutions—to build solid foundations for lives of confidence, faith, and service—has had a tremendous impact in shaping family values and community life across the country, and particularly in my community in Western New York.

In my hometown, neighborhoods are often known by the names of their Catholic Schools and Parishes, and the many families that are active in Catholic schools are enriched by the values they espouse. Indeed, I have spent my life as a first-hand witness to the beneficial work of Catholic schools. My mother was a teacher at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and my two children, John and Maeve, are enrolled at St. Martin of Tours Catholic School in South Buffalo. My family and I are personally grateful for the contributions that America's Catholic schools have been making to families like ours, and American society at large, for more than four centuries.

Today, more than 7,700 Catholic schools and 160,000 Catholic school teachers nationwide are making valuable contributions to education and are playing an integral role in shaping a brighter, stronger future for our nation. Together, they will teach 2.4 million students, an astounding 99 percent of which will graduate and 97 percent of those graduates will go on to college. As these students become adults, their intelligence and character will benefit communities in Western New York and throughout the nation.

I thank the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for cosponsoring this week-long event and for helping to increase awareness for Catholic education across this great country.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in supporting this resolution, and I thank my colleague Mr. KENNEDY for his leadership on this issue.

STEPHEN AND MARY PETRILLA:  
GET WELL SOON

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, February 7, 2006*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two very special people while offering my prayers and warmest wishes for their quick return to full health.

Stephen and Mary Petrilla are 50 year residents of Hamilton Township—the largest municipality in my congressional district in central New Jersey. As teachers, parents and local residents, they live quiet but influential lives, earning the respect and devotion of their students, neighbors, and fellow parishioners at Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Trenton, New Jersey. Their family and friends are inspired by their faith, kindness and commitment to helping others.

Mr. Stephen Petrilla is a veteran of the United States Army and was injured while

serving his country in the line of duty. He is a member of the American Legion, the DAV and the Elks.

For nearly 75 years, Mr. Petrilla dedicated his life to the field of education, helping children in either a teaching or administrative capacity. A former administrator for two training schools in New Jersey, his expertise and passion focused on special education, helping children with mental retardation and working to ensure that State and local governments did more to meet the needs of our precious children who face special challenges.

Mr. Petrilla organized and directed shelter workshops for challenged children across the State and later worked as a special education teacher in Lawrence Township and at Sister Georgine's Learning Center in Trenton. His inspiring commitment to helping children has been recognized through various honors including being named a Fellow in the American Association of Mental Deficiency and being featured in various Who's Who publications including Who's Who in the East, 1979, and Who's Who in Child Development Professionals, 1976.

Mrs. Mary Petrilla has been a constant source of love and support for her husband and her children, while also distinguishing herself in the teaching profession. After receiving her bachelor of arts degree at St. Joseph's, Mrs. Petrilla began working as a teacher eventually advancing her way to become one of the first female elementary school principals in the Pennsbury School District. She also taught adult education classes in Trenton while serving as a private tutor. For 20 years, Mrs. Petrilla served as a home instructor for Ewing Township Schools, helping children with illnesses who were physically or medically unable to go to school. She also served as a supplemental teacher for "English as a Second Language" and Basic Skills Instructor until her retirement in 1994.

Lots of children have benefited from the hard work, commitment, love and compassion the Petrillas each exuded on the job, in their careers in education. And it is important to note, that that same love, generosity, empathy, nurturing and mentoring was and remains a hallmark of the Petrilla home. They are the proud parents of five children and eight grandchildren and their family feels abundantly blessed. They have shared with me inspiring stories that truly capture their parent's extraordinary example of reaching out and helping others throughout their lives.

We join with their family and friends in thanking the Petrillas for dedicating themselves to successfully helping our community, and we offer our continued prayers for their comfort and full recovery.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, February 7, 2006*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will bring some sanity back to prescription drug marketing, and help bring down the astronomical costs of prescription drugs. The Prescription Drug Safety and

Affordability Act will force manufacturers to educate physicians instead of spending billions of dollars wining and dining them.

As Congress begins to investigate its own ethics, we should also shed some light on the immoral relationships between the pharmaceutical industry and physicians. Golf trips and lavish meals aren't just for Members of Congress. Though it's hard to imagine, physicians may actually get more lobbying perks from the drug industry than Members of Congress do.

For far too long, the pharmaceutical industry has jeopardized patient safety and inflated prescription drug prices by using tax-deductible dollars to underwrite their so-called "physician education" efforts. According to a recent report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, JAMA, there is a clear conflict of interest when doctors become too cozy with pharmaceutical companies.

Drug companies annually spend about \$10,000 on every single physician in the United States trying to entice doctors to prescribe their drugs. That adds up to nearly \$8 billion in annual spending by drug companies marketing their products to physicians. It is not unusual for doctors to receive lavish meals, all expense paid "educational" trips to posh resorts, and lucrative consulting deals from pharmaceutical manufacturers. Every single dollar spent on these unnecessary gifts is tax deductible for the drug industry as a general business expense.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, PhRMA, pretended to discourage these improper marketing ploys by issuing conflict-of-interest guidelines in April 2002. After announcing the guidelines with fanfare, they then paid the American Medical Association to "educate" their members on these guidelines—that is, they gave doctors financial incentives to promote ethical guidelines that called for an end to financial incentives! It is obvious that PhRMA is not serious about ending the practice of giving financial incentives to doctors.

Regardless of what PhRMA may say, the marketing tactics are still working. It is clear from the JAMA study that self-policing won't work. "Although physician groups, manufacturers, and the federal government have instituted self-regulation of marketing . . . current controls will not satisfactorily protect the interests of patients."

Doctors swayed to prescribe a certain drug because of their financial ties to drug companies put their own personal interest above the health and safety of their patients.

This must stop now. My legislation will curb unnecessary spending physician gifts to the benefit of all patients.

The Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act is a simple way to ensure pharmaceutical companies' behavior matches their rhetoric. This bill eliminates the tax-deduction that pharmaceutical companies currently receive for spending on physician gifts. The bill specifically exempts free drug samples, as that is often the only means by which uninsured patients can get medications.

Unnecessary physician gifts from the drug industry unduly influence prescribing, increase drug prices and corporate profits, and endanger patients who get the wrong prescriptions for the wrong reasons. By removing incentives for pharmaceutical companies to lavish gifts of dubious public value on physicians, I hope