

quarter of all the bones in the human body, and an average day of walking puts the equivalent of several hundred tons of pressure on the feet. Given this degree of stress, it is perhaps no surprise that over half of all Americans experience foot pain at some point in their lives.

Podiatrists are at the forefront of expert foot health care. Podiatrists are physicians who specialize in foot and ankle care and who have been trained to diagnose and treat foot and ankle ailments. Their scope of practice includes performing foot and ankle surgery.

Throughout April, podiatrists will be engaged in a national awareness campaign titled "Podiatrists Keep America Walking," timed to coincide with National Foot Health Awareness Month. This year's "Podiatrists Keep America Walking" campaign will focus on children's foot health. Consistent with this theme, podiatrists will educate expectant mothers about foot ailments experienced by pregnant women, and parents about steps they can take to protect their children from foot abnormalities.

Foot pain is no mere inconvenience, and it should not be treated lightly or ignored. In many cases, persistent foot pain or recurring injuries can be the first sign of a serious condition, such as diabetes, anemia, arthritis, and certain circulatory disorders. Paying close attention to foot health, and taking regular advantage of the care provided by a podiatrist, can often aid in the early diagnosis of these and other conditions.

Americans living with diabetes must be particularly mindful of foot health. Diabetes is a chronic and potentially life-threatening illness impacting approximately 21 million Americans. Foot care is especially important for those living with diabetes because the risk is great for developing a foot ulcer that could become infected, and might ultimately result in amputation.

In fact, diabetes is the leading cause of non-traumatic lower extremity amputation, and experts estimate that 86,000 lower limbs are amputated every year as a consequence of diabetes-related complications. Among those living with diabetes, Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics and older men are most vulnerable to foot ailments. However, regular and expert foot care can significantly reduce the likelihood of amputation by helping to ensure early diagnosis and successful treatment.

The growing epidemics of diabetes and obesity and their concurrent complications are among many reasons why podiatric physicians are an important part of America's health care team. Madam Speaker, I applaud doctors of podiatric medicine for their vital contributions to the health of all Americans, and urge all Americans to be vigilant not only during National Foot Health Awareness Month, but throughout the year.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. FORBUSS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert Forbuss, who is being honored by the Clark County School District in the naming of the Robert L. Forbuss Elementary School.

Robert is a native Nevadan who has served this community for nearly four decades as an educator, elected official, businessman, and community advocate. After earning his degrees in Political Science and Public Administration from Long Beach State University, Robert returned to Las Vegas and began his professional career as a teacher at Bishop Gorman High School from 1972–1979. He then served on the Clark County School Board of Trustees for eight years and was an influential advocate for education initiatives in Southern Nevada.

While working as a teacher, Robert became an Emergency Medical Technician and worked during his summer breaks for Mercy Medical Services, a company he would later own. Under Robert's leadership, Mercy became a model operation for paramedic services. In the business community, Mr. Forbuss has served as both a board member of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and as its Chairman. He is also the founder of Commercial Bank of Nevada now called Colonial Bank. Today, Robert is the President of Strategic Alliances, a consulting company working in the area of government relations, business development, strategic planning, and issues management.

Additionally, Mr. Forbuss was a Board Member of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority for six years, a member of the Clark County Master Transportation Plan Funding Committee, the Mayor's Committee for a Better Community, Chairman of the Las Vegas Housing Authority and the Governor's 2007 Transition Team.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Mr. Robert L. Forbuss and I congratulate him on this well deserved distinction by the Clark County School District.

IN HONOR OF THE 2008 CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARDEES FOR MINNESOTA'S SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 14 exemplary high school students from every corner of Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District. Last week, I had the privilege of meeting several of them when I presented them with the Congressional Certificate of Merit. This program is a time-honored tradition that so many Members of Congress have used throughout the years to recognize the academic achievements and outstanding citizenship of America's high school students.

Far too often, the evening news and daily papers are littered with stories of young America gone awry. It is easy to forget that these are just stories of the few bad apples. But just being in the presence of these tremendous students is enough to renew anyone's faith in our future. These young adults are shining stars, with strong academic records, extraordinary talents, great ambitions, and limitless energy.

It was a true honor to be able to present these students with this recognition: Geoffrey Bible, Apollo High School; Matthew Brown, Elk

River High School; Erika Bullert, Holdingford High School; Melissa Cedarholm, Woodbury High School; Jessie Hansen, New Life Academy; Laura Kant, Delano High School; Kayla Kastanek, Kimball Area High School; Jennifer Klippen, Becker High School; Meggie O'Keefe, Andover High School; Kyle Oliverius, Monticello High School; Elizabeth Swanson, Stillwater Area High School; Dana Van Bruggen, Buffalo High School; Rebekah Wolden, Rivers Christian Academic; and Jacob Young, Howard Lake Waverly Winstead High School.

Each of these students was nominated by his or her school principal. Each of them has earned our accolades and admiration.

HONORING AARON JOSEPH FOY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Joseph Foy of Liberty, Missouri. Aaron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Joseph Foy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING ISRAEL ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Israel on its 60th anniversary of independence on May 14, 2008.

Since Israel's birth it has been a beacon of inspiration and hope for oppressed people all across the globe, and Israel has continued to flourish by striving for peace and prosperity even in the face of the violence that has tormented it since its declaration of independence.

Israel and the United States have been close friends and allies for the past 60 years.

Our relations have evolved from an initial American policy of sympathy and support for the creation of a Jewish homeland in 1948 to a key partnership based on common economic interests, common security interests, and most of all, common values. We must continue to cultivate this relationship.

For the last 60 years, Israel has also been a leader in technology and innovation as they have helped lead the way in science, technology, medical, and agricultural breakthroughs. I applaud Israel for these efforts.

I have been fortunate enough to have had the privilege to visit Israel on several occasions, and have seen the struggles Israelis face daily. However, I have also seen their perseverance and determination to create a peaceful and prosperous state and this gives me hope for future peace in the region.

I would again like to congratulate Israel on 60 years of freedom and independence and I look forward to many more years of working together.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I have discovered that on February 13, 2008, my vote on rollcall vote No. 48 did not register in the voting system.

On this vote, I voted in favor of ordering the previous question on H. Res. 976, rollcall vote No. 48.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, due to the recent death of a family friend and my attendance at his funeral service, I was unable to vote on three measures on the House floor on March 31, 2008.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 3352, Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2007. I would have also voted "yes" on H.R. 2675, Help to Access Land for the Education of Scouts Act, and "yes" on H. Con. Res. 302, Supporting the Observance of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERVICE OF FRANK FARMER AND DON WESSEL AS CHARTER MEMBERS TO THE OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two men who have spent many years serving their community in Springfield, Missouri, as charter members of the Board of Trustees of the Ozarks Technical Community College. Frank Farmer and Don Wessel both enjoyed long and distinguished careers in private business before being selected by their neighbors to serve on the newly created Board of Trustees, following the creation of the school in April 1990. They have each been reelected to consecutive terms since then; at the end of this month, both men will be ending their tenure of service.

Farmer and Wessel helped shape the growth and direction of a school that serves

the students of 13 public school districts in southwest Missouri—and far beyond that. The growth of the school has been nothing short of a phenomenon, with enrollment this year topping more than 10,000 students. OTC, as it is known to many local students and residents, is also moving forward on plans to expand its operation to a second campus in Ozark, Missouri, with an eye on affording greater accessibility to its growing student body.

From its modest beginnings in central Springfield at the old vocational-technical school, OTC has blossomed into a modern campus that has helped revitalized center Springfield and help train its local youth.

From the beginning, Farmer and Wessel led the way in developing the infrastructure and educational leadership OTC would depend upon for its spectacular growth. First they hired an effective president in Norman Myers. The board of trustees, led by president Wessel from 1992 to 1994 and Farmer from 1994 to 1996, embarked on a plan to build new classroom buildings and greatly expand the number and diversity of available courses available to students.

Farmer's background in education includes service on the Willard Board of Education, on which he also served as president. Journalist, author and dairyman, Farmer has lent his experience and expertise to several public boards and charities, while attending to his duties as the editorial page editor of the Springfield News-Leader before his retirement there.

Wessel is a well-known car dealer and philanthropist, who has been active in the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, American Red Cross, Cox Medical Centers, and has served on virtually every public and civic board in the Springfield area.

To Mr. Farmer and Mr. Wessel, I wish to extend a heartfelt "thank you and well done" for their untiring work over the last two decades. Their unflagging efforts have made the Springfield area a better place in which to live, and the Ozarks Technical Community College a beacon of educational excellence for the entire region.

HONORING PATRICK WAYNE GUTHRIE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Patrick Wayne Guthrie of Excelsior Springs, Missouri. Patrick is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1309, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Patrick has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Patrick has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Patrick Wayne Guthrie for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support the Fiscal Year 2009 Democratic Budget Resolutions.

Once again this year, the President's budget proposal made a number of cynical choices and cut or eliminated programs that make a real difference in people's lives. The President's budget calls for more than \$1 trillion in tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans over 10 years at the expense of vital domestic programs that benefit millions of people. The President's cuts include \$479 billion of Medicare cuts, and \$94 billion in cuts to Medicaid over 10 years; more than \$18 billion over 5 years in new fees for veterans and military retirees; cuts to EPA grants that help protect public health and maintain environmental quality; and the elimination of several state and local law enforcement programs, including Byrne Grants and COPS funding.

The President has already taken a projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion and turned it into a \$3.2 trillion deficit. Now the President wants to slash funding for crucial domestic programs while he continues to spend \$10.3 billion a month for the war in Iraq—a war that has already cost more than \$495 billion and which may cost more than \$3 trillion by the end of our involvement. This war has cost Americans far too much—most importantly, in terms of lives.

The President's budget also misses the boat by choosing not to fund programs which would stimulate economic growth and benefit all Americans. For example, the President's budget does not include much-needed increases for things such as rehabilitating our Nation's crumbling schools and highways, securing our ports, investing in renewable energy, and helping lower the cost of healthcare for millions of children and seniors. And I was also dismayed to see the number of cuts in the President's budget that come at the expense of our Nation's poorest citizens. To cite just one example, the budget eliminates the Community Services Block Grants which reduce poverty and provide assistance for individuals dealing with housing, health, nutrition, energy, and substance abuse problems.

I am proud that the Democratic budget resolutions restore sanity to our Nation's fiscal policy. Our budget increases veterans funding for 2009 by \$3.6 billion (8 percent) above current services; provides additional resources to address long-standing domestic priorities within a fiscally responsible framework, including increased funding for scientific innovation and energy initiatives, and education, training, and social services; and it rejects the President's